

## **Regarding the Selection of a New Chief in Pepjei**

I read with interest the article in the Rotuman website dated 02/04/13 with regards to there being no response from the Turag clan for installation of the new chief at the district of Pepjei.

I am a descendent of the Turag Clan. Turag is late Gagaj Mou's younger brother. Turag had ONLY one child, from a woman named Sarote of Noatau. Turag's child namely Varea is my late maternal great grandmother. Varea married a man from Oinafa and had ONLY one child, a son named Finiasi Filipe who is my maternal late grandfather. Finiasi married Tausie, late Gagaj Tokaniua of Oinafa's youngest daughter. From that union they had six children of whom ONLY three are still alive. Their surviving children are Vira Atalifo, Ramagkia'a George (my mother) and Tiu Filipe. I have two male cousins who are older than me and are perhaps capable of becoming chiefs however they both have careers. All of my other first cousins either work in Fiji or overseas.

Furthermore, we are a very small clan compared to Turag's other siblings and their descendents. Besides that none of us have ever lived in the district of Pepjei. Our land at Pepjei have been generously taken care of by the new chief's brother, Tomoniko Vaurasi for decades (something which we the Turag clan is most thankful for). Eventhough we do not live at Pepjei we still acknowledge being part of that District. Our relatives from Pepjei and Juju are always there for us during functions such as funerals and weddings.

In conclusion, out of all fairness to our 'kainaga' living at Pepjei we have no ill feelings towards them choosing another person from another 'mosega' to be the chief.

I hope the above information will assist whoever is curious about the Turag clan being silent or not choosing a person from their clan to be a Pepjei chief.

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