

Laurel Vaurasi (Lawyer) and Kiji Vukikomoala (Fiji Environmental Law) gave a 4 hour session on explaining what the bills were and possible implications. Questions/issues from the floor came from mostly people from our district.

The matters raised were

1. that in the new ALL CHIEFLY MOSEGA rather than the rightful MOSEGA chooses the Fa es itu'u
2. While the bill allowed birth registration on both lineages in the Land Registration there was a condition against women where males in the kainaga shall decide their inclusion in kainaga land.
3. The non-inclusion of Rotumans outside of Fiji to be registered in PEFR
4. You can only register in Rotuma in the PEFR
5. Due to lack of specific definitions for land dealings, leasing to non-rotumans is permissible including commercial activities.
6. Rotumans no longer have any authority of the immediate sea shores and marine sea beds. This contradicts the Fisheries Act as stated by Kiji.

These matters were never addressed fully by the Think Tank group including our Minister. Instead he question what people living overseas have done for Rotuma and instructing us not to participate in the petitions. This session further validates the claims in the petition.