PETITION

TO:

1. The Honourable Mr Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Rotuma;
2. The Honourable Mr Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister for Justice;
3. The Honourable Members of the Government side of the House of Representatives; and
4. The Honourable Members of the Opposition;

THIS PETITION of the undersigned Rotumans and Friends of Rotumans, **HUMBLY ASKS** you to **STOP AND DEFER** the tabling, reading or further reading and the **PASSING INTO LAW** of the two current Bills before the Parliament with respect to Rotuma and Rotumans, namely, **ROTUMA BILL 2015** (Bill no. 6 of 2015) and **ROTUMA LANDS BILL 2O15** (Bill no. 7 of 2015),

UNTIL these Bills have been fully and widely discussed by and amongst the Rotumans in Rotuma, Fiji and elsewhere,

SO THAT they can give their **FULL AND INFORMED CONSENT TO BE GOVERNED BY THESE LAWS** as **IT IS THEIR RIGHT** under your **CONSTITUTION** and **INTERNATIONAL LAW and THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO ALL ROTUMANS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE,**

FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

WE are concerned that:

(A) In respect of the **ROTUMA BILL 2015** (Bill no. 6 of 2015):

1. The **definition of Rotuma** now differs from the current law in that the new definition does **not** include **"its dependencies, rocks, reefs and fisheries lying between the twelfth degree and the fifteenth degree of south latitude and between the one hundred and seventy-fifth degree and the one hundred and eightieth degree of east longitude from the meridian of**

Greenwich";

2. The **administration and governance** of Rotuma differs from the current law in that the new law proposes administration and governance by a new body called the FORUM OF THE ROTUMAN PEOPLE and a differently constituted Council of Rotuma;
3. The **appointment and dismissal of Rotuman Chiefs** in the proposed law does not accord with Rotuman customs and traditions and differs significantly from the current law;
4. A Review Committee was appointed to review the existing Act but the appointment of the members of that Committee and its deliberations have not been publicised; and

(B) In respect of the **ROTUMA LANDS BILL 2015** (Bill no. 7 of 2015):

1. The provisions of s 26 dealing with the transmission of land rights on the birth or death of Rotumans in respect of *hanua ne kainaga* (clan owned lands) do not accord with Rotuman customs and traditions, discriminates against Rotuman women, do not comply with your Constitution or International Law and are arbitrary;
2. The other provisions dealing with the transmission of land rights in respect of other types of land tenure in Rotuma do not accord with Rotuman customs and traditions, are discriminatory and arbitrary;
3. The provisions of s 31 denying the lawful rights of legally adopted children are discriminatory, unconstitutional and arbitrary; and
4. A Review Committee was appointed to review the existing Act but the appointment of the members of that Committee and its deliberations have not been publicised,

AS THESE PROPOSED LAWS have far reaching cultural, social, economic and legal implications to us and our future generations.

SO WE HUMBLY PRAY.

DATED THIS.....day of.....2015.

NO	FULL NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE