

Response from Henry Enasio

I've seen the upgraded work that's been done at the airport in Rotuma. It's now reported that the work is on track to be completed by April.

The Rotuma Council plans to name the airport "The Bainimarama Airport" after the current PM of Fiji. This I believe to be appropriate in recognition of what the Prime Minister has done for the island. Some may not agree, other than to say that it's the Government's duty or function to do so. That may be so, but you need a PM who cares about Rotuma enough to push for and ensure that such developments are done. In this regard there's no comparison of him to Ratu Mara and Sitiveni Rabuka.

The present PM's record speaks for itself and far exceeds that of any of the former PMs; I list them below for those who ignore the truth viz:-

1. Major improvements to the wharf at Oinafa, which I believe cost more than \$4M.
2. Major upgrades to the water system in Rotuma including sealing all leakages at Afeata, 'Upti'u, that lowered the water pressure, and major maintenance work carried out on the reservoirs.
3. Resurfacing and extension of the Rotuma Airport that will cost millions of dollars when finished to cater for ATRs with capacity to carry a lot more passengers.
4. Building of the large FRA headquarters at Jolmea.
5. Construction of the biofuel factory at Ahau.
6. Building and setting up of the Bio-Security Office at Ahau.
7. Renovation and redevelopment of the women's HQ at Ahau where the women's club regularly meets, as well as used for "home stay" visitors.
8. Erection of the Ahau Community Hall, which is being used by agriculture.
9. Construction of the double-story WAF HQ at Ahau.
10. Construction of the double storey and multi-unit nurses' quarters at Ahau.
11. Construction of the Fisheries Department at Varufia, Lau.
12. Current construction costing \$6M for the hospital at Ahau that includes new maternity and mortuary units that are rumoured to be manned by 6 doctors.
13. Erection of the numerous solar panels to supplement generators to provide electricity throughout Hapmak, to the High School in Malhaha and all the way to Husila at Lau, with future plans for the whole of Rotuma.
14. Concreting the main feeder road from Jirao to Noatau to assist the farmers.
15. Widening of the road in Rotuma for two trucks to comfortably pass and good maintenance of the roads.
16. Major repairs, costing thousands of dollars to Rotuma High School.
17. Setting up REMCOL with over \$200K of grants, including the building, and providing a \$150K cash grant.
18. The granting of free education, text books and transport to all students, including those in Rotuma.

19. Writing off of \$600K accumulated water bill arrears from the inception of the tap water system for Rotuma, including \$29K for the High School.
20. Granting of Government franchises to both maritime and air services to Rotuma.
21. Granting of pensions of \$100 per month and poverty alleviation allowances to those eligible and in their 60s.
22. Housing Assistance grants of \$10K to all those eligible.
23. Granting of TC Winston assistance that many Rotumans have taken advantage of to buy the scooters seen driven around Rotuma during the holidays.

But note that although there are 14 provinces in Fiji, what's been done for Rotuma compared to the others far exceeds expectations, given the scale of the economy. We must be appreciative of these developments.

Thus, given all that the PM has done for the Rotuma, I concur with the Council's decision to invite the PM to open the airport's redevelopment and to name it for him. He has undoubtedly earned such an honour. The Council should send out the invitation to the PM well before the completion of the project.