

Rogrog Ne Taunã'Ne Itu' Ne Juju Se Taunã'Ne Fiji Rotuman Association(FRA)

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Introduction

Noa'ia 'e mauri and my gratitude to the members of the FRA Secretariat, Paserio Furivai Peter Paul Fatiaki, Susau Finiasi and Roger Emberson as well as the Council representatives from the various district associations for your ongoing effort and participation during this period.

The district would like to also acknowledge the work carried out by Sukafa Katafono and her Secretariat and elders as the host district for this year's journey.

Meetings and Membership

The Suva Juju Association began this year with its first meeting in January. The meeting was held on the third Saturday of the month as the usual practice. The SJA began the year with 14 registered families, whose names will be submitted to the forum in the next FRA meeting.

Subscriptions and Fundraisings

The subscriptions remain the same, at \$24 per member/family per year. The fundraising events planned for the year included monthly activities and one major fundraising between September or October of the year. The aim of our fundraising drives was towards the operations of the district.

New Office Bearers July, 2016 – June, 2018

Our officer bearers were elected around May to June on a bi-annual basis. During this period, the election was held on 21 May, 2016 at the Saverio's residence, 10 Browning Street, Raiwaqa.

The members elected were as follow:

- Chairperson – Agatha Ferei Furivai
- Assistant Chairperson – Makarita Fuata
- Treasurer – Vamarasi Manueli
- Assistant Treasurer – Linton Finiasi
- Secretary – Joan Wiliame
- Assistant Secretary – Akata Saverio
- Women’s Representative – Jacinta Tonga
- Farmer’s Representative – Paserio Furivai
- Cultural Coordinator – Perao Velarino

Programme Activities

Rotuma Day Participation

The SJA has confirmed their participation in this year’s celebration and will perform the mak uvea as its traditional item. This will be performed both by men and women. We would like to extend an invitation to all interested to learn these items to join us on the third Saturday of February, 2017 (18/02/17) at the ‘IPA Learning Centre venue in Vesida, from 3pm.

The SJA is happy to confirm the participation of our members in both the women and farmer’s shows for 2017. Several members have shown interest namely in the women’s craft show and we look forward to their contributions this year.

Partnership

‘IPA Learning Centre

under the management of Mrs Unaisi Vaileba wishes to confirm that Rotuman cultural lessons for 2017 will resume on Friday 17th February and the second session is on the 24th of the same month. From March to November, 2017 the sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 4 – 6 pm at the Vesida venue. I would like to invite district leaders to share this information with its members especially those with young children at Primary and Secondary school age to attend these cultural sessions. The 2 hour sessions per Friday is aimed to teach Rotuman language and culture through storytelling, song, poetry and chanting, through the lenses of the elderly. We also invite members of the associations who wish to participate in the teaching and learning processes to contact Mrs Vaileba on 7751309 for further details.

The Rotuman Language broadcast continues every 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The ‘IPA Learning Centre acknowledges all the feedback received from its listeners and hope to continue to make adjustments to its programme and improve on its services. In moving forward, the following schedule has been prepared for FRA members wishing to support to advise the centre or programme host:

February – 27/02: Mother Tongue – Rotuman language and related issues/FRA Secretariat

March – 13/03 and 27/03: Women related issues/Noatau Association

April – 10/04 and 24/04: FRA related issues, Farmers and Women slots/Oinafa Association

May – 8/05 and 22/05: Mothers and related issues/Ituti’u Association

June – 12/06 and 26/06: Environment related issues/Malha’a Association

July – 10/07 and 24/07: Youth Skills related issues/Juju Association

August – 14/08 and 28/08: Indigenous People/Youth related issues/Pepjei Association

September – 11/09 and 25/09: Peace/Democracy/Peace related issues/Itumuta Association

October – 9/10 and 23/10: Teachers/Girl Child/Rural Women related issues/ FRA Farmers & Women

November – 13/11 and 27/11: Diabetes/TV/Elimination Against Violence related issues/ Rotuman Western forums

December – 11/12 and 25/12: Christmas Messages/Aids and Human Rights related issues

The Media Watch Group

informed the Suva Rotuman Association members of their upcoming activities on Mother Tongue Day (20 February, 2017) and International Day for Women (7 – 9 March, 2017). All those interested, both men and women are asked to contact Mrs Mereoni Raivalita to express their interest and participation.

General Matters

I wish to reiterate our need to work as one body for the benefit of the Rotuman people in Fiji and hope that in time our differences and fragmentation at our district levels will be separated from our role as cultural leaders for all Rotumans in Fiji. That to continue to advocate for our own district at the Council level will only cause further rift among us and further delays to the strategic directions we need to look at in moving our Council and forum forward. May I leave us all with the following reminders in the new financial period as a way forward to unfinished business:

- **FRA to assess its current Strategic Plan** and to see what actions need to be completed by July, 2016. For instance the plans for a permanent address and office space to be an immediate action point for FRA and be realized in 2016/17.
- **Other action points for FRA to consider:** to register the updates of the constitution as per 2014 AGM motions; a printed annual planner for 2017/18; the purchase of a piece of land as the first stage for FRA towards a cultural centre; an external evaluator to assess the past three years achievements and challenges and make recommendations to the council; a council annual retreat following the 2017 AGM.
- **Rotuma Bills:** The Updates of the 2 Rotuma bills. What are our next steps?

- **FRA Council Retreat** as per the outline in earlier meetings.
- **Planning for 2018:** The move to prepare for the new Secretariat of 2017 – 20; assessment of the past three periods both the Secretariat and Council forums; review of the Strategic Plan 2017 to 2019.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Suva Juju Association, I wish to with renewed gratitude acknowledge the work and effort of the Secretariat and the Council representatives. There is still room for improvement in the way we conduct ourselves as one collective forum and I look forward to more collaborative working this year and learning from our limitations of the past period.

Noa'ia e garue ma alalum se is atakoa.

