

**SUVA JUJU ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT REPORT TO THE FIJI ROTUMAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2012**

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1.0 THEMATIC AREAS 1 & 5 ON GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING, MONITORING & EVALUATION

1.1 Membership

There are two levels of membership in the Suva Juju Association. The first level comprises of 17 family members that are considered as registered financial members. The second level comprises of 14 registered youth members, most of whom are from families in the former group.

1.2 Meetings

The district meetings are held on a regular basis. These meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of each month more specifically from February to November of the calendar period.

1.3 Physical Address

The official site for the district is Level 1, Suite 10, Vinod Patel Plaza at Centrepoin, Nasinu. All correspondences however, are addressed to our official postal address in Suva. The Suva Juju Association coordinates much of its meetings and administration/logistic work at the noted physical address.

1.4 Logistical Framework

The district has organized itself (and this is in process) around five thematic areas namely:

- Thematic Area 1: Governance and Management.
- Thematic Area 2: Rotuman Cultural Development and Heritage
- Thematic Area 3: Partnership and Networking In Community Development.
- Thematic Area 4: Capacity Building In Strengthening Community Rights.

- Thematic Area 5: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

1.5 Documents

The Suva Juju Association is guided by its own Constitution (2000) that deals with the general governance of the district.

The Constitution was later revised in 2005 and again in 2011 with reference to the general FRA for which it is a member and is thus affiliated to the latter.

In 2011, the Secretariat put together a draft Policy and Procedures as a guide for the general operations and management of the district.

1.6 District Secretariat June 2011 to July, 2012

- Chairperson – Agatha Ferei
- Secretary – Akata Saverio
- Treasurer – Vamarasi Manueli
- Committee Members
 - District Elder: Perao Valarino
 - Rotuman Culture Ceremonies: Maggie and Richard Fuata
 - Rotuman Traditional Dance Performance: Maggie and Marseu Munivai
 - Youth Representative and Chairperson: Katarina Manueli
 - Youth Coordinators: Akata and Kaurasi Saverio

1.7 Finance

The Suva Juju Association generates its income through its membership subscription and fundraising activities. Much of what it earns is used for the payment of its administration costs.

Membership subscriptions have not changed over the years and currently is around FJD24.00 per annum per membership. Fundraising drives are on adhoc basis. Such include raffles, dances and dinner activities.

1.8 Donors

For the new period the Suva Juju Association had successfully secured funds with the UNDP Pacific Centre on a project for October, 2012. This initiative was one organized specifically by our youth members towards a workshop grant on the Constitutional Development Process.

2.0 THEMATIC AREAS 2 TO 4 ON PROGRAMME AREAS

2.1 FBC Radio Broadcast – Rotuman Language Programme

The Secretariat of the Association in partnership with the 'IPA Learning Centre invites members of the forum who are interested to submit news information or to take on slots at the fortnightly radio programme (RF 1 – FBC) to contact the Coordinator of 'IPA Centre on Tel: 7751223 or the Secretary on 7751297 on their requests.

2.2 Workshops & Training

- Civic Education Workshops for Youths/Women

The Tsutsu Youth Group, an arm of the Suva Juju Association will be hosting two days in October on the Theme: **"Youth Dialogue on the Constitutional Development Process; Rotuman Youths - A Pathway Forward"**. The workshops are in partnership with the UNDP Pacific Centre. Initially aimed at the young members of the Suva Juju Association, the workshops Coordinators have opened the invitations to all interested Rotuman youths in Central Suva and the Western division.

The main goals of the workshop are as follow:

- to discuss and create awareness on the making of the new constitution.
- to encourage youth participants to put forward their views to the Constitution Commission on issues affecting them and the people of Rotuma.
- to create a platform for dialogue among Rotuman youths on issues affecting them at urban and village settings.

The workshops are scheduled to be held in Suva on Saturday 6th October and Wednesday 10 October at the HART Conference Room, Valelevu, Nasinu. Interested members are asked to contact the Tsutsu Youth Group, Chairperson, Katarina Manueli on TEL: (679) 9206155 or 7751222 or EMAIL: kay15_manueli@yahoo.com.au or jujudistrictsuva@gmail.com

All registration close on 1/10/12.

2.3 Towards FRA Constitution Submissions

These are some of the issues we hope to bring to the meeting. The final submission shall be with those put forward by our own youth members on 6 & 10/10/12. We hope to then submit a full paper to FRA by 11/10/12 .

Issue: Impact of Historical Problems

The advent of the Europeans and Christianity on the Island have greatly affected the members of Rotuma Island at social, economic and political levels. Some of which have had a negative impact on our people's perspectives and relationship with one another. Such notable ones include the following:

- indigenous island polity and selection of cultural leaders;
- religious prejudice
- district or ethnic discrimination and prejudice
- demarcation of land boundaries

Propose: that the new constitution recognize the appropriate traditional systems of minority ethnic and cultural groups prevalent in Fiji where most suitable to the majority of those concerned.

Issue: Minority Group Representation In Parliament

Over the years, the Rotuman Community have always had one representative in parliament. As a minority population in Fiji, the Rotumans like all others have paid tax, added value to the Fiji economy such as its contribution to the diversity and richness of the Fiji demography.

Propose: for the new Constitution to consider proportional representation based on the actual population statistics of its people who are citizens of this nation.

Issue: Strengthening of Trade

Much have been said about Rotuma as a port of entry. Similarly, on Rotuma Island's trade with Tuvalu.

Propose for the new Constitution to recognize the systems of trade where purchases are made in the currency of the dominant trade country and funds channeled directly to the Council or actual suppliers of produce.

Issue: Bring Back the 1997 Constitution

The 1997 Constitution is understood as one of the best constitutions ever drafted for Fiji. However, in its current state may not be the ideal one for this country.

Propose: That the Commission remove the preamble and any issues that may cause division among racial and ethnic groups.

3.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 We note the concern of the Suva Pepjei Association and the new FRA Secretariat on matters surrounding our Financial Audit Report of 2012 as well as the current bank finance status. All FRA representatives were present at the Special Finance meeting prior to the AGM and the AGM was conducted as a public event. The accounts were endorsed and passed at the latter meeting after all financial queries were addressed. We hope that the FRA will be able to discuss and address any further queries at the appropriate forum.

3.2 We propose that all recommendations noted in the previous FRA meetings (2011 – 2012) namely the Special Finance Meeting and the Annual General Meeting be addressed in order of strategic significance.

3.3 SJA AGM was moved from the July meeting to 1 January, 2013.

4.0 Acknowledgement

We wish to reiterate the welcome of all new and old members of the FRA as well as the Secretariat to their first meeting of the 2012 – 13 journey. We thank you for your participation.

Fai akse'ia
