



19 April, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

### **Fiji Rotuman Association Launches Rotuma Day Celebrations, 2012.**

The Secretariat of the Fiji Rotuman Association (FRA) acknowledges the participation and support of all members and partners that graced their launch of the 2012 Rotuma Day Celebrations event at the Vineyard Restaurant, Suva Central last Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of April. The Chief Guest was the Chairman of the Rotuma Island Council, Mr Teterani Rigamoto. The evening included a two hour programme of gathering, sharing, feasting and fundraising around the theme: *Áf'akia Ma Garue'akia La Se Mao'akia*.

The FRA thank the religious, elders, cultural and civil leaders, organisation and private sector heads, families, relatives and friends from Rotuma Island and around Fiji for their presence, contributions in kind and monetary terms. The launch marks the beginning of the observance towards the celebrations. The FRA members' are scheduled to participate in talkback shows, workshops and trainings organised around Suva. We all need to be empowered with knowledge, information and skills that will help us assist our families and the communities which we live and work in. We all need to have appropriate information and skills to make informed decisions for ourselves and our children. We all need to keep a balance between education and leisure or entertainment. FRA encourages all Rotumans to seize the opportunities provided for them by various sectors in their community for economic, political and social enhancement.

Similarly, FRA wishes to invite all members and supporters, individuals, organisations and institutes to the three day event on 11 – 13 May, 2012 at the Tattersell Entertainment & Leisure Centre. Some of the activities include the showcasing of each district's traditional dance (**mak fak hanua**), women's artefact show (**menea on hai'ina**) show and the farmers' competition

*(menea tela'a on fa)*, children and youth's poster competitions, chanting and recital. The programme concludes with an ecumenical thanksgiving service on Sunday.

The Secretariat of the Fiji Rotuman Association is grateful to all FRA partners, supporters and members of each of the seven districts of Rotuma Island namely Noa'tau, Oinafa, Itu'tiu, Malha'a, Juju, Pepjei and Itumuta for the support and preparation towards the celebrations and call on those who have yet to be affiliated to any of the districts to do so. We need to work collectively towards our cultural sustainability here in Fiji and abroad.

For further questions and clarifications, please contact the Chairperson on Tel: (679) 7751 204 or Email: [jujudistrictsuva@gmail.com](mailto:jujudistrictsuva@gmail.com)

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