

**SUVA JUJU ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT REPORT 2/2013 TO THE FIJI ROTUMAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER, 2012**

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

1.1 District News Update

The meetings looked at the following issues:

- a) Aligning SJA annual AGM with that of the FRA so as to have our representatives prepared.
- b) The role of FRA Secretariat and the need for new members of the Executives to be familiarized with the Constitution through proper orientation.
- c) The need for FRA to relook at the draft Policies and Procedures of 2012 and to implement it.

Our meetings raised with concern the following:

- a) non-negotiable approach by the current coordinating district and call upon the Executive Committee to be mindful of their roles as representatives of individual associations. That the participation and consent of district members be sort prior to finalization of decisions where necessary.
- b) that the Secretariat had not maintained its independence in conducting FRA meetings and ask that the members revisit their Terms of Reference as stipulated in the current FRA Constitution.
- c) That FRA as a forum of community leaders practice always the principles of Good Governance and Democracy.
- d) That much of the action plans of FRA following on from previous meetings have not transpired particularly those that needed immediate responses such as the following:

- FRA Constitution Submissions to the Think Tank
- Permanent Office Space
- Documents such as the Policies and Procedures, Strategic Plan etc

1.2 District Reactions

a) \$5000.00 Project Proposal

We do not object to any type of financial proposals by any host district. The SJA ask that supporting details and documentations if any of the proposed project be furnished to all FRA representatives for its members' feedback:

- Our members need to understand such proposals prior to making any consensus commitment.
- \$5000.00 is a lot of money for our struggling district to come upfront in a short term, given the hard times faced by our people of this nation. Long term goals such as this should be strategized.
- We also ask the Secretariat and Executive to consider other alternative short term goals and to address them as per discussions of previous meetings.

b) 2013 Proposal

a) As an NGO/CSO organization, FRA should be able to tap into various project grants offered by different funding groups. We propose that working committees be set up such as:

- A Governance and Management Team to look into the immediate documents and items addressed in previous meetings,
- An Events Team to look into the FRA annual programmes and fundraisings on short term basis,
- A Project Team to look into long term goals and financial commitment/partners. To date, the following calls for proposals were issued during the period for concept notes/proposals:
 - WACC International, Toronto
 - United Nations Development Project, Fiji Programme Office
 - AusAid Fiji Community Development Projects, Suva

There are others too for FRA consideration. The host district can then decide what is its main goal or priority for their term of office. They can lead and/or work on any or all of these teams. SJA hope that the host district involve

members of the Executive where necessary and to note their role as a continuing journey and not a one off take.

b) For a short span of this annual journey, SJA propose that we maintain the normal 2 day events in the May celebrations; that the women and farmers' shows be part of this programme; that all the events be coordinated by the Secretariat/Events Team in consultation with the coordinating district committee.

c) That the Events Committee presents an annual planner and budget for 2013 and that the target per district be \$1000.00 with two major shared FRA fundraisings.

2.0 PROGRAMME THEMATIC AREAS 2 TO 4

2.1 *Thematic Area 3 On Partnership and Networking On Community Development*

The SJA worked in partnership with the Citizenship Constitution Forum (CCF) and Fiji Media Watch (FMW) to host a series of workshops for youths and women in the Central and Western division in October.

The SJA thank our sector partners and stakeholders for their contributions and support towards Community Rights and Development and confirm the participants and/or submissions of the following groups to the Constitution Commission: The

- Tsutsu Youth Group
- Nadera Parish Women
- Fiji English Language Teachers' Association
- Lautoka Rotuman Parish Youth

The district is grateful to the following funders and resource persons for their shared knowledge and experiences namely: (The)

- UNDP Programme Centre, Funding Partner
- CCF, Programme Partner
- FMW, Programme Partner
- Major General George Konrote, Former Rotuman Seat MP
- Mr Misau Fatiaki, Chairman of the Think Tank
- and Mr Dewan Chand, Former Laucala Bay Seat MP

2.2 Thematic Area 4 On Capacity Building In Strengthening Community Rights

The SJA worked on a second proposal during the period. In October, our concept note was one of the four applications accepted in the first stage of elimination from the Pacific Region. The concept note was for a workshop for our members with reference to SJA programme Thematic area 4 on Strengthening Community Rights and Development.

The SJA in partnership with the 'IPA Learning Centre is hosting a meeting with the Rotuma Island Women and Laje Initiative this morning in Nasinu to share their learning on Climate Change and Leadership issues.

SJA, 'IPA Centre and FBC will be documenting and broadcasting the learning in the next Rotuman Language Radio Broadcast scheduled for 9.30 pm on 12/11/12.

3.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** We call on the current Secretariat to work with the general Executive as one team.
- 3.3** We call on the immediate orientation of new FRA members and familiarization of the FRA Constitution and by-laws.

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 second meeting of the 2012 – 13 journey. We thank you for your participation.

Fai akse'ia