

SUBMISSIONS

Private Submission to the Constitution Commission of FIJI

To: The Chairman, Constitution Commission, Professor Yash Ghai
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BACKGROUND

1. This is a private individual submission from a ROTUMAN and a Citizen of FIJI. All the thoughts, ideas, observations, constructive-criticisms, suggestions, proposals, Development Models cited, and actions are those of my own and no one else. I, James Joseph Suka Rafoi am an ethnic ROTUMAN. I am true blood descendant from the **Chiefly Clans of Pepjei, Juju, Noatau, and Itumuta** with indirect Chiefly linkages to ***I'tuti, Oinafa and Malhaha***. [I attach my Mother's Family Tree as evidence]. Rotuma is currently divided into 7 Administrative Districts. I am also the Eldest Son to both my Parents, now deceased, Michael Urakmata Rafoi and Seforosa Rafoi nee Sokimi. Both my parents are first-cousins, linking their Chiefly Houses together. I am proud of my Rotuman heritage and my love for my Homeland enshrined in me since childhood. This submission is in response to that love and my personal official record of ROTUMA's cries in the wilderness.
2. I provided a private individual submission to the last and previous FIJI Constitution Commission consultative processes in 1997 and I was unable to see any changes in the last Constitution of FIJI that included any coverage of and emphasizes on Rotuma itself. I remain skeptical that you and your team will do likewise. Nevertheless with prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ, I hope **consideration will be given again**, for Rotuma - the Island, its People and their Future.
3. Rotumans are not **Melanesians** as the indigenous Fijians are invariably associated with. The other groupings in the Pacific are **Polynesians** and **Micronesians**. These are the three [3] major ethnic groupings in the Pacific.
4. Rotumans are classified as Polynesians, with a mixture of some Micronesian and Melanesia traits. We are a very unique body of people. In Ancient times, some 10,000 years ago before the Flood devastated much of the Ancient World, Rotuma was the hub of the **Polynesian Triangle** where other Ancient Polynesian Islanders from faraway as Tahiti, Samoa, Hawaii, and Cook Islands would travel in their ocean-going vessels to worship the CREATOR in Rotuma. Rotuma were the Priests in these ceremonies that provided a conduit or portal to the Gods.

5. ROTUMA when translated Rotu means FAITH and Ma means BELIEF. This name is synonymous with our belief that we are a **unique and special people chosen** and blessed by the Creator. The last prophet chosen by our Lord Jesus Christ was a Rotuman, a Roman-Catholic from St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Tamavua, SUVA whose name was **Br. Samula Mario**, Founder of the ***Rotuman Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group*** [RCCPG], now deceased. May his prophecies for both ROTUMA and FIJI be fulfilled in our lifetime!
 - a. Although I consider myself a life-member of the RCCPG, this submission I wish to categorically state for the record is not on behalf of the ***late Br. Samuel Mario***, the RCCPG or even the Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC] for that matter. It is a private and individual submission from a very concerned ROTUMAN.
6. Although Rotuman Culture is considered a Patriarchal Society and not a Matriarchal Society, children have access to land rights in both Parents.
 - a. Women play a pivotal role in our Society where they are treated with utmost respect unlike other Polynesian, Micronesian and Melanesian Societies in the Pacific. Men do most of the physically labour like farming and food-gathering purposes , including domestic work such as earth-oven cooking.
 - b. ***Seinas*** or Women of extreme beauty are worshipped as Goddesses and they live on specially built edifices located all over Rotuma. They are considered part of the medium of communicating with the Gods.
 - c. It is taboo or pain-of-death to physically assault a woman in our Rotuman Society. This attribute is of course changing with negative influences derived from contacts with other ethnic groups and overseas travel.
7. It is prophesized and widely anticipated that **MOTHER MARY**, the earthly mother of Jesus Christ will make an appearance/apparition in ROTUMA where ***Upu*** is located and in FIJI where the ***Jyoti Khrsiti Ashram*** is located at Namaka, Nadi, FIJI.
 - a. Similar events have transpired in **Fatima** in the country of Portugal, in **Lourdes**, country of France and elsewhere.
 - b. As such, it is the expressed desire of the Indigenous Fijians and Rotumans that BOTH FIJI AND ROTUMA IS DELCARED, A CHRSTIAN STATE.
8. If I have written words that are considered critical, pls forgive me for my youth and love for ROTUMA and the Truth. I only ask in humbleness and humility, pleading that this Constitution Commission of FIJI Members hear and heed the cries of a humble-people, proud of its heritage who continue to suffer in silence despite many individual protestations and official-petitions of deliberate neglect by FIJI. This submission is but a start to highlight my concerns for Rotuma and Fiji, and especially that of my Homeland, Rotuma. THANK-YOU

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

1. I concur with some other submission that a CARETAKER Government, of NATIONAL UNITY be appointed in the interim towards Elections.
 - a. A **Government of National Unity** is the only means and ways of **participatory democracy** in FIJI. It is inclusive allowing all ethnic groupings to decide on the machinery of government and direction of the nation.
2. The **FIJI Military** must always be included in a Government of National Unity to avoid future coups.
 - a. The creation and establishment of a **Ministry of Defense & Security** is essential to which civilian rule is sacrosanct over the military, and a qualified Permanent Secretary appointed from within the Military staff ranks.
 - b. The current Military Council to be abolished and its advisers incorporated into an Advisory Council to the Minister. A defined appointment period of 2 years, and new appointees included so that a fresh and reinvigorating plus new perspective is given voice instead of the same.
 - c. It is common knowledge that this current regime carries no legitimacy since it was never elected by the People. Their ‘authority’ stems from the ‘barrel of the gun’.
 - i. The new Constitution of FIJI upon completion of successful drafts and reviews, must be approved by a National Referendum before any election can be held. This referendum is conducted separately from the one below.
 - ii. The nation must decide through a **NATIONAL REFERANDUM in 2013** to determine
 1. **OPTION A** - to pursue legal / political action and court-martial all of the current coup perpetrators, accomplices, and their supporters; or
 2. **OPTION B** - the Coup perpetrators are cleared by the National Referendum process, their positions and authority are legitimized and they are re-designated as **‘Caretaker Government’** until the new **ELECTION OF 2014** elects a new Government. This choice of option also requires a period of **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION** to be

undertaken as well at All levels of FIJI Society. The Military is required to seek and ask for forgiveness from the Great Council of Chiefs of FIJI and the Nation as a whole. To heal, forgive and forget all past-transgressions and hurts. To start afresh with a clean sheet just as Christ himself would want us to do.

3. This is a decision, in my opinion that ought to emanate directly from the **People of FIJI**, as Judge and Jury, and never from any other sources as in the case of Mr. Mick Beddoes, a former Opposition Leader who denounced the actions of the Coup Leaders 2006 outright.
 - a. In this instance, registered voters ought to vote on this decision. The Military will respect the vote if genuinely administered by an Independent body like the UN, so that the risk of rigging it in their favor does not occur.
 - b. SAS Units from UK, Australia, France, China, Japan and NZ and/or Monitors from the ***Melanesian Spearhead Group*** are invited to monitor the process of and outcome of the REFERENDUM. This is a contingency plan should some elements of the FIJI Military decide otherwise.
 - c. If otherwise, all Coup perpetrators, associates and supporters are executed with extreme prejudice by a Firing Squad. No one is above the law. BUT who will implement this outcome? A FIJI type “Arab Spring”?
4. This proposal is a **very high risk strategy**, but there is no other way. There are only two choices: OPTION A or OPTION B? Let the **real People on the Street** decide. Not the NGOs, Religious Bodies, the UN, or Embassy Delegations and their Reps in FIJI, Civil Society Groups or whatever stakeholders or committees the Constitution Commission of FIJI conjures up. The People of FIJI can be forgiving, if done correctly and heartfelt.

- d. Other ethnic groups in FIJI like the Chinese, Indian and Kiribati communities are invited to join the military so as to make it a truly multi-cultural force. Currently it is dominated by ethnic indigenous Fijians alone amounting to 97%.
- e. A **criticism of the current Regime** is that given the current regime's public slogans on Positive-Change and Anti-Corruption and Scandal Free Regime, corruption is actually rife and alive in the Public Services. The creation of an official anti-corruption unit, FICAC or *Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption* is a 'window-dressing' machinery.
 - i. Currently, all public service appointees are vetted and selected based on regime support or declined, if suspected opposition links. Vast underground networks with faceless networks are in full-operation and extending their influences into areas for which they have no legal authority. Merit appointments are but in name. A window-dressing, a façade for public policy-makers and decree advisors.
- f. Also given is the current appointment of military staff into the top cadre of public service, top-tier executive civilian positions – Permanent Secretaries [PS] of various Government Ministries. The increase in Colonel Positions in the Military is a strategy of tightening its grip on all public service apparatus. This increase in 'Chiefs over Indians' is a means of consolidating power as well as sealing the loyalty of its General Staff from inciting mutiny and coups. Most of these military appointees do not possess relevant qualifications, if at all for the positions they are appointed.
 - i. This **Dual Role** as portrayed by the current FIJI Military is emulated from the Indonesian Model implemented by the former President of Indonesia, Suharto. It is called '***Diwi Fungsi***' that covers both civilian and military roles.
 - ii. The new Ministry of Defense & Security is the final arbiter of all appointments and a **Restructure of the FIJI Military** is immediately conducted by an independent and reputable External Review Group with a view towards establishing Civilian Rule over the Military.
 - iii. All Military staff are required to swear a sacred Public OATH to the Nation of FIJI every FIJI Independence Day celebrated in October 10 as a reminder

of their fidelity to the Nation and NOT to the C-in-C of the FIJI Military or the President of FIJI.

- iv. No Gays or Lesbians are recruited into the Military.
- v. Much as I admire some of the work undertaken by this current Regime, some of the public-utterances by the PM destroys and undermines all of the good and hard-work done. This needs to be salvaged with credible assurances and indeed heavily reinforced with national and community action.

3. All **appointments in the Public Service** must be reflective of the national ethnic groupings of FIJI. A positive discrimination process. The current scenario in FIJI reflects indigenous Fijians dominating in terms of recruitment in the Public Service like FIJI POST; FEA - Fiji Electricity Authority; Fiji Water Authority, Land Transport Authority; Airport Authority of Fiji and Indians dominating recruitment in the Private Sector like VINOD PATEL; Carpenters Motors Ltd; MH. Other minorities like Rotumans are relatively considered, if at all.

- a. The **English Language** is to remain the official language of FIJI with supporting Indigenous Fijian translations only, similar to what has been exemplified in New Zealand.
- b. **INDIANS IN FIJI** have tried to portray themselves as a **Migrant People of the Diaspora** but these are calculated images designed to paint themselves as a people who have undergone immense suffering and forced to depart against their 'free-will' from India to FIJI by the British. A portrayal of similarity to the ***Jews of the Holocaust*** is indeed shameful and deceitful. This is no appropriate comparison with the Jews as Victims of World War II.
 - i. The new Constitution of FIJI ought to address these **misinformation** circulated by Fiji Indian Academics. The majority of Indians from INDIA were brought to FIJI by the British under Indentured Labor Contracts. The others came of their free-will and were not "press-ganged" against their free-will as in the former British Navy during Lord H. Nelson's period as Admiral.
 - ii. Local FIJI Indian Academics employed in the Public Service operate without any **Code of Professional Conduct** which have allowed them to breach their

employment contract with impunity. They ought to be terminated of their contracts along with **imprisonment for life**. Perhaps they may experience a real Diaspora with regular caning by Bamboo throngs!

- c. Public Service Exams are reintroduced with university editing so as to make it relevant and updated to current global-knowledge and technology.
 - d. Meritocracy is but a farce in FIJI so a **neutral PUBLIC / CIVIL SERVICE** must be reinforced and educated with new Customer Service Values.
4. The **Great Council of Chiefs – FIJI** is resurrected as the House of the Senate. Criteria of entry and nomination follows that of Rotuma as well, education, experiences etc.
- a. The chiefly system in Fiji is inherent in the indigenous culture. Abolishment is divisive and will sow the seed of future unrest and potential military coups.
 - b. Everyone in FIJI acknowledges that the GCC of Fiji requires **appropriate reform** but abolishment will only cement the desire of aggrieved parties to remain anonymous, patiently abiding their time, to challenge and restore the Indigenous Fijian Culture of Inheritory Rule.
5. **Educational System in FIJI** is clearly in a rut and the **Singaporean Model** ought to be considered. A focus on rote-learning has led to a lack of analyses and critical thinking outside the box.
- a. A Ministry of Education ought to demarcate between TVET Learning and University education so as to allow students, the opportunities to determine the relevant field of study.
 - b. Emphasizes on national development goals like Fisheries, Commercial Agriculture, Forestry like Mahogany, Sandalwood & Pine and Prawn-Farming fused with Accounting, Business Management and relevant technological skills.
 - i. ***A gradual but major shift away from heavy reliance upon the Sugar Industry and Cane-Farming.***
 - c. The current problem is that **educational standards and resources are inconsistent** between Urban and Rural Schools; and between Urban Schools themselves where we have Tier 1 Schools that are well established like Suva Grammar School; St Josephs Secondary School, Jai Narayan Memorial School, Adi

Cakabou School and Marist Brothers High School. Tier 2 Schools that are relatively equipped like Gospel High School, QVS, RKS, Lelean Memorial School; and Tier 3 Schools that are surviving with barely sufficient resources like Ratu Sukuna Memorial School, DAV and MGM. In addition, the quality of education derived from both qualified teachers and educational-resources has only added to this rut.

- i. These are just examples of Tier Schools as I envisage in the 1980s-1990s. It may not be correct. I – James Rafoi was educated in NZ for High School.
- d. **Racial Ethnic Divisions** is well entrenched in FIJI since 1970 and before. It is an inherent strategy of “divide and rule” from British colonial administration. It was continued and used as a political tool by all of the contesting political parties, playing upon the ethnic fears and homophobia to gain election and re-election.
 - i. This new Constitution of FIJI needs to urgently break-down these racial-barriers through institutional strengthening and capacity-building since it will not be forthcoming from stakeholders including NGOs and/or religious bodies. This racial divide is accentuated in the establishment of Primary Schools that target only Indigenous Fijians, only Indian ethnic origins and only Chinese ethnic origins. This racial division is further reinforced in High or Secondary Schools, shaping ethnic perspectives and outlook.
- e. The new Constitution ought to promote **positive discrimination** in which a multi-cultural and local focus is emphasized throughout all educational institutes. Currently, the decree from the Ministry of Education to remove racial designations in School Names is but a small way forward. Much still needs to be done.
- f. It is mandatory that the **FIJI National Anthem** is sung in every School during School Assembly Day
- g. **FIJI Flag Raising Day** is commemorated in every School on FIJI Independence Day which is October 10 where Fiji gained its independence from Britain in 1970.
- h. **Legal Studies** is introduced as a compulsory subject from Primary School upwards to firmly establish the essence and respect of the **RULE OF LAW**, and that no one

is above the law. This strategy is aimed at destroying the coup culture from the ground-up.

- i. All current Teachers and potential students seeking to enter the Teaching Profession are required by law to acquire a degree in their specialist areas plus a Teaching Diploma relevant to their levels; e.g. Pre-School; Primary School, High School and University level.

6. A **Ministry of Women & Children Affairs** is also enshrined in the new Constitution of FIJI for the protection of women and children.

- a. In another Melanesian Society, Papua New Guinea [PNG], women are treated like animals, with violence inflicted on and upon women as a regular feature of daily living.

- i. Increasing domestic violence against women here in Fiji including increasing rape perpetrated against minors [Children under the age of 18 years old] and women by FIJI men demands institutional establishments such as a Ministry of Women & Children Affairs with capacity strengthening to protect women and children, the **defenseless people/stakeholders** in FIJI's Society.

- b. **Rape perpetuated against Minors** [Children under the age of 18 years old] **and Women** demands equal treatment, the **death penalty** by hanging or execution by a firing-squad.

- i. For men aged under 20 years old, castration of their penis and life-imprisonment. Men above 20 years old, immediate death penalty.

- ii. This type of heavy-handedness ought to be seen from the Victim and Family perspective. The increase of such crimes in FIJI warrant the Society of FIJI to relook at its **VALUE SYSTEM**, and ask why?

- c. **Domestic Violence** perpetuated against Women receive a 10 years life-imprisonment with the introduction of regular caning by Bamboo throngs.

- i. Society in FIJI endeavors to make it a private-concern between a Husband and a Wife but a battered and bruised woman demands FIJI Government assistance and support. Most often, the children watching these disturbing

actions are mentally and psychologically scarred for life by these incidents. It is these new VALUES that require Society in FIJI to be educated and made aware-off. **Who is thy Neighbour?**

- ii. Again, the FIJI Police has being very reluctant to intervene: A Toothless Tiger. Should the Fiji Police Force be further empowered in amended Legislation/Decrees whilst working jointly with the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs?
 - d. Ministry of Women & Children Affairs is empowered to investigate and remove children that are regularly mistreated, either physically and/or mentally and psychologically abused in the privacy of their homes, or live in alcoholic/cigarettes abused environment.
 - e. FIJI Police Force is empowered to intervene when the incident is reported.
7. A **Ministry of Religion** to be established to weigh and critical analyze any new applications. The current crop of Christian denominations claiming authenticity is questionable and ought to be removed from any future operations. The current threat from militant Islam is also an inherent danger as radical elements from Iran and other Muslim Countries seek to propagate their type of Islam in Fiji. A Ministry of Religion working together with other relevant Ministries like Immigration will ensure vigilant monitoring and destroy potential threats.
- a. The influx of religious groups into FIJI makes it imperative that undesirable and radical groups are not welcomed here.
 - b. All religious groups, current and potential are to be registered with the Ministry of Religion. As the former PM of Australia, Mr. Kevin Rudd so aptly puts it – ***“If you do not like our way of life, get out or do not come here”***
 - c. The religion of **Islam in FIJI** is monitored vigorously and its adherents in Fiji also tracked under regular security surveillance. The outcomes in Iran, Iraq, and all other Islamic countries reveal the need for strict national vigilance. No Islamic law on veils and ninja type of clothing is to be subscribed by Muslim women here in FIJI. **Islam is not a religion of Peace** much as it depicts itself or ‘window-dress itself’ as peace-loving. No Mosque building is to be continued here in FIJI.

8. The Land Bank is withdrawn and a **Super-Ministry of National Land Development** is created, incorporating the current NLTB or Itaukei Land Trust Board, Dept. of Lands, Dept of Agriculture, Fiji Development Bank, Dept of Planning and the Ministry of Commerce.
 - a. A similar concept and lesson ought to be learned from **MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] in Japan** which oversaw and coordinated the successful economic prosperity and rise of JAPAN as an economic superpower.
 - i. Lessons and Advise should be sought from the JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.
 - b. All Fijian Provinces are incorporated and registered as public Business Corporation(s) with Villagers registered as shareholders. This concept will utilize all native land into commercial entities and thus ensure no native land is left dormant and vacant. All native land in FIJI is to be intensively farmed with commercial crops designated as appropriate to the soil type and terrain by the Dept of Agriculture. Advise from the Israeli Government would be forthcoming, if requested.
 - c. The model that best encapsulates this transition is the ***Israeli Kibbutz or Moshev Community Farming Model***. All capital expenditure like farm machinery, irrigation machinery, harrows, and other farm implants are shared in terms of purchase costs, and regular service and maintenance cost as well.
 - d. This strategy also indirectly addresses the problem of rural to urban migration where the creation of slum dwellings on the fringes of urban centers is vastly populated by indigenous Fijians. By returning back to their now designed Corporations that encourage participation in their company-like structures as shareholders and business farm employees, the raising problem of slum-creations, and indirectly crimes like drug-peddling and prostitution are minimized.
9. **Death Penalty** by Hanging or execution by the Firing Squad is re-introduced for the following crimes:
 - a. Rape of Minors [Children under the age of 18 years old]
 - b. Rape of Women
 - c. Murder/Manslaughter

- d. Fraud exceeding FIJ\$50,000.00
- e. Coup Perpetrators, Accomplices and Supporters
- f. Inciting National Instability / Terrorism activities

10. **USA - Check & Balance System** is incorporated in to the new Fiji Constitutional System. A comprehensive study is undertaken to strengthen the current WESTMINISTER SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT in FIJI with fusion of concepts from these 3 Pillars that form the bedrock of the USA Check & Balance System containing the JUDICIARY, THE PARLIAMENT / CONGRESS and THE PRESIDENT/PM & CABINET.

- a. The **Judiciary in FIJI** must always be truly independent from any political interference. Once this process is breached, we descend in to DARWINISM.
- b. **One Vote - One Person** does not address the **Tyrannical Rule of the Majority**. This is an issue in which Minorities and their inherent rights need to be safeguarded securely and in compliance with UN conventions and treaties. This will need to be addressed by the Constitution Commission.
- c. **The tyrannical rule of the Majority in FIJI since 1970 has never allowed nor given special preference to the Rotuman People as in the Malaysian Model.**
 - i. **WE are not migrants to FIJI – ROTUMANS are the ‘Bumiputra – People of the Soil’ just like the i Taukei of FIJI**
- d. Should we continue with our Final Appeal to the Privy Council in Britain or re-direct them elsewhere.
 - i. I prefer NZ since it is not only well equipped with learned Judges but also it has a better understanding of the South-Pacific than either Australia or Britain put together.
- e. I re-iterate that a **GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY** is the way forward for FIJI and the allocation of electoral-seats must be proportionate to population numbers in so far as the new Electoral System is representative of all people in Fiji. Whilst ***Proportional Representation*** is a model often cited and used in European countries for political development, the best parts ought to be selected only so as to create a Model unique to FIJI’s past and future development and aspirations.

- i. A small group numbering 40 Seats in a Government of National Unity is sufficient in numbers instead of a large overburden lazy Reps on holiday pay. A small size Parliament / Congress is sufficient then a large costly and overpaid Parliamentarians in large sizes. It would suffice to pay a significantly larger salary from Taxpayers money to those few in numbers whose performance can be monitored then a large overburden group. An allocated number of Parliamentary/Congressional seats is set aside for Military participation.
- ii. The House of the Senate is compromised of qualified Chiefs or their nominees, representative of each and every Province in FIJI.
- iii. FIJI ought to avoid the **antagonistic relationships** that naturally accrue in a British Parliamentary System - US VS THEM which in reality was imported from abroad. A homegrown System with lessons from FIJI's turbulent past and from countries like South Africa and the USA may provide clues to strengthening the current WESTMINISTER SYSTEM we operate here in FIJI.
- iv. The **President of the Republic of FIJI is to be elected directly by the People of Fiji** and any persons may submit their names to contest the election, with and/or without any Political Party affiliations. Some set criteria ought to accompany this election process.

11. A **new FIJI Flag** is designed by Public Competition to replace the current Fiji Flag which is a hangover from former British Colonial rule. This former Flag has presided over all other previous coups in FIJI - *An ill-cursed spirit, hovering over potential success and positive development of FIJI.*

- a. This is also in keeping and in alignment with the **REPUBLIC OF FIJI** since FIJI is no longer a member of the ***British Commonwealth.***
- b. FIJI Military uniforms ought to also be re-designed with new traditions. Perhaps like the *French Foreign Legion* with a Pacific panache.

12. I continue to hear from various indigenous Fijian submissions submitted to the Constitution Commission, in writing or verbally, the over-whelming desire for FIJI to be declared a **Christian State** and not a Secular State.

- a. I concur that this land we call FEEJEE belongs to the **Indigenous FIJIANS**, well before Indians or other ethnic groups migrated here. This expressed desire and

wish for **FIJI TO BE DECLARED A CHRISTIAN STATE** must be fulfilled in this new Constitution of FIJI. **Otherwise, there will continue to be coups in FIJI.**

- b. Christian Morals all over the world are rapidly descending into confusion and decay. Countries considered CHRISITAN STATES like the USA, Australia and Argentina have legislated into LAW, GAY or SAME-SEX MARRIAGES as well as allowed Gays & Lesbians into the Military. Fiji has decided to make a stand.
- c. Same-Sex Marriages are illegal and banned in FIJI and Rotuma.

ROTUMA

A special link exists between the People of Fiji and the People of Rotuma. We share a common link as former colonies of Britain. Our former Chiefs of Rotuma who signed the Independence of Fiji document giving-over Rotuma's sovereignty to Fiji to manage, quite rightly acknowledged that we were not in a position to manage our own affairs then, and that time was of the essence; time to enable our people to be educated so that the necessary and vital leadership may be provided. We are still in that process of educating our people, and clearly dependant upon foreign-aid.

I propose the following to be enshrined in the new Constitution of FIJI:

1. Guaranteed 30 Scholarships for university education in Australia or New Zealand or the USA / UK is provided every year for the best Rotuman students graduating from Form 6 in Fiji and/or Rotuma. I strongly decline any tertiary study undertaken by successful Rotuman students at the regional university – University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University or University of Fiji. The emphasizes of these Fiji local institutions is on rote-learning and mass-production of degrees as against critical analyses and resolutions.
 - a. Specific terms and conditions that these applicants must serve 5 years of public service in and to Rotuma upon graduation as repayment. They will also be included in the Strategic Plan 2022 as devised by Australian/EEU Consultants in conjunction with the FIJI Government and the Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC].
 - b. Salaries of these Graduates to be devised from the Strategic Plan 2022.
 - c. This **30 Scholarship** to continue for 10 Years until 2022 where it shall cease.
 - i. This sum of 30 is an arbitrary figure, I pulled out of the hat. It could be, and ought to be more, perhaps 50 in totality.

- d. **Critical tertiary areas of study** include
- i. **Fisheries & Sea-Resources** – to promote the management of our fisheries and sea resources for commercial development projects like fish-farming, sea-weed farming; pearl-farming; *beach-de-mer* farming within our 200 mile EEZ which is managed in a sound economic manner. Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese and other Fishing Fleets continue to violate our EEZ and no military action is ever taken to protect and prevent the millions of sea-resources in and around ROTUMA from being exploited.
 - ii. **Agricultural** – to promote and advance intensive agri development on the Island with relevant agri-technology for commercial and export purposes.
 - iii. **Law & Management** – to educate and train our own local magistrates and Judges as well as advance political awareness and development. The need for excellent administrators as well.
 - iv. **Finance & Accounting & Banking** – to manage our public finances along with the development of small-businesses
 - v. **Land Management** – to record our Clan Land Titles and assist in recording and establishment of heritage sites
 - vi. **Cultural and Physical Anthropology** – to record our Ancient Rotuman Artifacts, History, Culture, Clan Lineages and Languages and preserve for antiquity in Museums linked closely to the proposed and newly built educational institute.
 - vii. **Information Technology** – to assist in recording and utilization of data for analytical and economic social development as well as IT education in primary and secondary schools. Internet is also taught to upgrade knowledge.
 - viii. **Civil Engineers** – to assist in the infrastructure development of Rotuma, including development of alternative energy sources like Wind Turbine Energy, Solar Energy, Wave/Tidal Energy plus water and sewage treatment plants. Future projects may include a capital city, land-extension for Institution building plus various capital projects, like the extension of the

current airport into an international airport and the building of a reliable all weather-port for regular ships docking and unloading.

- ix. **Geology** – to explore mineral and oil resources in and around Rotuma. Potential drilling for oil to take place based on scientific tests of core samples. Confirmed potential oil sites in and around Rotuma for further exploration have being documented but nothing has eventuated.

2. In 2022, Rotuma is granted **“Self-Government in Free Association with FIJI”**. A concept similar in nature to that between the Cook Islands and New Zealand. This concept is also enshrined in the new Constitution of FIJI and the necessary means and preparation is included. As an emerging nation, ROTUMA lacks all of the necessary tools and machinery to achieve our vision.

- a. A **Strategic Plan 2022** is developed with Australian/New Zealand and EEU Aid and Australian/EEU Consultants to prepare Rotuma for the realization and implementation of this Strategic Plan.
- b. The **Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC]** is a creature and creation of the British Colonizers as they have done for FIJI – Great Council of Chiefs. A strategy used to minimize British personnel and administrative costs. The current Council is to be designated as the Interim Administration by a FIJI Government Decree, with eligibility requirements such as education criteria - Diploma or Degree; a nominee from the major Clans; work experiences and other relevant criteria is established. An appropriate Job Description [JD] is designed for these roles.
 - i. Currently, members of the Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC] are ill-equipped and incompetent to deal with major changes and transformations required to take ROTUMA forward . They are appointees that have never finished a High School Diploma. They pay-lip service to the Fiji Government. They are corrupt. Evidence to date indicate continuous mismanagement of resources, and abuse of authority.
 - ii. The creation of a newly elected RCC body, meeting those specific requirements is implemented, before the Strategic Plan 2022 is considered.
 - iii. A **SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR** supported by qualified Staff is appointed by the FIJI Government to oversee the process to Y2022. The criteria of

appointment is a qualified Rotuman Solicitor / Barrister with private-sector experiences or qualified Rotuman Management practitioner with private-sector experiences, aided by a qualified and practicing Accounting & Auditing Firm like KPMG, PMC or Arthur Andersen to oversee this transitional process. The successful appointee is to be aided by the establishment of the Group of Prominent Advisers, below.

- c. Like the ***Vola ni Kawa Bula*** – Registrar of Living Relatives to Ancestors that is in use here in FIJI, **Clans of Rotuma** are given emphasizes in a given Project to record Ancient Lineages and Family Trees.
 - i. A **National Rotuman ID Card** is created, to collate all relevant data on Rotumans living all over the world. This is continually updated through perhaps the ROTUMA WEBSITE currently managed by Professor Howard.
 - ii. All **ROTUMA CLAN Lineages and Family Tree** are submitted to a National Registrar with Offices and support staff funded by the EEU, who is of Rotuman heritage and Legal background, appointed by the FIJI Government to process the Chiefly Clans and Sub-Clans for identification and validation. This data is then made available to all. The LDS Church has assisted in this matter and perhaps their skills could be utilized here.
 - iii. We need to eliminate Clans and Families – **Commoners** who are not of Chiefly Links/Blood Ties, self-promoting themselves to positions of authority.
 - iv. **English and Rotuman Languages are jointly** acknowledged as the Official Language of ROTUMA.
- d. Relevant Foreign-Aid in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2022 is given emphasizes by Australia, EEU, New Zealand, France, UK with FIJI Government concurrence and Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC] endorsement.
 - i. This economic and national development aid stimulus package that has been granted to FIJI ever since Independence 1970 has never considered ROTUMA.
- e. A ***Group of Prominent Advisors*** is established with distinguished, highly educated Rotumans in both the Private and Public Sector invited to join from abroad and

from within Fiji. Examples like Professor Alan Howard from the University of Hawaii; and former Chief Judge of FIJI, Hon Daniel Fataiki. This group will provide a pivotal counter-weight and advise to the new Rotuma Council of Chiefs.

- f. With the concurrence of the Group of Prominent Advisers, the Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC] may issue Decrees relevant to the Good Governance & Economic/Political and Socio Development of the Island.
 - i. Decrees are issued as legitimate authority until 2022. A carefully designed Rotuma Mandate document establishing limits and length of authority is established by a group of established Rotuman Lawyers either in private practice or as Magistrates/Judges and approved by the FIJI Government. These Decrees emanating from the **ROTUMA MANDATE** document may include:
 1. No other Religious bodies are allowed to establish it self in the Island proper, be it Christian Denominations like Adventists or other bodies like Islam, Hindu or otherwise.
 2. The only two (2) established religious bodies – Methodists and Roman Catholics remain uncontested. Rotuma is declared a **Christian Island.**
 3. Other decrees may include the establishment of a joint Primary and Secondary School, as well TVET levels of education in Rotuma.
 4. This new educational establishment will cater for those students who do not meet the eligibility criteria for university education.
 5. Combination of these Methodists and Catholic schools into singular educational institution makes sense in terms of maximizing economic resources.
 6. Such an establishment of a single educational institute, ***St Michaels – Military Institute of Technology*** which incorporates Kindy/Preschool, Primary, Secondary and TVET Levels of Education. TVET will cover Air-conditioning/Refrigeration Engineering; Plumbing/Carpentry/Construction; Electrical Engineering; Motor Vehicle Engineering and Ship Engineering.

- ii. Military cadets are also included in the curricular as **retied Major General, George Konrote** of the FIJI Military and other retied Military staff of Rotuman descent may utilize their experience and skills in instilling discipline, leadership and a fitness and exercise regime. Swimming is made compulsory. Introduction of sailing is also included. English is the official language but Rotuman language is made compulsory and taught from Pre-school upwards until advanced stages.
 - iii. St Michael's uniform to follow the *French Foreign Legion* or Chile's Army with Prussian grey-blue uniforms. The intention here is to avoid any association with Fiji or hangovers with our former British colonizers. There are no sentimental purposes but a desire to set a new direction.
 1. Funds to be made available in building a new educational institution. Borders to be eligible from Form 4 to Form 6 to cater for students from Fiji and overseas.
 - iv. Military technology to provide security of our EEZ is purchased/donated for immediate operational use. Perhaps the establishment of a **COAST-GUARD** Unit, similar to the USA.
 - v. All other Decrees such as those enacted to protect Women and Children as well as the introduction of the Death Penalty to follow FIJI's example.
 - vi. Decrees pertaining specifically and unique to ROTUMA will be the prerogative of the RCC.
3. I wish to emphatically state for the record that I am and do not seek an Independent Rotuma free from the shackles of oppression from FIJI. All I seek in the concept of Self-Government that it is a given right for the People of Rotuma to manage its own Affairs and most importantly, seek and obtain direct foreign-aid to develop Rotuma itself until it is financial self-sufficient. Nor do I seek a seat for Rotuma in the UN Assembly of Nations. A place in the ***Pacific Forum Secretariat*** is sufficient and in the Pacific Islands group of nations is also relevant as we have our right and say in all matters affecting the South-Pacific.
- a. FIJI will continue to manage all other foreign relations.

- b. Since FIJI's membership of the Forum is suspended, Rotuma may take its place. FIJI has gained prominence in its membership of the ***Melanesian Spearhead Group***.
4. The design of a **Rotuman Flag** similar to the Israeli Flag with a White background and a Dark-Blue Cross that is in the same pattern of the country of Norway which is endorsed by the People of Rotuma through a Referendum. This is one of the many performance-outcomes of the Special Administrator.
5. In 2022, Elections are proposed to be held which will revoke the Rotuma Council of Chiefs [RCC] Mandate and establish a House of the Senate and a House of Representatives. The creation of both Houses is to remain small relative to the size and population of Rotumans, and not a white-elephant with too many Chiefs and few Indians.
 - a. **House of the Senate** contains seats from which All of the Major Chiefly Clans of Rotuma must be represented. If Chiefs remain unable to meet the set and agreed criteria, their nominees shall take their place. Membership of the Chiefly and Major Clans are only eligible to vote. The design and registration of All CLANS must be conducted with recognized Family Lineages and Family Tree certified under the ***CLAN Registrar***.
 - i. The appointee, Clan Registrar is a qualified Solicitor with final-decision resting with the Registrar's Office. This is similar to the **NLTB Commissioner** who decides upon Fiji Native Land Dispute Claims and Chiefly Title Claimants.
 - b. **House of Representatives** will contain seats that is also equal in number to the House of the Senate. Voting is Open to all eligible and registered voters above 18 years and will include voters living in Rotuma, Fiji and abroad.
 - c. Both Houses are to vote for a Governor or Premier and he/she will then appoint his/her Secretaries from within and in the Private Sector. US examples include the likes of Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Fisheries. Ministerial portfolios are suitable for FIJI.
 - d. **Laws of Fiji** to be rectified by both Houses after normal parliamentary reviews so as to ensure their relevance and applicability to Rotuma.

- e. The English Legal System is to be incorporated like FIJI into ROTUMA as well. It is in my opinion, the best legal system in the world, with the USA Legal System following suit.
6. Finance is a major factor in the implementation of such a Plan.
- a. **State Capitalism** is the only means to achieve financial independence.
 - b. **Projects that will generate revenue/income are prioritized**
 - c. Southern Cable is linked to Rotuma, allowing direct communication-links to the World, instead of coming thru FIJI.
 - d. Foreign-Aid from EEU, Australian Aid, French Aid, and NZ Aid is managed by strict Australian/NZ guidelines.
 - e. A **Rotuma National Provident Fund** is also established in Rotuma along with other administrative machinery like a **Rotuma Revenue & Customs Authority** to manage and oversee finances in Rotuma. Rotumans will require training in this and all other matters.
 - i. **RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING** on a large scale will need to be undertaken, not only for this but all other aspects of nation development. This is where Fiji could assist through FNU – NTPC.
 - f. International and Local remittances send to ROTUMA is increasing rapidly into the Million. A ways and means to incur tax and gain revenue ought to be considered and implemented.
 - g. **Oil and Mineral Exploration** is encouraged by International Oil Firms but advise from Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia would be much appreciated so that revenue and income is generated and not reliant and dependant upon foreign-aid.
 - h. **My greatest fear is mismanagement and corruption in the administration of Foreign-Aid funds in ROTUMA. The Pacific Islands is riddled with it. Let us not even consider the continent of AFRIC, which is a night mare.**
7. The Fiji Government since Independence in 1970 has never recognized the Rights and Claims of Special Preferences as a Rotuman People. Rotuma and its People continue to

be treated like a Minority Ethnic Group of insignificance when compared to the ethnic groupings that have made FIJI their home.

- a. Indians because of their economic superiority has surpassed us in all economic, political, legal and social recognition. They have championed their rights and recognition to the maximum but Rotumans are treated like museum pieces to be displayed for the international community and then to be shelved and forgotten until another International Day.
- b. NO Indian business or businesses from any other ethnic group is ever allowed to operate in Rotuma.
- c. My Father, Mr. Michael U Rafoi (deceased) along with my Grand Parents and Great Grand Parents warned us of how the indigenous Fijians would invariably treat us in the future. No matter how hardworking or qualified we are as Rotumans, the Fijians would also seek to appoint one of their kind first and foremost before a Rotuman. This unspoken trait amongst the **Fijian-Elites** has been detrimental to our progress here as a People. We recognize FIJI is their country and the need to escalate the economic development of our homeland ROTUMA makes it more urgent then ever before. We are treated as Second-Class Citizens in FIJI.
- d. The nature of **Indigenous Fijian Politics** is such that they are a divisive and destructive.
 - i. I have worked as a HR Manager at NLTB and seen firsthand the divisive and destructive nature of indigenous Fijian Politics at play. 98% employed are indigenous Fijians and 2% Rotumans or Part-Europeans. No other ethnic groups are ever employed there.
 - ii. NLTB [Native Land Trust Board] now renamed as **Itaukei Land Trust Board** [ILTBB] manages approximately 90% of all land in FIJI, designated as Native Leases.
- e. Indigenous Fijians are very-skilled and mature in POLITICS as evidenced during and before Colonial Rule. I speak with admiration since they have been “wheeling and dealing” amongst themselves for hundreds of years. The problem with this

nature of politics is that they are divisive and not a unifying force for the Collective Good. Factions competing for meager resources.

- f. Since Independence of 1970, the Fiji Government through the **Alliance Party** lead by the former Ratu Sir K. Mara now deceased, has ensured that all Fijians from the Chiefly System are given priority in everything to prepare them for nation-building. As for ROTUMA, we were considered a backwater, and our Chiefs never included in any form of development and nation-building purposes.
- g. The aim of securing a viable Roll-On and Roll-off Ship for Rotuma was and still is an elusive dream. Promises were made since 1970 from the FIJI Government but to date nothing has eventuated.
 - i. Foreign-Aid to purchase a Ship crewed by Rotumans and Captained by Rotumans.
 - ii. Previous Rotuman Reps in the FIJI Government became Government mouthpieces instead, stooges bought by monetary gains.
 - iii. This new Shipping Corporation must derive lessons learnt from the RCA [Rotuma Co-operative Association] which is never repeated again. Therefore an assigned CEO from Germany, Australia/NZ is appointed to ensure this foreign-funded and assistance project is soundly managed strictly in compliance with economic and financial regulations of Australia/NZ.
 - iv. Possessing an Ocean-going-Ship is strictly for commercial and economic endeavors and not a white-elephant. It must be supported by economic activities on the Island to make it a viable venture.
- h. A Comprehensive study is undertaken by the **University of Hawaii** to document and visually record cultural heritage sites in Rotuma before Y2022.
- i. **A planned national development of Rotuma to be undertaken and completed before Y2022.**
- j. [City planning, Town planning, devise a National Rotuma Land-use Systems as a Model for Development, construction of roads, extension of current airport-runway into an International Airport like the Cook Islands; extension of current

sea-port to international standards; design of urban 30 level apartment blocks to replace Villages and allowing more land-use for intensive agricultural purposes; clearances of village dwellings, building new hotel sites, sewage treatment plants, rugby field; soccer field; warehouses; water treatment plant; water-ways and bridges are built; energy plants – solar panels, wind turbines, tidal wave and electric generators; building of mono-rail links; design and building of a large single educational institute: St Michael's - MIT; extension of land mass, fish farm projects; sea-weed farms and other sea-resources projects are incorporated into the plan; building of a national gymnasium and national stadium; aquatic center; shopping arcade and administrative buildings; establishment of parks and reserves; preservation of heritage sites etc] is undertaken by **International Tender**

- k. This major project is funded by EEU and other like-minded donors and implementation is undertaken by the successful international design and construction tender. Construction must be undertaken with urgency and completed before Y2022. Perhaps a new Atlantis!
 - l. Again, a reputable CEO from the EEU, Germany, Switzerland, Australia or NZ is appointed by the major Foreign-Aid donor to oversee the project to successful completion and supported by a recognized International Accounting & Auditing Firm like KPMG or PWC. He/She will work jointly with the Special Administrator.
8. We await the prophesy of MOTHER MARY's appearances in UPU, Rotuma being fulfilled and the Blessings that come. AMEN. GOD BLESS ROTUMA. GOD BLESS FIJI.