



21 May, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Fiji Rotuman Association Acknowledges All Members, Partners & Supporters.

The Secretariat of the Fiji Rotuman Association (FRA) wishes to thank all its members, partners and supporters for their participation and support towards another successful Rotuma Day celebrations (11 – 13 May) that ended with a thanksgiving service at the Churchward chapel in Suva.

On the theme: ***Áf'akia Ma Garue'akia La Se Mao'akia*** [making reference to the] **Sustainability of the Rotuman Cultural Identity & Heritage Through Sharing and Nurturing**, the organisers were pleased with the many that participated or supported the farmer's show, women's artefact show, the students' poster competition, the youths' contemporary performances (drama, chanting and dance) and other cultural activities namely fire lighting, basket weaving, coconut husking and scraping.

The week long celebrations in Suva began with a two day Capacity Building Workshop organised by Fiji Media Watch on the theme: **Media Literacy, Your Responsibility**. About 50 youths participated in the workshop. The participants comprised of various district representatives and USP School of Journalism students. The participants were empowered to use mass media and new communications technologies in a more appreciative manner as well as for their own individual or community enhancement. Other issues discussed included *The World of Media: Be Responsible Users; Using the Media Effectively to Promote Social Empowerment Education; Civil Education On The Constitutional Process and Media Monitoring – How To Analyse Print & Audio Media*. The youths were engaged in dialogue, song and drama to share their media experiences and learning from the workshop.

Similarly, on Friday 11th May, the Juju district and USP Rotuman Association youths thrilled the crowd with their contemporary dance and drama namely 'Kirkirsasa'. The culmination of the celebrations were the farmers' *manea' tela'a 'on fa* and women's artefact shows *manea' 'on haina*. The outcome of arduous yet delicate, fine work brought pleasure to those that were there to witness. On Saturday 12th May, a much larger number of people flocked the National Gymnasium to witness the skilful traditional *mak fak hanua* or group dances by all seven district members of the Fiji Rotuman Association. The Rotuman culture is very much alive among our own districts here in Fiji and we urge parents to continue to support their children particularly in the learning of the language and norms. On Sunday 13 May, the Churchward Choir and members of Oinafa District concluded the celebrations with their angelic singing and thought provoking sermons.

The Secretariat of the Fiji Rotuman Association wishes to thank 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 Itu'muta for the support and preparation towards the event and call upon 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. A special note of thanks is extended to the following:

Events' Chief Guests:

Mr Târterani Rigamoto, CJ (14/04/12); His Excellency, Mr Peter Eafaere (11/05/12), The Honourable Chief Justice Anthony Gates (12/05/12);

Events' Guests:

Fekau Petero ma Ö'hön ta Fonmanu, Gagaj Riamkau, Gagaj Tigarea ma Ö'hön ta Fanifau, Gagaj Fikitua', Gagaj Tavo, Gagaj Tinvão, Fekau Mario Alifereti (Adventist Church), Bishop Etika Sefeti (Latter Day Saints), Fekau Petero 'Atu (Roman Catholic Church), Fr Taito Varea (Anglican Church), Fekau Visoni (Methodist Church).

2012 Partners:

Rotuma Island Council, Prime Minister's Office, PNG High Commission, Department of National Heritage, Culture and Arts, BSP Life, Curriculum Unit - Ministry of Education, Suva City Council, USP Rotuman Association, South Seas Towage, 'IPA edu-Innovative Services ('IPA), Sulton Enterprise, Housing Assistant Relief Trust (HART), Fiji Broadcasting

Corporation, Falkon Suppliers & Exporters, Dynamic Designs, Fiji Fish Marketing Ltd, Telecom Fiji Ltd, Media Watch Group (FMW), Kip McGrath Education Centre, Nasinu, Monfort Boys' Town, Marist Brothers' Primary School and Xoolu Enterprise.

In addition, to all judges of the various competitions as well as logistic assistants, we thank you for your expertise and assistance.

For further questions and clarifications, please contact the Chairperson on Tel: (679) 7751 204 or Email: jujudistrictsuva@gmail.com. The Secretariat is now taking sulu or DVD orders from members of the public wishing to purchase Rotuma Day souvenirs.

Paserio Furivai
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