

ROTUMA DAY 2005

ADDRESS

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL J.K. KONROTE (RET'D)

REPUBLIC OF THE FIJI ISLANDS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO
AUSTRALIA

Gagaj atakoa 'aus Noa'ia 'e mauri.

Se sasig gagaj te' Sosefo Kafoa, fa puer ne 'os Itu' hifu e Suva ma 'on haia'soagta, saghanta Marie, hensasiag gagaj 'atakoa ne puer se 'os Itu' hifu ma 'omus haiasoag gagaja, gagaj ne Hanua, Gagaj, Matanitu, ma Rotu

'E reko 'is ma 'os gagaj helav 'e ' kato'ag te'is ma gou faraf la figalelei ma 'aus la rot'ak ka gou a'hae ne lelei la gou la kamat 'otou faega ma ua'ua'akia iris 'e faeag Fifis ta.

Greetings to the non-Rotuman dignitaries in English (list of invited personnel to be confirmed).

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here today to remember, commemorate and celebrate the 124th Anniversary of the Cession of our Island of Rotuma to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the British Government.

2.

The Proclamation of the Deed of Cession which was signed by our chiefs and the British dignitaries in Motusa on the 13th Day of the Month of May, 1881, reads:

“We, the Chiefs of Rotuma, with the knowledge and assent of our respective tribes, and in accordance with their desire, do, on our own behalf and that of our respective tribes, hereby cede and surrender absolutely, unreservedly and unconditionally to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the possession of and full sovereignty of all ports, harbours, roadsteads, streams and waters, and all foreshores and all islands and reefs adjacent thereto: praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to extend to us such laws as now govern her Native subjects in the Colony of Fiji, or such other laws as in Her Majesty’s wisdom she may see fit to make and appoint for our Government and for the maintenance of peace and good order.”

Following the last battle of Saukama in 1878, the Chiefs in their wisdom, but more importantly fear of further conflict amongst the different districts and clans came to the collective decision that their “only chance of escaping from future calamities was to be found in absorption into the Colony of Fiji.”

Consequently, the first attempt by the Chiefs in this regard was made on the 18th June 1879 when a letter was sent to Sir George William Des Voux, who was Acting High Commissioner in the absence of Sir Arthur Gordon, suggesting that, “for the promotion and acceptance of Christianity, but more importantly for the Rotumans to live together in peace and harmony, Rotuma and Fiji should be under one Government.”

3.

Leutenant Graham Bower, Commanding Officer of HMS Conflict was despatched to Rotuma to consult further with the Chiefs and on Saturday 14th July 1879 confirmed our forefathers' desire to petition for Cession when the Chiefs collectively signed a Document which reads:

“We the Chiefs of the Island of Rotuma have heard and understood the letter of the Governor of Fiji. We have also heard the words of the Officer of the Great Queen of England, and we ask the Great Queen to rule our island, and to receive us as subjects. We ask for a Magistrate, and we promise to obey him and to keep the peace with one another.”

This pledge by the Chiefs and the people was further reinforced by High Commissioner Sir Arthur Gordon's visit to Rotuma from 12th – 16th December 1879 when his despatch to the Colonial Office in Whitehall, London read:

“At all these meetings the most eager desire was expressed for a favourable answer to the petition addressed to Her Majesty by the Chiefs and the people, and I have no doubt of the sincerity and unanimity of their desire to be incorporated in the Colony of Fiji. Their motives are indeed very obvious and natural, and I believe them to be quite right in supposing the step to be the only one which will assure them domestic peace, and freedom from vexatious interference on the part of strangers.”

4.

A response to the Chiefs' petition of Cession was finally received on the 17th September 1880 from High Commissioner Gordon which confirmed, "the Queen's gracious acceptance of their cession of the island to Her Majesty." The official despatch read:

"The Queen has listened graciously to your petition, and accepts you as her subjects. I rejoice that your wish is thus accomplished. I trust that peace and prosperity may ever endure among you in consequence."

This acceptance by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, led to the official issue of a Proclamation by High Commissioner Gordon on 5th November 1880 confirming the formal proclamation of Rotuma as part of the Colony of Fiji.

On the 13th May 1881, during a brief, but solemn ceremony on the isthmus of Motusa, Sir George William Des Voux who succeeded Sir Arthur Gordon as Western Pacific High Commissioner and Governor of the Colony of Fiji, officiated at the ceremony that marked the Cession of Rotuma to Great Britain.

Ladies and Gentleman, I have just given you a brief overview of our short history during the period preceeding Cession to provide you with a better perspective, but more importantly, a deeper understanding of how our small island was ceded to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the decision of our Chiefs that we were to be part of the British Colony of Fiji about 124 years ago.

5.

Since then we have come a long way under this “special association and relationship arrangement” with our Fijian bretheren as an indigenous community and entity, and through ‘thick and thin’, in peace and war, together we had endured.

Two years ago when Brigadier General Ratu Epeli Ganilau, former Commander of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces and Chairman of the Great Council of Chiefs addressed us during this very same Deed of Cession celebrations, he proudly reminded us of the “Fijian/Rotuman traditional relationship and connection” which began from the days of the early migration and settlement of the islands by our forefathers.

Let us be forever mindful of this.

As Rotumans we should value with pride the adage of ‘Viti kei Rotuma’ as a favourite catchcry of our elders in our interaction with other members of the community in all matters pertaining to the, “matanitu, vanua kei na lotu”.

Generations of our people had excelled and have continued to excel in all fields of work wherever they are, whether in the Public Service, Private sector or the Church. Over the past 124 years members of our small community had worked very hard together with the rest of the community in building this beloved nation of ours to what it is today.

Although our individual and collective contributions to nation-building throughout the years could be assessed as modest and small, it is my humble opinion that overall, it has been quite substantial. We had been “punching well above our weight.”

6.

It is quite ironic, that following the political turmoil of May 2000 and the revival of the Government's Blueprint for the Advancement of Fijians and Rotumans, a journalist was quite insensitive and insulting by publicly questioning the authenticity of our status as an indigenous community. He went on to question the justification of why, we, as a minority ethnic group, should enjoy the privileges and preferences under the Blueprint?

More recently another ill-advised and ignorant individual had the cheek and audacity to question the value and extent of our contribution as a race to national development and progress.

To these critics, I would like to say, Get Real! Wise up to the facts and get to know the truth. It is all about loyalty, integrity and commitment, but above all, Sovereignty, the significance of which we are celebrating today.

To you my fellow Rotumans, if there is a piece of advice I would like to offer you today, that would be;

“Please work honestly and diligently in whatever you do and remain committed to serving our beloved nation to the best of your ability.”

In view of this may I remind you of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Laisenia Qarase's vision for Fiji which he revealed recently:

7.

“I have a vision for a United Fiji, re-born into inter-racial harmony and cooperation, I ask you and all the people of Fiji, of every race and religion, to accept that we are bound together by our common humanity. We need each other. We depend on each other. Our future as a country directly depends on our collective efforts to provide and care for one another Fiji is our common homeland and we all owe it to each other to continue on a path of continual cooperation bound together by the guiding spirit of mutual concern and care. All must continue to respect each other’s beliefs, traditions and culture.”

The late President and Turaga na Tui Nayau, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara had a similar vision for our country. He saw Fiji;

“as a place where people of different races, opinions and cultures could live and work together for the good of all, could differ without rancour, govern without violence, and accept responsibility as reasonable people intent on serving the best interest of all.”

Let us remember and heed the advice of our leaders and as a minority ethnic group, continue to strive, either individually or collectively in ensuring that our beloved Fiji remains a safe and prosperous country for the present and future generations of our people.

Let us continue to appreciate, cherish, but more importantly, acknowledge with humble gratitude and appreciation the very significant and substantial assistance that has been provided to our small community by past successive governments to that of the present Soqosoqo Dua Vata ni Lewe ni Vanua, Coalition Government.

8.

Let us say:

Vinaka saka vakalevu na veinanumi kei na Veikawaitaki';

Dhanyavat!

Thank you!

And May God Bless Fiji.

Noa'ia te' ne gagaj puer 'atakoa ne Hanua, Matanitu ma Rotu.

E av hete'is gou far la figalelei ma gou la sokoaf 'otou faega 'e ta faeag ne uauaa'ki ma faksor'akit se te' ne kainaga gagaj 'atakoa.

Gou 'ahae la uaua'ak mumua se sasig gagaj puer ne tauna' ne ltu'Hifu ma hūn sasiag gagaj 'atakoa ne Komiti.

'Aus noa'ia 'e hansit ma 'ihi'h fakmania'ak ne gou ma o'honta ma kaunohoag ta la'is la tea'gesea 'e 'os katoag pumua ka 'ahelav te'is.

No'aia 'e garue lelei ma amus hiliag ne ta faeag pūp lelei la 'os mua'akiget 'e katoag 'oaf'oaf te'.

"Te'agesea ma Hugag 'esea Ta'ag Utakiag ne 'o s Hanua"

Gagaj 'atakoa faeag pupte'is 'afo'ou 'ak se gou avat ne gou le'rak het 'e 'os Rako te Motusa 'e 1959 ka ta leuof se 'os 'otmota Rotuma, Kavanta Sir Ronald Garvey la saea fakioag het' te 'os hanueta 'e Motusa la afagat se 'is atakoa ne maūr 'e teranit te i ma iris ne la fakamurim, ne te'is tekae het ne 'o's Gagaj puer ne 'os 'otmota 'af'akie ma 'afumou'akie naag ne 'os hanueta Rotuma se Sauhanta Vikatorie ma Matanitu Ranran ta.

Hafut' ne puluf'ak se fakioag heta fa' fifis ma e lop heta 'os temamfua na se ta faeag pup 'eseat 'esea. On faega 'eag tape':

"HUGAG'ESEA MA FE'ENI TAE LA 'UT'AKIA 'OS 'OTMOTE'IS SE RERE".

Gagaj 'atakoa gou pa faksor la'is la figalelei ma'e ta teran se teran ka 'is la se maomao'akia faeag pūlio ne 'os te mamfua.

Hugag'esea ho'am Hair'ot'akiga

Hugag'esea ho'am Haifakte'akiga

Hugag'esea hoam Hai 'afaiiga

Hugag'esea hoam Hai 'aleleiga, ka 'ati 'se

Hugag'esea ia hoam se is famori, Haihanisiga ma noh lelei la fak ma se am'nak ne 'os Gagaj 'Aitu la 'is la haihanisiag.

Kato'ag te 'is ia ma 'op'akim 'is la 'afo'ou'akia 'os Hugag 'esea ma Hainanisiga.

Feeni ko kainaga ia te'et ne' is famor Rotuma rogo 'e. 'Is rog 'e 'os garue nonojo ma garue fe'eni 'e te 'ne ut tutu ne 'is noho ma garue ne 'is sapo e.

'Is la io ho' se 'os temamfua ne pareafūa ma gagaj his gou 'ahae nonoj la 'is fup famori te terani te i, 'is nonoj la 'ahae'ak ma uaua'ak se 'oris garue lelei ma fe'eni se Hanua, Matanitu ma Rotu.

'Ofa gagaj ta Josefa Riqamoto, garue fau 60 ma fuma se matanitu ta. la tua'nakiget se Ratu Sukuna 'e garue fak fa' hanua ma pear on famor Fiti. la garue fak pūer (District Officer) 'e 'os otmota 'e fau ma'oi ka ia fa jaujie tape'ma. 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma fe'eni, ma Matanitu ta na se 'ia fakioag heta, Companion of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). 'E 'on garue fak jaujia ma huag fak toa'e mera' ne pelu 'e Somone ta 'e pel tiut' ne vah se, ma ia po fakioag ne pel ne Matanitu Ranran ta, Military Medal. E reko on garue lelei ma Matanitu ta na tape' ma se ia fakioag heta, *JUSTICE OF THE PEACE*

3.

'Ofa ta Wilson Fagmanuia Inia na'on mauri se 'on la 'uta'kiag ne rako 'e Fiti ma 'os ot'mota Rotuma, 'e on kamatag ne 'os rak ne Secondary ta 'e Malha'a. Igke 'ea rako ma ta'manea, 'ofa te'is 'e garue fak pesnese, 'ia ta kamat se Cooperative ta 'e 'os ot'mota ma fu'akse Rotuma Cooperative Association. 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma fe'eni – ma Matanitu ta na se ia fakioag heta, Member of the British Empire (MBE). 'Ofa teis ta 'os mata mumuet (Senator) se Palimenta 'e vahiag ne Independence 'e 1970. 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma nonojo ma Matanitu ta na tape' ma se ia fakioag heta, Justice of the Peace, JP.

'Ofa gagaj te 'is, Mamao Managreve ta le'et e 'is famor Rotuma po 'on fakio'ag fak rak mumuet (Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees). 'Ia garue fak rak 'ak te 'e rak his' e laloag ne 'os matanitu ta ma a'uua 'e vahiag ne on garue fak puer (Principal) ne Ratu Sukuna Memorial School 'e Suva.

'Ofa gagaj te' Anselmo Fatiaki, po fakioag ma garue roa pau 'e hanhap ne rak'akte tape 'ma. E 'on garue lelei ma fe'eni' ia po ma rak 'ak te e Queen Victoria School 'e fau his. Vah ma garue fak Divisional Education Officer, Western/Northern Division. Vah 'on garue fak rak'ak te ma 'ofa te'is na 'on tör ne mauri se garue se famor kelea' hanisi, (HART Foundation).

'Ofa gagaj te'is, Atfoa Varea, garue fak puer 'e loloag ne 'os Matanitu 'e ta av roat, 'ma a'uua 'e vahiag ne on ava 'e on fuag puer fak Commissioner Central Division. 'Ofa gagaj te'is ia fa Jaujie tape' ma, ma mu'ak te 'e hanhap ne (military intelligence) e 'os kau pel ta, 1st Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment, e pelu te vao rapa te Malaya (1952-56).

4.

Sasig gagaj te' Visanti Makrava ne kota a'uaua se 'e a'ofiaq ne fau'ut' ne vah' se. Sasig te' garue roa pau e han hap ne matau'ag ne selene 'e Bank ta (National Bank of Fiji) ma 'e avat ne' ia pure, 'ia hai'asoag ti' pau se 'is famor Rotuma. Ia a'uua ma ho' se 'os 'otmota ma 'e laloag ne fau fol ne vah' se, 'ia ta Jeamen ne kau taunaiag ne Gagaj hel ta (Rotuma Island Council).

Sasig te'is, Captain Kava Konrote, Gagaja huafua 'e 'os gasava 'e fau his ne vah'sea ka rak' e Ranrani ma po faiu 'e hoa' ahaifere ma hele' 'e fuag lamlam ne garue ma mua'ak te, (Air Pacific Chief Pilot, Check and Training Captain – BOEING 747 – 200 – 300 Aircraft).

Gagaj 'atakoa, 'e hanhap ne Rotu, ma gou 'ahae ne nonoj pau la 'is la se mao'akia 'ofa fol: ne na 'oris mauri 'e reko 'on marag'ak ne Rog Heg 'on 'Aitu:

Reverend Jioje Nakaora

Reverend Fuata Taito

Reverend Elaise Taito

Reverend J. Nakaora ta fa Rotuam mumuet' ne fu se fuag fak puer ne 'os s Rot Uesele (President of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma).

Reverend Fuata Taito ia fekau ma garue hoa' Rot se Australia ma garue 'e ta fau his ma kakai ne hanueta (Aborigines) 'e Northern Territory. 'Ofa te'is ho'im ma ho' se Rotuma ma a'vah 'on ava 'e 'on garue fak fekau puer'e Moiro. E terani te i 'on le'et, Fekau Sydney Taito ta sokoia garue ne 'on 'ofata, ma 'ia garue fak fekau se 'os kau Rot Rotuma te Wesley Mission, 'e Setne.

5.

Reverend Elaise Taito garue hoa' Rot 'e laloag ne Fit 'e ma Rotuma 'e fau ma'oi pau. Fekau Elaise rog 'e 'on ag nonojo ma 'oaf la marag'ak 'amah faeag 'on 'Aitu se 'is kakai Rotu. Ia 'au'ua se 'os hanueta 'e Malha'a ma marag mah 'pau se famori 'e reko raksa' ne iom kava..

'E terani te i te a'varvaret 'se goua la gou la 'afo'ouak ma rau'af se 'isa iris 'os o'o' ma hūnsasiag ne fū se fūag lamlama 'e garue, ma a'pene'is ma rog lelei 'as ne 'os ofmota ma 'is famor Rotuma:

Gagaj fekau mamfua i, Gagaja parea fua 'e 'os gasava 'e fau his ne vah'se, ka garue roa ma fe'en 'e Rotu 'e laloag ne Fiti ma 'os otmota, Rotuma:

Reverend Kauata Semesi

Reverend Aisake Manueli

Reverend Erone Tomasi

'E hanhap ne mata'uag ne foro ma mauri ma garue fak taku (Medical) ma 'ofa gagaj his Gagaja huafua 'e 'os gasava ka nonoj pau la 'is la uaua'ak se 'oris garue lelei ma fe'eni:

Dr Aisea Erasito

Dr Marseu

Dr Vilsoni Tigarea

Sasig gagaj te'is, **Victor Rigamoto**. Te aire, Gagaj 'Aitu huafua ia 'e 'os gasava, ka ia famorit ne garue lelei ka fe'en 'e av roat ne ia garue se Matanitu ta. Sasig te'is garue roa 'e maj his 'e laloag ne Matanitu ta ma sap se fuag lalam fak se, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma fe'eni, ma ia ta hil ma Secretary General mumuet 'e 'os Parliament fo'ou ta. Sasig te'is po tape' ma fakioag ne garue lelei ma nonojo, **Justice of the Peace, JP**.

'E terani te i:

O'fa te'is Gagaj Kauturaf, o'fa mafuet ne fa'fa' 'is fup la'riri'it 'e teranit te 'i 'e garue fak Matanitu, Hanua ma Rotu. Ia a'u'ua ma roa 'e 'on garue fak puer 'e rako (Principal, Toorak Methodist Boys School) ma na 'on mauri ma ava se Rotu. Ia le'et 'e iris temamfua ne Rot Uesele ne haiasoag ti' pau se President ne Rotu 'e fau ma'oi ne 'of 'se'. 'Ia fau sivaghul ma fuma, ma gou 'airot'ak ne Gagaj 'Aitu la a'es'ao'ak ma kikia ia ma 'aroa 'on mauri. 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma feeni ma Mainitu ta n a se 'ia fakiog heta: Member of the Order of Fiji, MF.

Colonel Paulo Manueli, O' fa mumuet 'e 'os hanuet te' la puerse 'os jau'jia Fit ta, (Commander of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces). O'fa gagaj te'is ia fa puer tape'it ma 'e gaure fak pesnese (General Manager BP Oil, South West Pacific Ltd). Ia ta 'os mata mumuet se Palimenta 'e avat ne 'is po 'os paeag heta 'e, House of Representatives. Fu se fuag lamlam ne Minister of Finance ma 'avah 'on ava 'e 'on fuag se fuag he te Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, ma puer se jaujia ma pirismane ma iris ne pa surum se 'os hanueu te'is. O'fa te'is 'alefenta foa' e vao rap ta 'e Malaya 'e pelut ma komonista ma 'el se ma la atia. 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma fe'eni, ma Matanitu Ranranta na se ia faki'oag heta, Officer of the British Empire (OBE). O'fa te'is kota a'u'ua se' 'e 'on garue fak Senator se 'is famor Rotuma ma 'e terani te i, ia le'et 'e 'os mata se Bose Levu Vakaturaga.

Sasig gagaj te, 'Fatiaki Misau garue lelei ma fe'en ma a'u'ua 'e mu'ak te 'e Matanitu ta, ka Matanitu ta he' hoi'ak. 'E laloag ne fau folaghul ma fu mā ne ia garue, ia hil ma sap se fuag hete', 'Commissioner Northern Division, ma 'avah 'on garue 'e fuag fak, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information. E teranit te' i ia garue 'e Electoral Commission, ka ia puer tape'ma se Police Disiplinary Commission.

7.

Sasig gagaj te', Dr Sakeo Varea. Vae kol'ak 'e laloag ne Fiti ma Rotuma 'e 'on garue lelei fak taku. 'E reko 'on garue fe'eni, 'ia hil ma tikai fuag fak Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health 'e fau his. Dr Sakeo a'u'uen ma ho' ma tae 'e 'os hanueta 'e Oinafa, ma tog as, Gagaj Niomfaq.

Gagaj atakoa, sasig gagaj te'is Kafoa Pene, rak ma po fakioag lamlam ma garue roa e laloag ne Fiti ma Rotuma:

Principal – Levuka Public School

Principal – Rotuma High School, Malha'a

Principal – Queen Victoria School, Matavatucou

E avat ne sasig te'is puer se QVS ma 'e reko 'on fe'eni la rak te'is la lelei ma 'ut se mua, ma komiti ma ir his e o'o'i fek'ea ma far'ak la Matanitu ta la 'ut'akia sasig te'is. Nonoka 'ae famor garue lelei ma ag nonoj ma famor raksa'a ma 'ag feifei kal 'oafra se 'ae.

'E garue lelei ma feeni 'e majat ne mou se foro ma mauri (Medical) ma 'is tau pau la uaua'ak Se 'ofa gagaj his:

Dr Faqa Panapasa (retired to Rotuma – former Superintendent, Tamavua, TB Hospital)

Dr Taukave Fatiaki (retired to Rotuma – former GP and Consultant (CWM Hospital) (gynaecology)

Dr Jimione Samisoni (retired, former Principal, Fiji School of Medicine)

Dr Robin Mitchell (GP/Sports Administrator, Chairman FASONOC, Fiji Representative to the International Olympic Committee)

Dr Tukaha Mua (retired, former Government Anaesthetist, CWM Hospital, Suva)

Dr Konousi Aisea (retired, consultant, Baylie Clinic, Suva)

Dr John Fatiaki (GP, garue haiasoag ti' pau se 'os kainaga 'e Fiti ma Rotuma)

“Is kainga Rotuam ta te’is avat is kot’akimea la ‘e ta teran ka is la ma ‘os ahai la’ sasisit la hoa’kia ‘os forau ma kako ...’e reko te te’is ma gou a’hae ne kal ok’ok’ra ‘e reko’ is ma ‘os hunsasiag po faiau ‘e hanhap ne garue hoa’ ahai. Iris ‘e nonoj pau la’ is la fakmania’ak ma uaua’ak se oris feeni ma garue lelei’e maj tei’s;

Captain Josefa Aisea (O’fa teis Gagaja pareafua e ‘os gasava e fau his ne of’ sin)

Captain Voi Garisau Fimone

Captain Rigamoto Nakaora

Captain Victor Fatiaki

Captain Rokogata Semesi

Gagaj ‘atakoa’ is tau la ‘oaf ma u’au’ak se hanis ti’ on Gagaj ‘Aitu e reko, ‘e kamatag ne fau te’is ka Reverend, *Dr Jione Lagi* fu la Gagaj Fekau puer (*President of the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma*). Gagaj Fekau garue roa pau ‘e ut his e Fiti ma Rotuma, ma tape’ma se ‘os Kainag Rotuam ta ‘e Australia ma New Zealand. No’aia ‘e mua’ak ne ‘os Kato’agte’is ‘e garue fak rotu ma ‘otomis ro’aitu la Gagaja la a’hanisi ma a ‘alalum’ak omuar ava ‘e fuag puer ne ‘ae ma ō’hon ta Rigamoto fu sin ‘e terani te ‘i.

Is tau pau la oaf ma uaua’ak se garue lelei ma feeu ne ‘os fekau *Dr Fesaitu Marseu*. Rak ma po fakioag ‘e hauhap ne Rotu (Doctorate, Phd in Theology) ma hoa’ as ou os famor Rotuma ma Rotu ‘e ou garue fak fekau ‘e Australia.

E terani te i is tau la uaua’ak tape’ ma se ‘os sasig gagaj mea’mea’ te’is *Father Kaitu’u* ne nin vah se fuag fak Fa Ha’a ne Rot Katoliko.

'E laloag ne fau his ne kota vah se' 'is ma sasig gagaj his fu se fuag lamlam ne pure 'e laloag ne Matanitu ma pesnese, ma nonoj pau la 'is la fakman'ia'ak ma 'ua'ua'ak se 'oris aire, garue lelei ma fe'eni:

Sasig gagaj te 'Daniel Fatiaki, hil vah 'e laloag ne fau his ne vah se la fa puret se Foho (Chief Justice) 'E reko 'on garue lelei ma fe'eni, 'ia fa mea'me'at ka Matanitu ta hil ma 'afumou'ak se' ia se fuag heta 'e rer 'on lelea' mamfua ma garue roa 'e foho e fau maoui. 'Ia rak 'e Ranrani, Australia, Niusiragi ma po faki'oag lamlam 'e foho ma tau 'on hue ne fe'eni ma garue nonojo.

Sasig gagaj te', Walter Rigamoto, garue roa ma fe'en, 'e 'os Matanitu ta, rak ma po fakioag 'e hanua 'e hahap ne garue'ak ne foho ma 'e teranit te i, 'ia ta puer se mata'uag ne foho ma garue la re 'alelei ma iris ne pure la garue a' nonoj ma a'lelei. Ia ta fu'ak la puer fak Ombudsman. Ia garue roa 'e fau his ne vah se 'e pure, Supervisor of Elections.

Gagaj atakoa, 'e garue fak pesnese ma' is tau pau la 'oaf ma fakmania'ak fakioag fak rako ne sasig gagaj te' Dr Faga Mario po. Kop ma noj la gou la 'ea, 'ia ta 'os Professor mumuet 'e Fiti ma Rotuma 'e garue fak pesnese. Sasig te'is 'e reko on garue lelei ma fe'eni, ma 'ia ta puer se majat ne mata'ua mone ne (Chief Executive Officer, Unit Trust of Fiji).

'Is famor Rotuma, ma 'os sasig gagaj po faki'oag lamlam hoia'kit 'e hanhap ne mata' selene ma pesnese ma 'e teranit te 'i, sasig te'is Sakarie Tuilakepa ta le'et ne puer se kampane teis FINTEL (Chief Executive Officer, FINTEL). Ia garue roa pau se Telecom Fiji ma e teranit te i, e reko garue lelei ma vahia rot'akte ma ia fu se fuag pure.

10.

Gagaj, atakoa, 'is ma Professor hoia'kit. Dr Villisoni Hereniko. Sasig gagaj te'is 'ia fa rak'akte ma po fakioag lamlam pau 'e rako, ma rak'ak te 'e University of the South Pacific ma 'e terami te 'i, ia la' ma tae 'e Hawaii, ma rak'akte 'e East West Centre. Sasig gagaj te', 'ia fa 'es faiu tap'ema. 'Ia ta famor mumuet 'e 'os hanuet teis la re se ta 'on mal rueruet'. Mal te'is la' ma re 'e 'os 'atmot ta Rotuma ma kel'ak kal'ak vah 'e hanua ma'oi 'e rante' ma te' ne iris ne kel vahia 'e mal te'is voi'ak a'ti 'pau 'on keleag lelei. **"THE LAND HAS EYES."**

'Aus o'o'haian atakoa, 'aus la a'hanis ma rot'ak 'e reko gou feagfeag'akia kikia o'o'fa, ma gou ar'ak ne 'aus la pa saio' ne tapen o'o'haina?

Gagaj atakoa, famor Fifisi ea, **"Behind a great man, is a woman"**. Gou la 'ea igke! E reko gou 'ahae ne tau pau, la'eag tape' **Beside a great man is an equally great woman!" if not greater?**

Is o'o'fa, 'is se 'ahae ne 'is 'esea ta garue lelei ma fe'eni ka 'is mao'ak ne iris 'os o'o'haina ma tor ne kaunohoag ta noh 'afai ma garue fai'ak pau e te' 'ne ava la 'is o'o'fa la po la a'sok 'alelei garue ne mou se' isa.

Gou aier'ak te te'is e reko gou po ma 'asok a'lelei garue ne mou se gou 'e av ma'oi ne gou noh vae e 'otou kaunohoagta, ka 'ohonta ma lari'ri' ta, noh a'fai ka haiasoag gou e te' ne ava.

Ö'hon gagaj teis, Marieta Rigamoto ta fu e teranit te i, 'e reko is famor Rotuma e laloag ne 'os Parliament. Öhonteis ia po fakioag ne rak lamlam 'e hanhap ne veko ma garue 'e ut ma'oi 'e Fiti 'e maj te'is. Ia ta ö'hon mumuet 'e 'os hanuete'is la puer se rak ne veko ne Matanitu ta. **(Principal of the Fiji School of Agriculture)**. 'E fau his 'ia garue fak Private Secretary se 'os President. Gagaja la a'alalum'k 'ou mauri ma tor ne 'on ava 'e garue.

‘E laloag ne hulet ne vah se’, ka pansio ‘e rogrog on os famor Rotuma ‘e Internet, kato‘ag ne ofat ne lelea’ ma kainaga a‘ sok se ‘os öhon rua e, Mrs Isapeti Inia ma Hiagi Titifanue e ‘oria hele‘uag se fau 80 ne mauri.

‘E teranit te i, ‘is peak pau le‘et ‘e ‘os o‘o ‘mamfua hele’ e maf ne fau te‘is ma nonoj pau la’ is la ‘ua‘ua‘ak se hanis ‘on ‘Aitu ‘e reko maur ‘on ohon rua i, ma ‘is airot‘ak ne Gagaja la ‘aroa oria mauri.

Öhon teis Isapeti Inia, ‘ia ö‘honit ne na ‘on mauri ‘e reko rak‘akte ma’ ia haiasoag pumuet se ‘ofa ta Fagmaniue ‘e ‘on ‘utakiag ne rako e ‘os ‘otmota Rotuma. ‘la ö‘hon esao ti’ tape‘ma se maur ofrau ‘on o‘o’ haina ‘e garue ne siu’ ma te fak hanua. Öhon te‘is rak‘akta se gou e avhet te gou ‘e kilas hifta ‘e ‘os rako te Malha‘a ma faeag puerakit ‘ia fa’ se hafta ‘e teranit, ‘eag tape’: “There is no substitute for hard work as the key to success” Gagaj ‘atakoa, gou manaf‘ak faeag te‘is se ‘otou huga ma kat maomao ra ‘e ta ava. Noaia e rak‘akte lelei.

Gagaj atakoa is ma o‘o’ haian maoi pau garue se maj ne raka‘k te ma hisit Gagaja hūa fua ‘e ‘os gasava. Öhonta Lavenia Kaurasi, garue roa ma ‘on vavan gagaj te‘is Kaurasi Mosese ‘e laloag ne Fiti ma Rotuma ma sap se fuag lamlam fak Deputy Secretary for Education.

Emeli Fatiaki po fakiaog ne rak‘akte ma garue roa pau se rak ne os Rotu ma hele’ ma puer (Principal, Ballantine Memorial School) ma kota a‘uua.

‘E teranit te i, öhon gagaj te‘is Susana Tevita rak lelei ma po fakioag lamlam e rako ma ia ta puer se rak Jaenta (Principal Yat Sen Secondary School) ‘e Suva.

'Is ma 'os o'o' haian ma'oi tape'ma na 'oris mauri se garue ne Rotu. Deaconess Olivia Nataniela öhonit ne garue roa pau se mata'uag ne lari'ri' se 'es o'o'i 'e nohoag ne Rotu e Dickusha Girls Home, Davuilevu. Av ma'oi pau gou rae se faiaki ma noa 'on öhon teis e 'on garue ma gou 'ahae nonoj tape' ma la' is la ua'ua'ak se 'on hanisi ma garue fe'eni se Rotu. Fekau han mea'mea' teis Vevaluesi Panapasa Rotu vae ma tae e 'os hanueta 'e Malha'a, Rotuma.

'E maj maoi fak garue ne tore, 'is ma os la'riri' haian ma'oi po fakioag ma sap se fuag puer 'e 'oris garue; Isapeti (Lisa) Erasito, gagaj atakoa, 'os öhon mea'mea' hete'is rak ma po fakioag lamlam ma 'e terani te i, 'ia ta puer se mata'uag ne te' ne ten ne mou se hanua (Chief Executive Officer, National Trust of Fiji).

Pilot Officer Jenine Tuatoko (mapiag gagaj 'on Raki and Atu, Haroa, Motusa) rak ma po vah' 'on puk ne hoa' 'ahaifere ma garue hoa 'ahai fer se Sun Air Nadi.

Sergeant Fesaitu Kamilo, garue ma mua'ak te 'e hanhap fak jaujia 'e mara' ne pelu 'e Iraq (United Nations, Guard Force, Bagdad, Iraq).

Gagaj atakoa, os haina po faiau tape' ma e manea' fak rante:

Akanisi Vaurasi)	Fiji Representatives in Netball
Kafoa Rigamoto)	and Basketball
Vicki Tuxon)	

Gagaj 'atakoa, 'is famor Rotuma Kakai mea'mea' pau het e laloag ne rante'is, ka gou aier'ak ne 'is famor alalum e reko 'os temamfua re puer nonoj, ma sokom se 'os o'o'i ne garue lelei ka fe'en ma 'os Fuag Ri noh mahmahan 'e te' ne ava.

13.

'Is fup famori te terani te 'i 'is kop la mata' la Fuag Ri te'is la noh mahmahan ma kikia se 'os fup favorit ne la fakmurim.

E 1995, gou 'e 'os 'atmot ta Rotuma ma gou e kato'agat ne re 'e Ahau 'e reko haharagi (National Youth Day) ma sasig gagaj te' Fekau Raki Tigarea ta re'ia rot ne saeag ne kato'ag ta ma ia faksor'ak se gagaj 'es Itu'u ma 'os o'o' ne hua'ia 'os 'atmot ta, la figalelei ma la mata' la fuag ri ta la noh mahmahan 'e te'ne ava.

Fuag ri te'is la noh mahmahan se av ne tore, kepoi ka 'is la manaf'ak ma taupir se faeag puliot' ne 'os temamfua re:

**“HUGAG'ESEA MA FE'ENI TAE LA UT'AKIA 'OS 'OTMOTA
ROTUMA SE RERE.”**