

Fiji Rotuman Association

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th AUGUST 2023



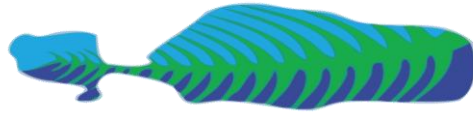
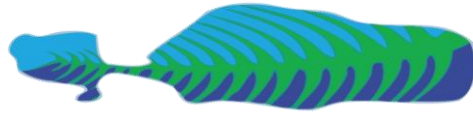


Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	3
2.0	Letter of Support	4
3.0	The Organisation’s Strategic Way Forward	5
4.0	FRA Trustees	5
5.0	FRA Executive Council Members.....	6
6.0	FRA Secretariat and Committee Members	7
7.0	Meeting Schedules and Activities for the Financial Year 2022/2023.....	8
8.0	Statement of Assets and Financial Performance.....	9
9.0	FRA Visitations – 2022/2023.....	9
9.1	Visitation to the Rotuma High School (RHS) Athletes.....	10
9.2	FRA Secretariat/Committee Meeting with Malha’a Suva Association (MSA)	11
9.3	First Visitation to Bau Island – 17 th May 2023.....	12
9.4	Second Visitation to Bau Island – 25 th May 2023.....	13
10.0	Rotuma Day Celebrations 2023.....	13
11.0	FRA Backyard Farmers Competition 2023.....	15
12.0	FRA Women’s Club.....	16
13.0	Rotuman Cultural Hub - Land Update	17
14.0	FRA Executive Council Meeting with Gagaj Manav	17
15.0	Public Consultation with the Great Council of Chiefs Review Committee	18
16.0	Proposed Strategies for the New Financial Year.....	19
	a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council of Rotuma.....	19
	b) Funding and Sponsorship	19
	c) Proposed FRA Executive Council meeting in the West.....	19
	d) Youth Participation in the FRA Council	19
17.0	Acknowledgement	19



Fiji Rotuman Association

1.0 Introduction

Noa'ia é mauri ko gagaj ma nonoj la 'ua'ua'ak se hanis 'on 'Aitu ne 'os mauri po ma hele'umea se 'os tauna' fak mur ne fau te'is (Financial Year 2022/2023).

It is a pleasure for me to present a brief report of the Organisation's performance, achievements and; its weaknesses that needs to be addressed and strengthen sustainability of the organisation.

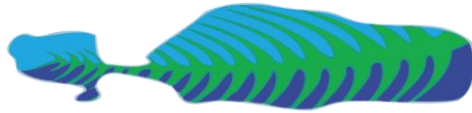
The Fiji Rotuman Association (FRA) is the biggest Rotuman organisation in Fiji and it was established over 45 years ago by our Elders with a vision to bring together the Seven Districts Association members to be the voice of the Rotuman people living in Fiji.

The Association has over 3,000 members, it is legally registered, has its own constitution, its accounts are audited annually by an External Auditor and a Secretariat appointed to run its affairs.

The Association has the blessings and the support of the Council of Rotuma (CoR) to represent the Rotuman people living in Fiji.

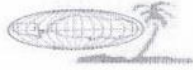
Like any other organisations, its major weakness is the funding to run its operations effectively.

Currently, the Association's operation has been funded by the members and in order to reduce this burden on the members, the FRA Council, Secretariat and Committee will have to vigorously look for long term sponsorship and funding elsewhere for its sustainability.



Fiji Rotuman Association

2.0 Letter of Support



Council of Rotuma

P.O. Box 18
AHAU
ROTUMA
Email rotumacouncil2020@gmail.com

Our Ref: COR 2020/OPM

12 October 2021

To Whom This May Concern

Fiji Rotuma Association in Collaboration with Council of Rotuma

As Chairman of the august institution of Rotuma – the Council of Rotuma, it gives me great pleasure to state that Council of Rotuma highly values our relationship with the Fiji Rotuma Association in promoting and protecting the interests of Rotuma and her people.

Indeed we pride in our desires for common objectives and aspirations where protection of our tradition, culture and heritage is paramount.

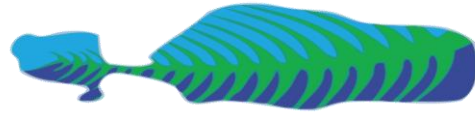
Whilst we understand the struggles and the challenges, we are adamant that we will survive with the little that we have. COVID pandemic may have slowed our progress but ultimately it has given us much resolve to search for opportunities.

Therefore, the Council of Rotuma in collaboration with our Fiji Rotuma Association acknowledges the support of the wider global community in helping Rotumans survive the test of times.

Accept Sir/Madam With Highest Consideration

Gagaj Manav
Chairman
Council of Rotuma
ROTUMA

Info. Fiji Rotuma Association
Council of Rotuma



3.0 The Organisation’s Strategic Way Forward

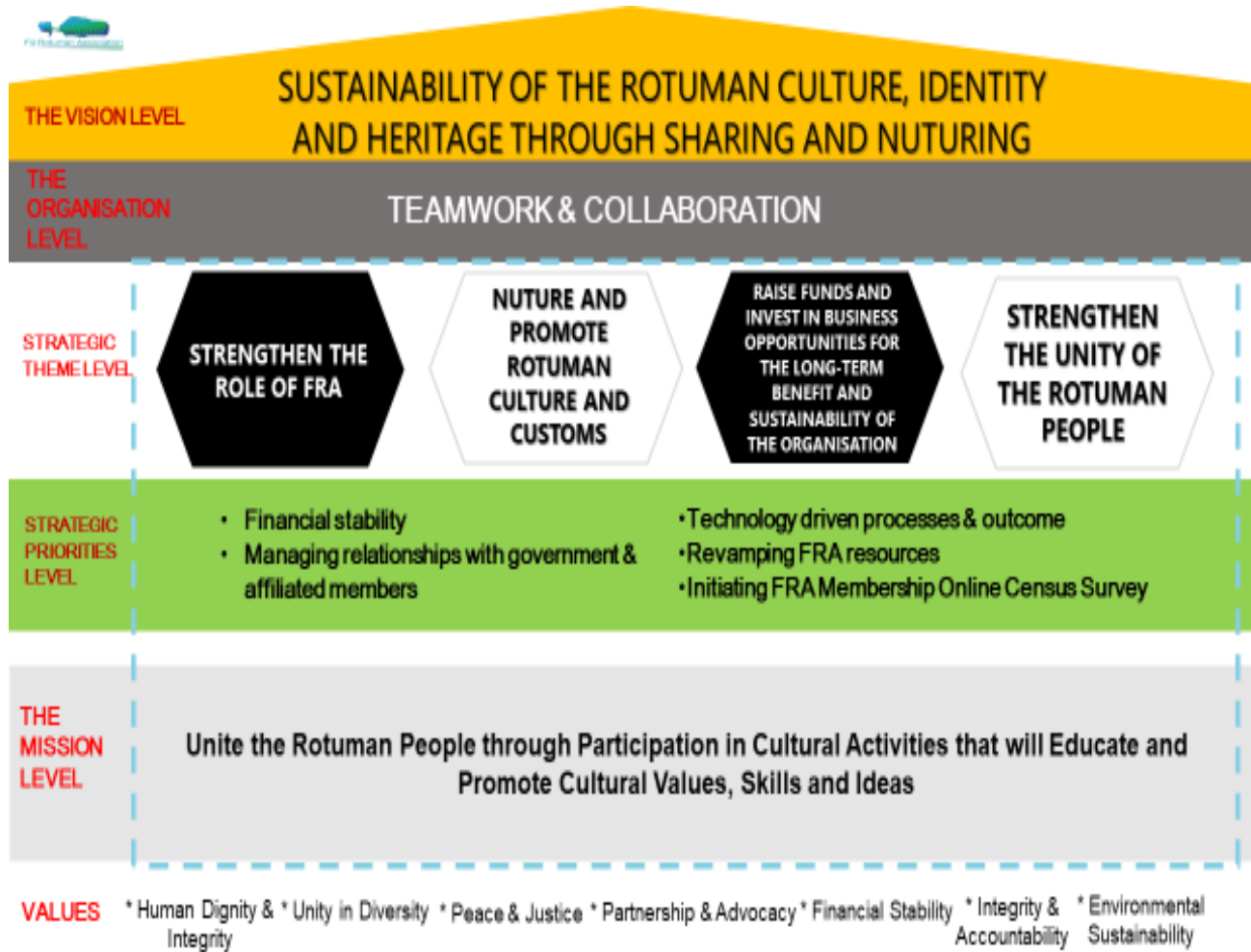


Figure 1 - The diagram above summarises the FRA Strategic Plan with its vision, mission, set goals, values and direction that it anticipates to achieve in the near future.

4.0 FRA Trustees

The current Trustees for the Organisation were appointed in 2022 AGM for a period of three years and they are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Peter Paul Emilio Fatiaki | Noa’tau Association |
| 2. Fanoa Susau David | Oinafa Association |
| 3. Roger Emberson | Itu’tiú Association |
| 4. Paserio Injimo Furivai | Juju Association |
| 5. Paserio Rupeni Samisoni | Itu’muta Association |

5.0 FRA Executive Council Members

The FRA Executive Council Members are nominated by each District Association and their term in the Executive Council depends entirely on their individual Associations.



- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Matapule Finiasi | Noa'tau Association |
| 2. Romokoi Jione | Noa'tau Association |
| 3. Rev. Rupeni Fatiaki | Oinafa Association |
| 4. Fiu Rigamoto | Oinafa Association |
| 5. Surkafa Katafono | Itu'ti'u Association |
| 6. Tupou Lagi | Itu'ti'u Association |
| 7. Paserio Furivai | Juju Association |
| 8. Jacinta Fesa'itu | Juju Association |
| 9. Keponi Inoke | Pepjei Association |
| 10. Fisi Nasario | Pepjei Association |
| 11. Paserio Samisoni | Itu'muta Association |
| 12. Muariro Samisoni | Itu'muta Association |

6.o FRA Secretariat and Committee Members



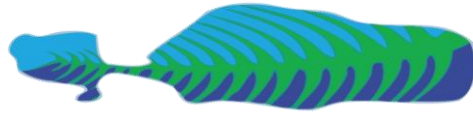
Figure 2 - Figure 1 - FRA Secretariat/Committee at Churchward Hall. L-R Front Row: Joan W (Secretary), Agatha Furivai (Deputy Chairperson) & Victor Fatiaki (Chairman); L-R Back Row: Francis J; Surkafa K; Hanisemao M; Susie D; Roger E; Paserio F; Melida R & Peter P

This is the engine room of the organisation appointed by the FRA Executive Council to manage and run the Association's affairs.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Chairperson | Victor J Fatiaki |
| 2. Deputy Chairperson/Head of Governance - | Agatha Furivai |
| 3. Secretary | Joan Wiliame |
| 4. Deputy Secretary | Hanisemao Moresio |
| 5. Treasurer | Roger Emberson |
| 6. Deputy Treasurer | Susie David |

The Committee members' assignments and responsibilities:

1. Funding and Sponsorship – Agatha F., Joseph Samuela & Surkafa Katafono
2. Rotuman Community Hub – Francis Paul / Roger Emberson
3. Constitution Update and Review – Surkafa K / Victor F
4. Strategic Planning and Rotuman Culture – Paserio Furivai
5. Media/Communication and Logistics Coordinator - Melida R
6. New Projects and feasibility studies – Roger Emberson



Fiji Rotuman Association

7.0 Meeting Schedules and Activities for the Financial Year 2022/2023

No.	EVENT	DATE	VENUE
1	Visitation – RHS Athletes Coca-Cola Games 2022	18 th August 2022	Churchward Hall
2	1 st FRA Council meeting	24 th September 2022	Hart
3	2 nd FRA Council Meeting	29 th October 2022	Hart
4	Island Night Fundraising	3 rd December 2022	Vineyard
5	Election Candidate – Public Forum.	19 th December 2022	Hart
6	3 rd FRA Council Meeting	25 th February 2023	Hart
7	4 th FRA Council Meeting	29 th April 2023	Hart
8	Visitation – RHS Athletes Coca-Cola Games 2023	30 th April 2023	Nakasi
9	First Visitation to Bau	17 th May 2023	Bau Island
10	Rotuma Day Celebration	19 th & 20 th May 2023	FMF National Gymnasium
11	Special FRA Council Meeting – Preparation for GCC Meeting Visit	21 st May 2023	Hart
12	Second Visitation to Bau	25 th May 2023	Bau Island
13	5 th FRA Council Meeting	24 th June 2023	Hart
14	FRA Council Meeting with Chairman of the CoR, Gagaj Manav	10 th July 2023	Hart
15	Public Consultation Meeting with Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) Review Committee	17 th July 2023	FTA Hall
16	6 th FRA Annual General Meeting	26 th August 2023	Churchward Hall

The above are the meetings and other activities that the Association carried out in this Financial year.

8.0 Statement of Assets and Financial Performance

As of 30/06/2023

LIST OF ASSETS	FIGURES AS OF YEAR 2022/2023	
	FY 2021/2022	FY 2022/2023
ANZ term deposit Acct # 11748249	\$ 81,878.04	\$ 67,720.30
ANZ Investment Acct # 13396134	\$ 2,768.60	\$ 4,708.20
Fixed Assets	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 750.00
ANZ Operating Acct # 610674	\$ 10,567.85	\$ 19,508.42
Total Income for the Year 2022/23	\$ 13,801.72	\$ 55,567.26
Expenses for the Year 2022/23	\$ 6,736.09	\$ 58,193.49
Profit/ Deficit	\$ 7,065.63	(\$2,626.23)

8.1 Summary of Financial Performance and Assets for 2022/2023

The figures from the table above shows the increase in financial activity from COVID-19 to post COVID-19 periods which is anticipated in any organization's performance.

As expected, our income and expenses have increased significantly from the reporting periods however expenses went up due to unbudgeted activities which resulted in a deficit of (-\$2.6k) for this financial year.

The details of the financial trends & transactions are explained in the Audit report.

Key unbudgeted expenses for this financial year were the visits to the RHS students during the Coke Games in 2022 & 2023. The two visits to Bau island in support of the Rotuma Island chiefs who were attending the GCC.

9.0 FRA Visitations – 2022/2023

9.1 Visitation to the Rotuma High School (RHS) Athletes - Coca-Cola Games 2022/2023



The FRA Executive Council meeting on April 29th, 2023 had discussed and agreed for the Secretariat and whoever is available to visit our athletes from the RHS at Nakasi. This visitation was carried out on the next day and presented FRA’s “tefakhanisi” of F\$500.00 to Master Jo Savea and Master Joseph Kamea.



Figure 3 - FRA members' Visitation to the RHS Athletes and Teachers at Churchward Hall on 18th August 2022

The FRA members also visited the RHS Athletes who participated in 2022 Coca-Cola Games on Thursday, 18th August 2022, presenting food shopping and monetary support to the RHS Team from Rotuma.

9.2 FRA Secretariat/Committee Meeting with Malha'a Suva Association (MSA)



Figure 4 - First Joint FRA Secretariat Meeting with Malha'a Suva Association members on 7 March 2023 at Churchward.

There were two (2) meetings convened with MSA members to discuss the way forward for the Association regarding its membership and RDC 2023 traditional dances participation.



Figure 5 - FRA Secretariat invited to the Malha'a Suva Association Meeting on 15 April 2023 at Churchward Hall.

9.3 First Visitation to Bau Island – 17th May 2023

The Council of Rotuma was allocated three (3) seats to the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) meeting which was held in Bau on the 21st May to 24th May 2023. Because of the newly installed, high Chief of Bau and Kubuna Confederacy, all the 14 Provinces of Fiji including Rotuma. Rotuma has to do their Fijian protocol to the Vunivalu, Ratu Apenisa Cakobau before the GCC Meeting.



Figure 6 - The Rotuman delegation that went to Bau with Gagaj Maraf, Tiporot and Manav.



Figure 7 – Rotuman Women carrying mats in their first visit to Bau Island.

9.4 Second Visitation to Bau Island – 25th May 2023

The FRA again was required to visit Bau Island to thank the people of Bau for looking after our three chiefs during their stay in Bau for the duration of the GCC meeting and also for the “Solevu” to thank the vanua of Tailevu for hosting the GCC meeting. This includes all the 14 provinces of Fiji as well.



Figure 8 - Presentation of our Yams, Yagona and Pig to the “Solevu” Ceremony.

10.0 Rotuma Day Celebrations 2023

After a lapse of two years of Covid-19 lockdown, then the Fiji Rotuman Association was able to organise a Rotuma Day Celebration (RDC) where all the Rotumans get together to witness the men’s root crop competition, women’s handicraft and the Rotuman cultural dances presented by the members.

The theme for this year is **“Celebrating our Cultural Heritage”** in Rotuman language **“Teag ‘Esea ‘E ‘Ofa La A’ne’ne’akia ‘Os Ag Fak Hanua”**.

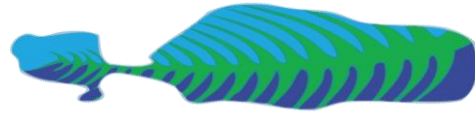
Our Chief Guest was Dr John Fatiaki and the wife Sineva Fatiaki. FRA was blessed to have the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Hon. Professor Biman Prasad, Minister for Labour and Employment, Hon. Agneo Singh and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua as distinguished guests at this year’s Rotuma Day Celebrations.



Figure 9 – FRA Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Finance at two-days Rotuma Day Celebrations 2023 in Suva.



Figure 10 - Deputy PM, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, FRA Chairman, Victor Fatiaki and Dr John Fatiaki at the Rotuma Day Celebrations held at FMF National Gymnasium in Suva.



11.0 FRA Backyard Farmers Competition 2023

A big *fqiäksea* to the FRA Backyard farmers for the kind contribution in yams, pig, Yagona plant and transport for the two visitations to Bau on 17th & 25th of May

The highlights for the first day of the RDC is the men's root crop competition with Itu'ti'u Backyard Farmers scooping the overall points for Yams and Taro.

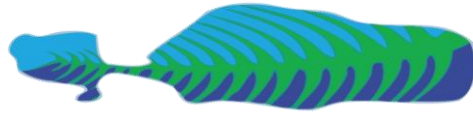
- ❖ Overall Champion for Yams - Pepjei
- ❖ Overall Champion for Taro - Itu'ti'u
- ❖ Overall Champion for Yams & Taro - Itu'ti 'u Men

The Fiji Rotuman Backyard Farmers Committee for this year comprises:-

1. Pat Veu Chairman
2. Victor Fatiaki Deputy Chairman
3. Francis Paul Treasurer
4. Dan Vilsoni Secretary
5. Surkafa Katafono General



Figure 11 - Weighing of roots crops at FRA Backyard Farmers Competition 2023.



12.0 FRA Women's Club

12.1 In January 19th, 2023, Oinafa had called for its first meeting to roll out the handover of leadership as Chairperson changes with Itu'u changeover and election of 2023 new office bearers given the two year relapse (Post Covid-19). The 2023 elected office bearers are:

1. Chairperson – Saverina Wasile
2. Secretary - Jacinta Fesa'itu
3. Assistant Secretary – Lijiana Inia
4. Treasurer – Faga Kaitu'u
5. Assistant Treasurer – Rina Wasile
6. Patron – Marseu Rafai

Arising from the meeting, it was agreed to appoint Mrs Marseu Rafai as the Patron of the Women Wing. The appointment is a mark of respect for Mrs Rafai's dedicated support the club over the years.

12.2 On February 3rd, 2023, the committee met the Itaukei Coordinator for Rotuma, Alfred Wiliame regarding the funding for the Rotuman Women in Fiji.

12.3 From March to April 2023, the club was preparing its Art and Craft Sale at the Rotuma Day Celebrations and reconvened its club meeting on April 27th, 2023.

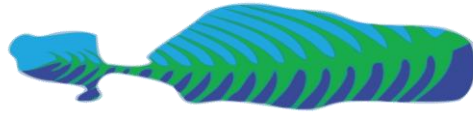
12.4 On 17th May 2023, the FRA Women represented their Itu'u at the GCC Bau Rotuman Delegation (La'o). The *La'o* order:

- ❖ Apei – Noa'tau
- ❖ 'Eap ma Faua – Oinafa
- ❖ 'Eap ma Faua – It'ti'u
- ❖ 'Eap ma Faua – Juju
- ❖ 'Eap ma Faua – Pepjei
- ❖ 'Eap ma Faua – Itu'muta
- ❖ 'Eap Agrua – FRA Secretariat
- ❖ 'Eap Agrua - Oinafa

12.5 FRA Women's Club Achievements

1. Meetings
2. Art and Craft Sales at 2023 RDC
3. Women Represented their Itu'us at the GCC Bau Rotuma Delegation

12.6 Targeted Output



Fiji Rotuman Association

1. Final Meeting and handover to Ituti'u Leadership – Thursday, 22nd August 2023.
2. Collection of 2023 Subscriptions
3. Learn how to weave a “Tauga”

13.0 Rotuman Cultural Hub - Land Update

The Council of Rotuma and FRA's visitation to the Prime Minister, Bainimarama in 2020 to ask for a piece of land in the Suva area for the Rotuman people, was again raised by the Chairman of the CoR, Gagaj Manav to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Hon. Viliame Gavoka on his official visitation to Rotuma in March 2023.

The Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Gavoka assured Gagaj Manav that he will bring this issue to the attention of the Prime Minister, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka on his return.

On Monday, 24th April 2023, a meeting was called with the Chairman of the CoR, Gagaj Manav, Director Lands, Commissioner Eastern, Vitali Varo, Victor Fatiaki, Francis Paul and Paserio Samisoni at the Director of Lands Office to discuss the land.

A piece of Land about 2 Acres, at Bay View heights was indentified by the Lands Department and an expression of Interest was signed by Gagaj Manav and submitted the next day.

A follow up call was made to the Acting Director of Lands on 18th of August 2023 as the Director of Lands has been on Medical Leave relatively for sometime.

14.0 FRA Executive Council Meeting with Gagaj Manav – Chairman of the Council of Rotuma

The FRA Executive Council was happy and honoured to have Gagaj Manav to attend this important meeting to brief the FRA Council of the Government's assistance and developments happening on the island.

The Chairman of the CoR also thanked the FRA Executive Council and the members for the two visitations to Bau Island and all the past assistance that FRA done on behalf of the Chiefs and the people of Rotuma.



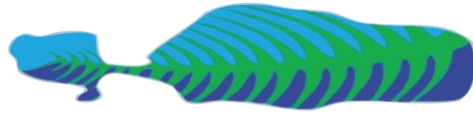
Figure 12 - FRA Executive Council Meeting with Chairman, Council of Rotuma on 10 July 2023 at the Hart, Valelevu.

15.0 Public Consultation with the Great Council of Chiefs Review Committee



Figure 13 - Vote of thanks Speech by FRA Chairman at GCC Review Consultation, FTA Hall.

The respective Suva Itu'u Associations presented their collective submissions to the Great Council of Chiefs Review Committee on 17th July 2023 at FTA Hall.



16.0 Proposed Strategies for the New Financial Year

a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council of Rotuma

Arising from FRA Executive Council Meeting with the Chairman, CoR, the Secretariat and Committee are currently drafting an MOU on a mutual agreement to work together and maintain a good relationship amongst the parties. This was discussed and agreed at the last meeting with the Chairman, Gagaj Manav on 10 July 2023 at the Hart, Valelevu.

b) Funding and Sponsorship

The FRA Executive Council, the Secretariat and Committee to vigorously continue to look for funding for FRA proposed projects and also its operations in order to reduce the financial burden on members.

c) Proposed FRA Executive Council meeting in the West

In order to gather our Rotuman brothers and sisters in the West to join FRA membership, a meeting in the west with them will be ideal to go ahead initiate. Each Itu'u to invite their members living there to attend this meeting.

In addition, it will be good as well to the FRA Council members to reach out and meet their members in the West.

d) Youth Participation in the FRA Council

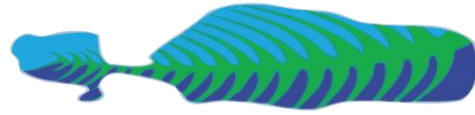
We have to be mindful that our Rotuman youth is our future and implement a succession plan for the FRA thus their participation in the FRA Council is vitally important. There was a lot of talk on this subject however FRA is yet to come up with a solution.

17.0 Acknowledgement

This year, I would like to acknowledge all the Itu'u Associations' financial assistance and kind contributions for the sustainability of FRA.

The Oinafa Kautauna'iga for the tremendous support to the Secretariat and Committee as Host district for this successful year. "Noa'ia 'e hanis uanmafut 'e tariag lamlamat ne 'aus re 'e te' av ne tauna'i a'sokoe.

Last but not least, to my Secretariat and Committee, I am grateful to all the support given and the hard work throughout the year. I enjoy working with you all as a team and I look forward to another successful year ahead.



Fiji Rotuman Association

Alalum.

Victor J Fatiaki
Chairman