

ROTUMA
COMMUNITY HUB

Fiji Rotuman Association Concept Paper

11 December, 2019

This Project Concept Proposal, signifying key targeted considerations in terms of a synergy of land acquisition and integrated building construction, of which in completion shall be hereof known as a ROTUMA COMMUNITY HUB.

**KEY ACHIEVABLE
TARGETS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Fiji Rotuman Association (FRA) comprises of the seven district associations based in Suva. These include Noatau, Oinafa, Itu‘ti‘u, Malha‘a, Juju, Pepjei, and Itu‘muta associations. Some of which are inclusive of their district membership across the wider Fiji communities.

The FRA Council consist of two representatives from each of these districts. It also includes a Secretariat that is elected every three years at their Annual General Meetings (AGM). The Secretariat comprises of Rotuman individuals whose names are nominated by the various districts and endorsed at the respective FRA AGM. The Chairperson of the Secretariat is usually the Chairperson of the Council and is elected from within the Council membership.

The Fiji Rotuman Association current Strategic Plan, 2017 - 2020 makes reference to its Vision, Mission and Objectives and believes strongly that the time to make a leap towards the sustainability of its culture, identity and heritage is now. Goal 4 of the same document strives to address the sustainability of our Rotuman Identity and Heritage by establishing a Rotuma Community Hub whereby one of the core functional activities shall be towards Rotuman cultural enhancement. As we affirmatively visualize on this Strategic Plan, the Council is determined that the new strategic orientations of FRA shall prioritise the sustainability of its history and those of our people.

This project is of interest to all Council members and will be coordinated by a specific ‘steering’ working committee.

This concept note makes reference to the following foundational documents of the FRA. These include the following:

- FRA Constitution (2005, 2014 Review)
- Strategic Plan 2015 - 17
- Strategic Plan 2017 - 20

2.0 PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

This Project shall endeavor to respond to three inter-related issues :

2.1 Continuity and Sustainability of the Rotuman Culture, Identity and Heritage.

Over 40 years of existence, the FRA has yet to have its own development project for its people. FRA holds the largest number of Rotuman membership in any network of the Rotuman people.

2.2 Rotuman Language Endangered Definitely: The teaching and learning of the language is very critical and needs to be addressed immediately at a public meeting place of Rotumans. Spoken and written Rotuman cannot be confined only to private domains.

2.3 Serve as a base for FRA activities and projects for the largest number of Rotumans gathered at one time. It will serve as a Rotuman Community Hub whereby one of the core functional activities shall be Rotuman Cultural Enhancement through information, education and communication related activities on Rotuman identity, culture and heritage for all Rotumans across the globe and those interested non-Rotumans.

3.0 BENEFICIARIES

This project will target all Rotuman women, men, youth, children, and minority groups in Fiji and abroad for information sharing, communication, education and research work relating to Rotuman history, culture, identity, language and related issues.

4.0 ESTIMATED COST

The estimated cost is around FJD5.77 million for the Rotuma Community Hub all-inclusive construction of a 2 strata complex (herein on completion, the design shall need to be able to self-fund itself) and FJD2 million for the procurement of land, hereof grand total of FJD7.77 million. It is to be achieved in stages within an approximated timeframe ranging from 2 to 3 to 5 years.

Annex I: PowerPoint Presentation for clarity.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The FRA members cannot do this alone. Thus, we encourage all Rotumans from across the globe, Fiji and Rotuma Island, together with our supporters and friends, to unite in our aspiration to keep our Rotumanness. We strive to raise these funds so that our children's future as Rotuman Islanders is grounded. The dream is to keep our God-given ethnicity and race with happiness, gratitude and joy for its uniqueness. This year's annual Rotuma Day Celebration holds the dream, that this Rotuma Community Hub for our people and our children will be realised in our life time.

This establishment will be the basis in which the FRA Council will operate its day to day affairs, enhance the teaching and learning of our "endangered definitely language" (UNESCO, 2014), build the young Rotumans identity and heritage in story-telling, chanting, poetry, song and dance, encourage the transition of learning through the voices of our elders to the young minds of our children. We will engage in:

1. Education
2. Research and Resource
3. Communication and Information
4. Meeting Venue

The project will be launched in May, 2020 and is currently coordinated by the working team of the host district, the Pepjei Association. The FRA will celebrate Rotuma Day on 8th – 9th May, 2020. The establishment of a Rotuma Community Hub is the aim of this year's journey. The drive to fundraise is our Secretariat's main foundational objective. Embraced by the FRA Council, the objective envisions raising money towards the Rotuma Community Hub.