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## **NEWSLETTER: 01/13**

### **THE FOUNDATION'S FIRST CHARITY MISSION TO ROTUMA 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

#### **Background**

It was in 2010 that the idea of doing something worthwhile for the less fortunate was conceived. This was triggered by the findings of a survey carried out by the Department of Social Welfare which revealed that more than 4% of the population in Rotuma was registered as needing welfare assistance. This was considered high when compared to the rest of Fiji as a whole average of approximately 2%

Work in forming a charitable organization began culminating in the formation of Ha'enoa Rotuma Charity Foundation.

#### **Registration**

The Ha'enoa Rotuma Charity Foundation (HRCF) was registered in September 2012 for the primary purpose of assisting government in reaching out to the less fortunate groups of people in Rotuma and the wider community in Fiji by providing for some of their needs that are not readily available in their communities. These groups of people are;

- Those affected by poverty
- The disabled & handicapped
- The aged or infirm
- Widows & orphans

#### **Fundraising Efforts**

Prior to registration, fundraising efforts had already begun with the inaugural golf tournament at the Denarau Golf & Racquet Club, Nadi, Fiji in August 2011. The second golf event was on September 2012 at the same venue.

These events raised sufficient funds to begin the task of reaching out to those in the categories highlighted above that are in need of assistance.

The next fund raising event is the Rotuma Golf Day scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at the Denarau Golf & Racquet Club in Nadi, Fiji.

### **Assistance Rendered**

The Department of social Welfare had prepared a list of names of individuals that require assistance. Opportunities were given to individuals to put forward requests which allowed the identification of needs of individuals.

Equipment and items that could be readily acquired were purchased for shipment to Rotuma. These are outlined below;

- Wheelchairs
- Walking frames
- Walking sticks
- Cartons of Diapers
- Bed pans
- Mackintosh sheets
- Reading glasses

On Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 two trustees of the Foundation, Rocky Peters and Lora Mua set sail for Rotuma on the MV Lady Sandy with these items. A truck was hired on the island for the distribution of items as soon as the boat berthed at Oinafa on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 around noon. Rocky Peters with his list of names went with the truck around the island and delivered items to recipients in the following villages;

- Lopta
- Malhaha
- Hapmak
- Ahau
- Losa
- Itumuta
- Saolei
- Tua'koi
- Juju
- Pepjei
- Noatau
- Oinafa

Both trustees then re-boarded the MV Lady Sandy which departed Rotuma the next day Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00pm and arrived back in Suva 11.00pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. They both caught a taxi and arrived back in Nadi at 3.00am early Tuesday morning 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013; mission accomplished.

There were requests for children's school fees from a widowed mother with two high school children, a mentally handicapped father with three children at high school and two at primary school, and a father suffering from rheumatic heart disorder who has four children in primary school. The 2013 school fees for these eleven children have now been paid for by the Foundation.



Rocky Peters busy checking and packing items in Nadi for courier to Suva



The MV Lady Sandy being loaded in Suva for Rotuma





Lora counting the packed cartons on arrival at Oinafa Wharf, Rotuma



Recipients of new walking frames





Two recipients trying out their new wheelchairs



Another two of sixteen recipients of items from Fiji



Departing Oinafa Wharf heading back to Fiji

## **Conclusion**

A volunteer in Rotuma has come forward offering her assistance to this worthy cause and an area that would require assistance is in the distribution of the Application for Assistance Forms to those falling in the above category of people so that requests could be assessed by the Foundation.

It is the intention to reach out to as many people as possible but this will only be made easier depending on how much funds could be raised.

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