

Appendix G: Formation of the Chiefdom of Lau, Lakemba, 15 February 1869

We, the Chiefs of Lau, are agreed to carry out all matters contained herein for the formation of a government of Lau.

1. The islands of the Province of Lau which formerly belonged to Tonga, and which now belong to Ma`afu, having been given to him by Tumbou, King of Tonga, and by authority from Tonga, together with the islands now controlled by Tuinayau will form one government and will be called the Chiefdom of Lau.
2. Ma`afu will be head of the Chiefdom of Lau, and will be known by the title of Tui Lau.
3. Vanua Mbalavu, and the islands near the reef, namely Tuvutha, Moala, Matuku and Totoya will pay taxes to Ma`afu which will become his own property to do with as he pleases.
4. The islands of Lau which are under the rule of Tuinayau will pay taxes to him which will become his own property to do with as he pleases.
5. From the taxes which he collects every year Tuinayau will pay to Tui Lau a tribute of 10 tons of produce from the sea. The first payment will be 5 tons, and will be paid up to the year 1870, and thereafter the annual tribute will be 10 tons.
6. Each year there will be a meeting of the Chiefs of Lau under the Chairmanship of the Tui Lau wherein laws will be enacted for the Confederacy. The chiefs of Lakemba will be responsible for the proper control of communal affairs in their provinces and villages.
7. A flag of the Confederacy will be made according to the design shown below.
8. This agreement will only apply to Enele Ma`afu.
9. This agreement will revoke the previous agreement which we entered into with Ma`afu.

Dated this 15th day of February 1869 at Vatuwanga, Lakemba, Lau.

Sgd. Ma`afu Tui Lau

Witness to signatures:-

Tuinayau

Tevita Uluilakeba

Robert S. Swanston

Ma`afu, prince of Tonga, chief of Fiji

Koroi Vuke his X mark Louis Bigansole

Leonitasi his X mark Isaac Rooney

Joni Wesele his X mark

Tui Tumbou his X mark

Vakavanua his X mark

S. Sokotukioci his X mark

Ilaitia his X mark

Source: George C. Henderson, ed., *Fijian Documents, Political and Constitutional 1858–1875*, Sydney 1938, 26–27.

This text taken from *Ma`afu, prince of Tonga, chief of Fiji: The life and times of Fiji's first Tui Lau*, by John Spurway, published 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.