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TOPIC: INSTALLMENT OF A CHIEF (PROTOCL)

INVESTIGATOR: WILLIE.D

INFORMANT: TUI NAMOSI.....VEIVATULOA,NAMOSI.

SUBJECT: INSTALLMENT OF A NEW CHIEF IN NAMOSI.

I wasnt a chief in the olden days but I was very famous and even known in England. At this time there was no chief in Namosi, and there was many wars in many parts of Viti Levu. At this time the tribe VASUTA had a leader titled the Tui Nabuke. During this war in Fiji Tui Nabuke went outside to visit the lure on his way to the toilet he heard an old man's voice saying to him that he will be installed chief of the Namosi people and he was to be installed at the flat land on a hill side. This man was than installed the first Tui Namosi and he was presented a tabua as a sign that the people have agreed to give him the position of the Tui Namosi.

- What happened when the war was over?
- The chief was installed as Tui Namosi and his yaqona was clapped after he had drank his yaqona. When the Tui Namosi comes here all the Namosi people will greet the chief with a TAMA.
- Could you talk about the installation of a Tui Namosi?
- The place where the installment will take place will be fenced around. The village will also be fenced and there will be guards around the fence and also in the village.

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This first Tui Namosi who heard the old man's voice talking to him was my mother's father, that is my grandfather.

When the installation of the new chief is taking place no children or villager is allowed to roam or go near the fenced area or to where the installment is taking place. There are special people who performs the installment of a new chief and the installed chief's yaqona is presented to him as the cup bearer performs a traditional dance. Yaqona cup is place on his head as a sign that he is made King of the Province. It is the Vaka's duty to place the Yaqona bowl or cup on the chief's head. It is said that we Namosi people are the Kai Colo or the interior people because we don't eat sea food. This may be true because our women dont know this sea shells like golea etc. Even though we may be called bush people we also know some sea shells that some women from the island haven't hear of or even seen. The village where the installment of a new chief takes place is at Veivatuoa. This is the spot or the place where the installment of a new chief or Tui Namosi takes place. When a chief is about to be installed the place Veivatuoa will be fenced. There is a hanging bridge that is made by the prisoners for the Tui Namosi. This was made especially for the Vunivalu, the Tui Namosi. At this place is a machine Gun. This is only used if a boat is seen crossing Tui Namosi's sea boundary without his permission or knowledge.

- There are guards there to...?

- There are villagers in Namosi with different trives there is Koro Balavu no.1 and there is Korobalavu No.2

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There is a Tribe of Tivoro No.1 and a tribe of Tivoro No.2  
There is Nabukebuke No.1 and there is a tribe of Nabukebuke  
No.2. Serua is close to our place and different tribe has a  
particular duty the Kai Viti Levu are the guards in our area.

- Could you talk to me on the various things and taboo a  
man is to keep before he is installed chief?

- A man name Alisio was once installed chief. Everything  
was prepared by the people of Namosi. Nemani the man who was  
to perform the ritual installation went up first to where the  
installation usually takes place. A bure was prepared where  
the installment was to take place. Everything in the village  
was ready for the installation of the new chief. So before  
the installment of the new chief one of the members of the  
tribe that is responsible for giving the bowl of yaqona to  
to the chief to be is to go up to the hill first to inform  
the Vu or the gods of Namosi up the hill, if they agree to  
the man that is to be installed chief or not. Nemani the man  
of this tribe ascended the hill saying his Tama as he walked  
up the hill. TAMA is a traditional greeting showing respect.  
As Nemani was walking up the hill he was saying, "SA BOGI SAKA!"  
meaning, "GREETINGS TO YOU SIR". The gods of Namosi who ere  
there told Nemani to get lost from there because they don't  
know him. This is a sign that the gods of Namosi doesn't  
agree with the man who was to be installed. Nemani came down  
to the bure where the installed chief was and found out that  
Alisio was half dead in the house. The next day after the  
installation of the new chief Nemani told the people tha  
he was chased from the hills by the gods of Namosi.

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Few days later the installed chief's stomach started to swell up. When Alisio felt that he was near his grave he called the chiefs of the village and gave them the title of Tui Namosi so that he could be freed from the curse.

- Do you want to say any more on this topic?

- The title Tui Namosi is to be given to a chief who's patents are both chief. People should look at this point closely before installing a chief because if the chief installed is not the right person for the title he could kick the bucket. We should remember that chiefs are from God and we people are to respect them. The chiefs duty is to see to his peoples needs.

F I N I S H .