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 REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

IN THE TRADITIONAL RIGHTS COURT
 REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MAJURO ATOLL

PATRICK LANGRINE, in his capacity as)	Civil Action 2022-00609
Secretary of Finance,)	
)	
plaintiff,)	
)	LEMNAK IM UAK EO/KO AN
v.)	TRADITIONAL RIGHTS COURT EO
)	
AL BERT AMOS and JENIS TEN,)	
)	
defendants.)	
_____)	

RO UAAN PANEL EO	:	Grace L. Leban Presiding Judge, TRC
		Nixon David Associate Judge, TRC
		Jasper Lanki Associate Pro Tem Judge, TRC
JIKIN RONJAKE EO	:	Ebeye Courthouse Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll Majuro Courthouse Majuro Atoll Marshall Islands
RAAN IN RONJAKE EO/KO	:	August 21-August 22, 2024

KOMELELE KO :

Ilo March 17, 2023 eo, ear itok case in non court in an manit iumin juon Referral Order, einwot an kemlet iumin Rule 4 im 5 ilo Traditional Rights Court Rules of Procedure eo an January 15, 2009. Case in ej ikijen maron eo an Alap im won eo ekkar bwe en etal kolla ko an Alap non e, ilo Wonmak Turok (south) ilo Wonmak Island, Kwajalein Atoll.

Ekkar non party kein jimor ilo case in, Wonmak Turok eber weto kein ie, Labo, Mejto, Motaelon, im Aeboj, im bwe weto kein rej elajrak ak Wonmak Turok ej an Mojen eo an Loeak, im bwe Irojilaplap Christopher Jorebon Loeak ej Irojilaplap eo an Wonmak Turok rainin.

IAKWELEL KO IKOTAAN PARTY KO:

Ilo naan in iakwelel ko an rijumae abnono Albert Amos, ej ba bwe e eo im ejimwe kab ekkar bwe en kabjor maron eo an Alap ion Wonmak Turok (South) ilo Kwajalein Atoll, Republic eo an Marshall Islands. Rijumae abnono Amos ej ba bwe bwij eo an Liodrik ear lot ilo tore eo Abija ej jako jen mour in. Ej ba bwe iumin mantin Majol, elane ej lot bwij eo inem maron eo an Alap enaj etal non ro nejin emaan, ak botoktok eo. Melele eo an rijumae abnono Amos ej ba bwe tore eo ej jako Abija, ear etal maron eo an Alap non nejin maan eo eritotata, naetan Lemto, im eo erito tata nejin Lemto ej kora eo, Larok. Rijumae abnono Amos ej ba bwe Larok ear Alap enwot juon toor in botoktok, im bwe eo nejin Larok, naetan Roselin, ej kio kabjor maron an Alap ion Wonmak Wetu.

Ekkar non naan in iakwelel ko an rijumae abnono Jenis Ten, e eo ejimwe im ekkar bwe en kabjor maron eo an Alap ion Wonmak Turok, ilo Kwajalein Atoll, Republic eo and Marshall Islands. Ekkar non rijumae abnono Ten, ilo tore eo ej lot bwij eo iben Abija, eo eritotata maan ilo bwij eo

ej Ikirtok. Kin menin, Eodrik ej e eo ejimwe im ekkar bwe en kabjor maron ko an Alap alkin Abija, im bwe Eodrik ej e eo eritotata uwan bwij eo ekaal im jab Larok.

KAJJITOK KO KAR LETOK NAN TRC PANEL EO BWE EN UAAKE:

Kajitok ko litok non court in an Manit, ak Traditional Rights Court (TRC) uaki , rej lajrak einwot ijin ilal:

Ikotaan Albert Amos im Jenis Ten, im ro rej jutak ilukin abnono kein an rijumae abnono rein, Amos ak Ten,

- i. won eo ejimwe bwe en kabjor im bok maron an Alap ion Wonmak Turok, Kwajalein Atoll, Republic eo an Marshall Islands, im
- ii. won eo ejimwe im ekkar bwe en bok kolla ko an Alap ikijen Wonmak Turok iumin Kwon eo Ikijen Kojerbal Bwidrej Ikotaan Ro Aer Kwajalein Atoll im Kien eo an Republic eo an Marshall Islands, eo im ear koman ilo May 11, 2011?

UAAK NON KAJITOK EO:

- i. Albert Amos
- ii. Albert Amos, im ekkar non kwon ko/eo kemlet ilo LUA eo.

MELELE KO IM UAAK IN EJ BEDBED IOER:

Alkin an Panel eo an court in an Manit etale aoleb kein kamol ko im melele ko rar walok jen rein rar kamol ilo case in, ear wonmanlok wot im komani uak ko an bedbed ion melele kein buki jen rikamol ro im kein kamol ko buki bwe en mweien court in..

Kein kamol Exhibit A, ej menmenbwij eo an Liodrik, einwot ke Wonmak Turok ej jikin bwij im ear wonlaltak lajrak in jolet iben bwij eo an Liodrik, iumin tel im maron eo an Mojen eo an Loeak. Rijumae abnono rein ruo rej jimor erra bwej ear lot bwij eo iben Abija, enwot ke ear make wot nejin kora eo eritotata naetan Likokole, eo nejin Lijokane, eo ej ritotata nejin Liodrik. Elkin an kar lot bwij eo iben Abija, ejimwe im jejjot bwe en kar wonlaltak wot maron eo an Alap non Ikirtok im Nilep, ro im rej nejin kora eo edriklak jibun Liodrik, naetan Lijiboke, nejin Lijokane. Ijo wot ke, court in ej loe bwe mokta wot jen an kar Abija bok maron an Alap ilo Wonmak Turok, Lemto ear bok maron eo im ear juon Alap, einwot an walok ilo kein kamol Exhibit B, ej Ownership of Land, Kwajalein Atoll, ak Land Determination eo an ailin in Kwajalein eo im ear koman ilo 1959 eo.

Kein kamol Exhibit B ej kwlaok bwe iumin Wonmak Turok, Irojlaplap eo ej Albot, Alap ej Lemto, im Dri Jerbal ej Samual. Court in ej tomak bwe Lemto ear aikuj jijot einwot ke ej juon ebeben ritto lak jen ebeben eo an Abija, Ikirtok im Nilep, im ej nejin bwij. Ak jemaron ba ej wulepen Abija, Ikirtok im Nilep, einwot ke ej jein ak jatun Likolkole im Lijiboke, einwot an lajrak ilo kein kamol Exhibit A ak menmenbwij eo an Liodrik. Inem ej bar walok ilo Land Determination in bwe Samuel ear juon Senior Dri Jerbal einwot ke ej nejin Lemto ak toor in botoktok, im Abija, Ikirtok, im Nilep rej lajrak iumin bwij im kottar ien aer bok maron in Alap elkin an jako Alap eo aerjel lo tore eo, ej Lemto. Alkin Lemto inem ear wonlaltak non ebeben eo tok ilal im Abija enwot juon nejin kora ear bok maron an Alap.

Alkin Lemto, inem ear wonlaltak non ebeben eo tok ilal eo im Abija ear imaan ie im nejin kora ak bwij, im ear wonmanlok wot im bok maron eo an Alap ion Wonmak Turok. Ikirtok im Nilep

rar jako mokta jen Abija inem erro kar jab maron kabjor maron an Alap. Kin menin, ear maat nejin kora alkin Abija im jej maron ba elot bwij eo iben Abija.

Ekkar non naan in kojemlok ko an rijumae abnono Jenis Ten, ejba bwe Larok ear jab kabjor maron an alab bwe Abija ear mour wot ak ear kabjor maron an Dri Jerbal. Court in ej erra ilo melele in. Ijo wot ke, court in ej bar kile bwe alkin Abija, ear lot bwij eo im ear oktak tok non botoktok, inem einwot an kemlet ilo P.L. 2023-67, Section 105(1)to (4), ejimwe bwe Larok en Alap enwot ke ej nejin maan (Lemto) eo im ej nejin bwij (Neibarbar), nejin Liodrik, im bwe Larok ej juon ebeben ritolak jen ro nejin Ikirtok im Nilep. Ekkar non menmenbwij eo, ear wor bar ruo emaan jein im jatun Lemto, im rej Larok eo eritto im Kajuju, eo edrik, botab ear ejelok nejierro, inem ear aikuj etal non ro nejin Lemto im rej toor in botoktok. Alkin an jako Abija, court in ej kile an kar maron eo an Alab etal non Larok im ro jatun im rej nejin Lemto, einwot ke Lemto ej wulepen Ikirtok im Nilep im ej ebaake lak bwij eo enwot ke ej nejin Neibarbar im Ikirtok im Nilep rej jibun Lijokane, im Lijokane eritto jen Neibarbar.

Ilo lajrak in menmenbwij in an Liodrik, Abija, Ikirtok im Nilep rej bwij im ro nejior rej toor in botoktok kin menin rej ber ilo lajrak in Dri Jerbal. Ijelokin wot Eodrik im Moss, ro im rej nejin Larok, court in ej kile bwe rej bar ber ilo lajrak in Alap enwot ke ear jidrak bwij iben jineor Larok. Larok im ro jatun rej toor in botoktok. Eja ilo ien in wot ear jidrak juon bwij kaal iben Larok im ro nejin jej wotok er rej bwij ak jibtok. Oktak tok non ro nejin Ikirtok im Nilep, rej toor in botoktok einwot ke rej nejin maan ak jiblok.

Rikamol, Mr. Kimo Ten, im ear kamol non rijumae abnono Jenis Ten, eo ej bareinwot jinen, ear

kwalok bwe ekkar non mantin Majol, ro nejin Alap maan eo eliktata jen bwij eo erito enaj er eo rej jolet maron an Alab, ak einwot ba, ro nejin Ikirtok im Nilep, einwot an kar ejelok nejin Abija, ej er eo rej kabjor maron eo an Alap alkin an jako Abija. Ej bareinwot kamol melele in an ilo an ba bwe elkin an kar jako Abija, Eodrik ear kabjor maron eo an Alap non Wonmok Turok.

Ilo naan in kamol ko an Kimo Ten, ej ba Eodrik ear kabjor maron an Alap itok wot jen an kar jidrak bwij iben. Court in ejab erra ilo melele in einwot ke elane ear jidrak bwij iben Eodrik, inem ro nejin renaj kar bok maron an Alap im jab Eodrik make, kinke Eodrik ej nejin maan ak botoktok, ijelokin wot ne enaj Alap ikijen an nejin Larok eo ear jidrak juon bwij kaal iben. Unin an Larok kar kabjor maron an Alap ej kin wot an kar lot bwij eo iben Abija im ear etal maron eo non botoktok ak nejim emaan, im ilo tore eo ejimwe bwe Larok enkar bok maron an Alap einwot ke ej nejin emaan eo imaan im nejin bwij, ej Lemto. Elak jidrak bwij iben Larok, kio ro nejin Larok rej maron kabjor maron an Alab bwe rej nejin kora ak bwij. (Kabua, Customary Titles and Inherent Rights, 1993); (Tobin, 1956)

Court in ej kile im kaurok karok ko an Iroj ro aer Wonmak Turok non kajur rein droer einwot ke Iroj im jela. Court in ej bareinwot lo bwe jen tore eo an Irojlaplap Anjua Loeak tok non tore eo an Irojlaplap eo jatun, Kotak Loeak (2011-2018/ Exhibit D & Exhibit C), rar kile Albert Amos enwot juon aer Alap non Wonmak Turok. Ilo tore in Albert Amos ear juon Alab non Wonmak Turok, leo edriklak jen Jenis Ten, naetan Donald Phillip, ear kabjor maron eo an Senior Dri Jerbal. Court in ej loe bwe ilo 2011 eo, Albert Amos ear sign ilo LUA eo einwot juon Alap non Wonmak Turok, im Donald Phillip, enwot juon Senior Dri Jerbal. Wawen in ej kakurmol tomak in an court in bwe ejimwe im jejjot ekkar non menmenbwij eo an Liodrik bwe Albert Amos ej e eo ekar non an kabjor maron eo an Alap rainin.

Court in ej bareinwot kile im kautej oktak ko rar walok enwot aer alikar ilo kein kamol Exhibit G im Exhibit H, ilo an kar wor oktak ikijen won eo kile bwe ej Alab, im oktak in ear jako Albert Amos, im ear wonlontak mokta kar John David Bettere Pam ilo 2021 eo, im tok alik ear oktak non Jenis Ten ilo 2022 eo. Ekkar non manit, aet, Irojlaplap eo emaron koman oktak ko ikijen maron ko an kajur ro dron, einwot ke Iroj im jela, ijo wot ke ej aikuj wor un ko relab non an maron koman oktak kein einwot an alikar ilo P.L. 2023-67 Section 107(d). Court in ej loe bwe ear jab bwe kein kamol ko non kalikar juon un eo elab non an kar wor oktak in karok ko an Irojlaplap ro imaan lok, ko im rar kile Albert Amos bwe ej aer Alap non Wonmok Turok. Kin melele kein, court in ej kile bwe ejimwe im jejjot bwe Albert Amos en kabjor maron eo an Alap ilo Wonmak Turok rainin, im bwe ejimwe im jejjot bwe en bok kolla ko ikijen maron eo an Alap ilo Wonmak Turok, ekkar non kwon ko ilo Land Use Agreement eo an Iroj ro im armij ro aer Kwajalein Atoll im Kien eo an Republic eo an Marshall Islands.

MANIT IM IMINENE KO REJELET CASE IN:

1. *Elot bwij eo* – Ilo an maat kora ilo juon bwij, ak ejelok nejin kora, inem jej watoke ‘elot bwij eo’, im ej oktak lajrak in jolet maron jen nejin kora, ak bwij, non nejin maan, ak toor in botoktok.
2. *Jidrak in bwij* – Alkin an lot juon bwij, maron eo an Alab ej etal jen nejin kora (bwij), non nejin maan (botoktok). Ijo wot ke, elane enaj bar wor juon kora, inem ejidrak tok juon bwij kaal im jej watoke, ‘jidrak in bwij. Kin menin, enaj bar rol lak maron eo an Alap non ro nejin kora eo ear jidrak bwij eo iben.
3. *Jibtok* – Nejin kora ak bwij.

4. *Jiblok* – Nejin maan ak toor in botoktok.

KEIDI MANIT IBEN MELELE KO REMOL:

Ekkar non melele kein ilo case in, Abija eo ear Alap eo eliktata im ear *lot bwij eo* enwot an kar maat kora ilo ebeben eo an, botab lomaro redrik lak jene im rej bar nejin kora, Ikirtok im Nilep, erro ear jimor jako mokta jen Abija. Kin menin, ear oktak maron eo non nejin maan. Won eo nejin maan lo tore in ej Larok eo nejin Lemto, lollap eo rukoraan Abija, Ikirtok im Nilep. Kin menin ear etal maron an Alap non Larok, rito tata eo nejin Lemto. Eja ilo ien in wot, ear bar **jidrak juon bwij kaal** iben Larok im koman bwe ro nejin ren maron kabjor maron eo an Alab rainin. Kio jej maron watok ro nejin Ikirtok im Nilep **jiblok** ak toor in botoktok im ro nejin Larok rej bwij ak **jibtok**.

Rikamol an Rijumae Abnono Albert Amos:

1. Patrick Amos
2. Jekni Jekkein

Rikamol an Rijumae Abnono Jenis Ten:

1. Kimo Ten
2. Irojlaplap Christopher J. Loeak
3. Atte Lang

Kein Kamol an Rijumae Abnono Albert Amos:

1. Exhibit A – Menmenbwij an Lieodrik
2. Exhibit B - Land Ownership Publication for Kwajalein Atoll 15 October 1959
3. Exhibit C – RMI Check History 4/12/22
4. Exhibit D – Melim jen Irojlaplap Anjua Loeak, September 19, 2011
5. Exhibit E – Melim Jen Irojlaplap Kotak Loeak, January 3, 2018
6. Exhibit F – English translation of Exhibit E
7. Exhibit G – Certificate of Traditional Successor of Irojlaplap Kotak Loeak, Jan. 22, 2021
8. Exhibit H – Irojlaplap Recognition & Approval of Kotak Loeak, Feb. 22, 2021
9. Exhibit I – Customary Law (Succession of Customary Title, Right, and Interest) (Ralik Chain) ACT, 2023

Kein Kamol an Rijumae Abnono Jenis Ten:

1. Exhibit 1 – Menmenbwij
2. Exhibit 2 – Certificate of Death, Eodrk Sam
3. Exhibit 3 – Certification of Traditional Successor by Jenis Ten, Feb. 22, 2021
4. Exhibit 4 – Irojlaplap Recognition of Approval by Kotak Loeak, Feb. 22, 2021
5. Exhibit 5 – LUA Signature pages for Wonmak Turok and other lands on Kwajalein Atoll
6. Exhibit 6 – Certificate of Death, Kotak Loeak
7. Exhibit 7 – Certificate of Death, Anjua Loeak

WawenKo Jet Panel In Ej Loi Bwe Rekkar Nan Aer Walok:

Court in ej kile melele ko rar walok jen rikamol rein ilo case in ilo aer ba bwe Eodrik Sam im

Moss rej nejin Ikirtok im Larok. Kin melele im un in, Court in ej kile bwe ejimwe bwe Eodrik Sam enkar kabjor maron an Alab im kab eo an Senior Dri Jerbal einwot ke rej Alap iumin Larok im Dri Jerbal iumin Ikirtok.

Raan: April 11, 2025



Grace L. Leban
Presiding Judge, TRC



Nixon David
Associate Judge, TRC



Jasper Lanki
Associate Pro-Tem Judge, TRC