

In the Gizo/Kolombangara Local Court
Held at Gizo on 9th November, 2005

G/K LC No. 10 of 2004

Land Jurisdiction

In the Matter of: Ownership of Kolombangara and Lolobo Lands

Between: Lebu Pala) Plaintiff

And: Steward Evo) Defendant

JUDGMENT

This is a claim of authority and control over Lolobo and Kolombangara lands situated on Kolombangara Island.

At the hearing of this case by the Gizo/Kolombangara Local Court on 9th November 2005, the plaintiff did not attend the hearing. There was no reason given to the court why the plaintiff did not appear in court. The court is satisfied that the plaintiff was served with the Notice of Hearing by way of Service Message broadcasted over the SIBC on 10th and 11th of October, 2005.

At the hearing the defendant told the court that he was selected land chief (Bangara Pepeso) by Kolombangara and Lolobo tribes. To confirm that, there were traditional custom ceremony held which was witnessed by chiefs and tribes within Kolombangara Island.

This was confirmed by the Kololeana Council of chiefs hearing in their decision on 5th March 2000. According to the summary of their decision part of point No. 2, I quote;

“.....Hence, according to custom, Chief Evo has the right to exercise his authority and control over both Kolobangra and Lolobo tribal land.....”

With the evidence before the court, we are satisfied on the balance of probability that the ownership of Kolombangara and Lolobo are vested upon Chief Evo and therefore he has full authority over the said lands.

Decision/Order:

1. Ownership of Kolobangara and Lolobo Tribal lands is vested upon Chief Evo and therefore he has full authority over the said lands.
2. No Cost awarded
3. No further Orders

Dated this at Gizo on 11th November, 2005

Signed:	Misack Siqi	-	President
	John Zoti	-	Member
	Naingimea	-	Member
	C M Katovai	-	Clerk.

ROAE
