

## STAYING FIJIAN: VATULELE ISLAND BARKCLOTH AND SOCIAL IDENTITY



### PLATE 7

#### LIFTING OF MOURNING RITUALS

(a) **'Lifters of mourning'**. The symmetry can be seen clearly with eight mourners from Rewa (the chief mourner in black on the right hand end) facing eight 'lifters' from Ekubu, dressed in ceremonial *masi*. Note also that the Vatulelean contingent are seated on a *i-tadrataadra* that is a piece of *kumi*, whereas the Rewa mourners sit on a pandanus mat (their *i-yau*).

(b) **Laying out** the presentation *kumi*. The mourners and 'lifter' women having exchanged their outer clothing and carried away their spoils, the Nalimolevu women prepare their

*kumi* to process with and present to the mourners.

(c) **Processing**: the Nalimolevu women with their *kumi* held aloft. The large thatched house is Cakauleka, the meeting house of the second 'house' of Nalimolevu, Cakau.

(d) **Heaping the gifts** of the *kumi* and other *masi* the women have brought for the mourners.

(e) **Mourners removing the pile** of *masi* and mats for division among them.

NOTE: These photographs are from three separate *luvabenu* rituals, a, b & c from the same one.