

*Mechei Lineage v. Hanpa Indus. Corp.*, 10 ROP 226 (Tr. Div. 2003)  
**MECHEI LINEAGE and SENIOR MALE AND FEMALE OCHELL  
MEMBERS OF MECHEI LINEAGE, Rep. by Mengetul Rikel Doktok,  
Plaintiffs,**

v.

**HANPA INDUSTRIAL CORP., KERKAR RECHELUUL, ROLMII EMESIOCHEL,  
and BILL RECHELUUL, aka WILHERM RECHELUUL,  
Defendants.**

CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-106

Supreme Court, Trial Division  
Republic of Palau

Decided: August 7, 2003

R. BARRIE MICHELSEN, Associate Justice:

ROP R. Civ. P. 10(a) requires the title of an action to “include the names of all the parties.” “This rule serves more than administrative convenience. It protects the public’s legitimate interest in knowing all of the facts involved, including the identities of the parties.” *Doe v. Frank*, 951 F.2d 320, 322 (11th Cir. 1992). Hence, simply classifying the plaintiffs as the “senior male and female ochell members of Mechei Lineage” in the caption does not comply with that Rule. More importantly, it is possible that some persons may be misled if they believe they are within the unspecified plaintiff group, and are having their interests protected, only to discover later that other members of the group disagree.

A separate problem is naming “Mechei Lineage” as a Plaintiff. The question presented by these pleadings, is: “who are the members of the Lineage?” Therefore Mechei Lineage is neither a Plaintiff nor a Defendant.

Finally, the caption wording continues the disapproved practice of adding “represented by” to a named party. *Asanuma v. Tmilchol*, 7 ROP Intrm. 261 (Tr. Div. 1998). Persons who are not admitted to practice law do not “represent” others in court except in proceedings expressly provided in the rules or by statute, such as class actions, or litigation involving the rights of minor children, persons needing guardians, and the like. Hence, the only properly named plaintiff is Mengetul Rikel Doktok.

Until a motion to add parties is granted, the proper caption for this case is *Mengetul Rikel Doktok v. Hanpa Industrial Corporation et al.*, 00-106.