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David Suggests Raise for Employees in State Message

Will Pohnpei be able to manage an upward shift in salary with declining overall budgets?

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – Roving state police decked in Night Blue, National, State, and Municipal government employees sitting in the tidy grass courtyard drinking coconuts, Traditional Leaders seated as dignitaries in the rafter seats of the Pohnpei Legislative Chamber, spiffy FSM Congressmen, and an attentive diplomatic corps of Foreign Ambassadors came together under a peerless blue sky for Governor Johnny David's seventh and final annual State of the State Message.

The lively hour-and-a-half speech broke down into two parts: a summary first of the Governor's "significant accomplishments and problems" during his entire two-term run, followed by a more detailed summary of the same over the course of 2006. The speech, delivered

in Pohnpeian and broadcast live on V6AH Public Radio, was also translated into English, and the specifics noted in *this* report come from that translation.

It was clear from preliminary talks with several Government offices in the days leading up to the State Message, including with the Public Affairs division and with several Cabinet-level Administrators, that some serious preparation, time, and drafting went into the Governor's speech.

The David Administration has certainly been in favor of Growth & Development over the years, verified at the outset of his speech, where the top three points/accomplishments were: the purchasing of more Diesel-fired engines to expand and improve electricity services by the Pohnpei Utility Authority, the completion of the paved Circum-

ferential Road around the island, and a soon-to-be-constructed (2007) Airport Extension/Expansion that will allow bigger and more frequent air travel to the island. Japan, it was noted, was the benefactor for all of these infrastructure developments.

A trip made last month by David and 6th PSL Speaker Nelson Pelep secured around \$4 million for a new Central Administration Building to be built and funded by China, also in 2007. Chinese Ambassador, Her Excellency Liu Fei, exhibiting a more engaging and outwardly public presence than previous Chinese dignitaries, huddled in the Chambers' Green Room with state leaders after the speech.

Perhaps the most spectacular portion of the Governor's speech was this suggestion, given as the closing highlight of the first part of the State of the State

Message: "Work is underway to give employees another salary increase in view of the rising cost of living on Pohnpei." David emphasized this as part of his past record of salary increases and of being "cognizant of employee's welfare, especially their income."

The cost of living within the FSM has indeed skyrocketed in the last half-decade, with huge jumps in the Consumer Price Index for fuel, electricity, and consumer goods of the durable and perishable variety. All of this while wages have remained frozen in another era. Those that are unemployed, or not employed by the Government, are also a relatively large contingent on Pohnpei. Combined, the trend could easily be heading toward that ugly gulf appearing centrally in all developed societies: a growing disparity of wealth.

See "Governor David" on page 14

Kitti Municipal Audit Contains 14 Negative Findings

Luhkenmoanlap Miguel who was not allowed to respond says that he may sue

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Kitti, Pohnpei, FSM – The Kitti Municipal Government audit conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor of Pohnpei which covered the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005 is now public. The Luhkenmoanlap (Mayor) McGarry Miguel, whose impeachment case is still being decided in the courts said in an interview at the Kaselehlie Press office, "I believe the audit is wrong from beginning to end."

Miguel, whose daughter was nearly killed when a car struck her on March 29 of 2006, said that he was at Pohnpei State Hospital on April 18 with his broken child when the Speaker of the Isokohnedi (Council), Dionis E. Saimon came to him with an agenda for the next meeting. Miguel said that the agenda that was presented to him did not include the resolution for impeachment which was passed by the council in Miguel's absence. He said he found out about that when he returned to Kitti.

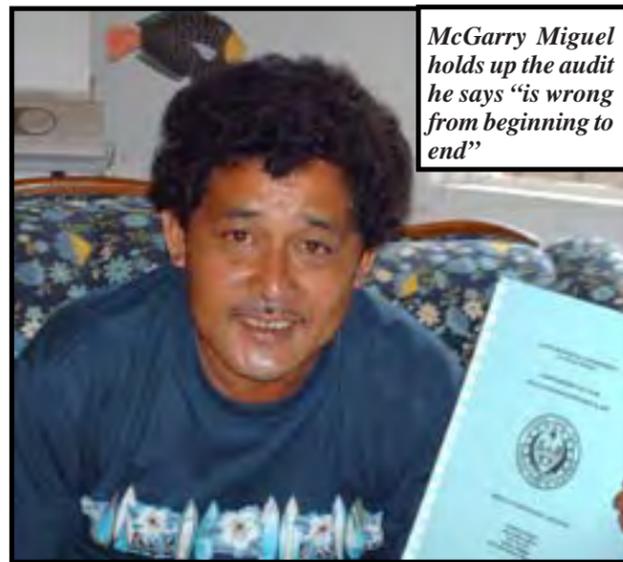
As is the practice and law in the

many impeachment proceedings in Pohnpei, the Kitti Municipality continues to book the pay that is due to McGarry Miguel.

Though it is standard practice to have the sitting administrator, in this case the Acting Mayor, respond to audits this case is especially contentious and bothersome to Miguel because of his unresolved impeachment case.

Saimon, according to Miguel, introduced the impeachment proceedings. Saimon is currently serving as Acting Mayor and in that capacity responded to the audit. The cover letter on the audit response from the Acting Mayor said, "As you may recall, this audit exercise emanates from a resolution that was adopted by Isokohnedi and submitted to the Pohnpei State Attorney General's Office for criminal investigation and prosecution of the *FORMER LUHKENMOANLAP* (emphasis added) of Kitti for various allegations identified in the said resolution and now supported by this audit report."

Miguel seemed in the K-Press interview, to think that acting Mayor Saimon had a motivation to respond to the audit in a way that would reflect Miguel in the worst possible light. He said, "I am still the Luhkenmoanlap, not the former! What's



the meaning of 'the acting Luhkenmoanlap?' I'm already out? I am still the Luhkenmoanlap!"

The audit report states that the only available documents available for review were an un-reconciled check register, the log-book for business licenses and fees, folders that contained timesheets and check stubs for payroll, opened envelopes of bank statements and cashed checks, and a folder for each expenditure account containing loose vouchers and check stubs. "The Municipality has no general ledger, cash receipts and disbursement journals and other subsidiary ledgers for fiscal year 2005...Checks recorded in the check register were

See "Miguel" on Page 18

NEWS

Pohnpei Senator: Economic Development Should be Balanced

Sokehs representative Feliciano Perman says Pohnpei is looking for "serious investors."

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlle Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – The call from Senator Feliciano Perman came to the KPress office a few days after the release of the story, "Foreign Investment Restricted to Protect Local Businesses", (Kaselehlle Press, Volume 7, No. 3, January 10), concerning the newly amended Foreign Investment law. The Legislator from Sokehs simply and assertively suggested that the story was somewhat misleading, particularly to any readers who had not read the previous story on the subject – "Legislature Passes Law Limiting Foreign Investment", (KPress November 22, 2006). This was true, and I said as much, agreeing with the points that he made.

Rather than recap or revise what has already been reported on either of those two stories, Perman suggested a meeting with me so that we might clarify what has *not been* reported on the amended FIB law, and to gener-

ally get the views of the man at the Legislature who "spearheaded the effort" to get the bill passed.

The first point that Senator Perman makes is that the new law does away with an inherent conflict of interest of the Foreign Investment Board (a government agency) to both promote investment and enforce investment regulations on the island. The amended law transfers the duties of promotion over to the Office of Economic Affairs, leaving enforcement of regulations and approval of investment applications to the FI Board.

Perman also suggests that, "The definition of 'engaging in business,' we kind of enlarged it." Looking at the new law and the language within it, this would be an accurate statement. Further, states Perman, the law is more specific in closing a loophole of a foreign investor who is simply using a local person as a front, thereby doing away with the need for a foreign investment permit, and avoiding any ac-

countability or culpability. Closing this loophole, Perman says, protects both the local business person and "also the non-citizen" against grey areas that can be taken advantage of by a local, or unscrupulous dealings by a foreigner.

"Circumventing the need for a foreign investment permit...is dangerous in a number of ways, even with criminal activity like bringing dirty money to wash here," he states to make the point further. The new law attempts to inject more organization, control, and oversight into a growing sector of the economy.

"We're just trying to balance things out. And it's more transparent this way. The (FI) Board cannot deny you a permit because of subjective judgments because it is clarifying what foreigners can do and locals can do." Perman would rather use the word "balance" than "protect", saying that the latter term shows a more negative bias on the somewhat controversial issue.

On criticism of the \$250 filing fee for a permit (up from \$25, what Governor David referred to as "hostile"), any reputable and able investor would consider the sum chump change. "For a serious investor, it's a piece of cake. And we're looking at serious investors."

The amended law makes it a requirement to make a minimum foreign investment of \$50,000.

Perman says that the Committee on Resources & development looked closely at similar laws in the Marshalls and Palau to draft the bill. Palau's recently passed legislation would appear to be more restrictive than Pohnpei's new investment law, where the foreign influence and local dependence on foreign investment dollars is much more advanced than the FSM.

"We don't look at it as that we don't like outsiders and that we are trying to protect locals. We just want to bal-

ance the opportunities out." A brief pause, and adding, "We already know the areas that Pohnpeians like to go into business-wise, and we want to make sure they can continue to do so as best they can.

"It's a law. It can be amended later, if there is a need," says Perman. He makes an analogy of a society and economy to a door opened to a certain point, either lesser or greater, stating that it is perhaps more prudent to keep it ajar for now, opening it wider as the economy develops. Prudence. "It is hard to open it wide and then more difficult to close it later." There is, Perman says further, a section of the new law called the Amenable Development Act, which allows for leeway and exceptions to the law under "special economic circumstances" that would provide exceptional revenue and jobs to the state.

The other main point that I get from Senator Perman, who has clearly looked at the issue from different angles for many hours, is that the bill is not meant to be anti-foreign investor. "The people who should be more concerned about the future of Pohnpei," he says, "are us, the elected leaders," and not, by implication, U.S. bureaucrats. "We have to be responsible for our own development. Balance."

When I make a specific mention of the detractors of the bill, mostly the American and foreign contingent, he hammers his point further by stating this: "The U.S. helps it's farmers with subsidies and protective laws, it has put up a wall to block out Mexicans. That's their right. It's their country. And this is our country."

At the end of our interview, Senator Perman, whose only son has served in the United States Navy since 2001, now stationed in Kuwait as a Medical Officer, says that he is grateful for the excellent relationship between the FSM and the U.S. "We just need to open up to a point to where we can replace U.S. (Compact) assistance and keep our lives as Pohnpeians intact."

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NEWS

Congress Passes Government Employee Wage Hike

President Urusemal to Decide if the FSM Can Afford It

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM-At the Christmas and New Year celebration of the FSM National Government on January 12 Speaker Peter Christian had a grand announcement to make. He told the gathered employees of the National Government that Congress had just passed a raise for all of them and that the bill was on its way to the President's office for his signature.

According to some in attendance, President Urusemal's bearing and facial expression gave no sign as to whether or not he would actually sign the bill or even if he was irritated by being put on the spot by Congress. Observers said he sat stoically by, even though he was probably aware that the political ball had been slammed into his court.

According to Congress sources,

National Government employees have been lobbying Congress for years for a raise in pay. The pay scale for government employees contained in Section 205 of title 52 of the Code of the FSM has remained the same since 1982. In 1997 a pay freeze went into effect that no longer allowed employees at each pay level to progress through the steps of their level, according to a Department of Personnel and Training official who also said that step four of each pay level is as high as an employee may currently go.

The bill that Congress passed appears on first glance to be a mind numbing series of unrelated numbers. When those numbers are compared with the salary figures of 1982 a spreadsheet shows that each and every employee in every level and step with the exception of those that make \$20,000 or more will, under the proposed

law receive a \$25 bi-weekly increase in pay, what Senators and staffers are calling a COLA (cost of living allowance).

A staff member said on background that Congress had not gathered information on what the cost of the measure would be before they passed it. If each of the 619 employees eligible for the increase under the plan receives an additional \$25 biweekly each employee's annual salary will increase by \$650 a total of \$402,350. Increased Withholding Tax and Social Security Figures would increase that figure further. Mr. Nick Andon, FSM's Secretary of the Department of Finance has since given information to President Urusemal that the impact on the budget would be in the range of \$380,000 to \$400,000.



An analysis of the percentage level of increases shows that an employee at the lowest level and step would receive a 24.80% increase while an employee at the highest level and step would receive a 3.39% increase which would be naturally inherent with a specific dollar amount increase as opposed to a percentage level increase. In the Fifth Regular Ses-

See "Hike" on Page 5

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Special Call to Congressional Candidates

The following questions, prepared by Mr. Herman P. Semes, of Transparency International are directed to all Congressional candidates across the Federated States of Micronesia. We invite each of you to respond to each of these questions to help you inform voters about your views. Your short answers, submitted in English will appear in the February 21, 2007 issue of The Kaselehlie Press.

All answers must be received at The Kaselehlie Press by 5:00 P.M. on February 16. Please send your responses to kpress@mail.fm. Answers received after that date and time will not appear in the special election issue. No exceptions.

Microsoft Word is the preferred format for submission but we will work as best we can with the word processing software that you have. Please contact us to make other arrangements if you do not have MS Word. As there is limited staff and we do not want to make transcription errors we would ask that you not send handwritten or typewritten replies. Check your document carefully because we will not be editing your response in any way other than to format it and lay it out in the paper.

You can also mail a CD-ROM with your responses to:

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Attention: RESPONSES
P.O. Box 2222
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Answers should be composed by the candidate and not a third party. As such we will need to verify that the response came from you. Please provide a way for us to contact you directly.

We send an electronic version of the paper to our subscribers on the 19th of February, the day that the printed version goes to the press. ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS WILL REMAIN COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL THAT TIME AND WILL NOT BECOME FODDER FOR EDITORIALS OR STORIES IN THAT OR ANY ISSUE PRECEDING THE 21ST. No editorial comment of any kind will be made on your responses.

1. **Beginning this Fiscal Year 2007 until the end of Compact II in 2023, there will be an annual reduction of \$800,000 from the Compact fund. An amended Gross Revenue Tax takes effect January, 2007, which will drastically reduce national local revenue that would be needed to replace the Compact fund reduction and would also reduce the States' share of the national taxes. Can you explain the logic behind the reduction in GRT and the impact of such loss of revenue on the on-going programs of the national and state governments and what you plan to do to make sure that current services are maintained at all levels of government?**
2. **FSM has 16 years remaining before Compact II terminates in 2023. In its annual meeting in August, 2006, Chairman of JEMCO made it clear that FSM needed to make its own commitments to ensure that FSM would be able to sustain its own government after the Compact II ends. It is clearly evident that the only way for FSM to be self-supporting is to help create a favorable investment climate and create a strong partnership with the private sector. In trying to build the private sector, would you support an "open door" policy for foreign investors or would you prefer to empower the local entrepreneurs and invite foreign investors to work with them in building the economy of FSM?**
3. **Lack of transparency and accountability in government creates an environment of corruption in government at all levels. There are clear evidences of white collar corruption that are being ignored and not being litigated. Would you support an Anti-Corruption Law to be established in FSM that would cover the whole FSM society?**
4. **MiCare and the FSM Social Security are in financial distress. Health care providers overseas are beginning to reject services to MiCare members. Future retirees may find it difficult to collect retirement benefits in the years to come. What policies need to be put in place that will protect the interest of the people in MiCare and Social Security?**
5. **FSM States having been responsible for the basic educational, health and social services have continually faced financial constraints which affect the delivery of these basic services effectively and efficiently. The 50-50 revenue sharing seems to favor the national government and not the state governments. Would you support a constitutional amendment to change the revenue sharing to one more in favor of the states? Also, the FSM National Government is not sharing fishing access fees with the States. Would you support sharing the fishing access fee on a 50-50 share?**
6. **The fact that the President of the FSM is elected by only 14 people in the FSM Congress makes the President answerable to the Congress and not the people. It also does not provide true "check and balance". Would you support the Nation having its president elected directly by the people?**

NEWS

...Hike

continued from Page 3

sion of this Congress, members overrode Urusemal's veto of what became Public Law 14-90 providing for payroll and payroll tax deductions from GRT (Gross Revenue Tax). Mr.

Andon said that the impact on FSM Government revenue from the revised GRT would be \$1.7 Million dollars in lost revenue, a figure conservatively adjusted downward from the initial assessment of a \$5 Million loss.

A recent bill CB-243 intro-

duced by Senator Simiram Sipunuk seeks to suspend the application of the newly passed law on GRT deductions. The new forms are already on the shelves at the Revenue offices. It is unclear whether passage of this bill, which has not yet passed from Senator Isaac Figir's Ways and

Means Committee to the Congress floor would mean a reversion to the former system or not. The wording on the bill seems to suggest that the GRT Deductions would be allowed for the 2006 tax year as planned and then be suspended for three quarters of the 2007 tax year.

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Legislature Claims Santos is 'Ignoring' His Impeachment Court must decide: does an official maintain his government title while being impeached?

By *Olivier Wortel*
The Kaselehlle Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – Is Edwel Santos still the Attorney General of the State of Pohnpei, or is he not? To be AG or not to be AG, that is the question that must be answered by the Supreme Court of Pohnpei in the case of *Edwel A. Santos vs. Pohnpei State Legislature*.

Santos filed the lawsuit in response to his impeachment by the 6th Pohnpei Legislature in late November. The suit has temporarily held up the actual impeachment proceedings, where normally, a Special Prosecutor would be jointly appointed and approved by the Court and the Legislature to move the Legislative Impeachment Resolution's multiple counts against Santos forward.

The problem, as pointed out by the Legislature in its Motion to dismiss Santos' Complaint against the PSL, is that Santos has filed the suit as Attorney General

of Pohnpei. The PSL's Motion quotes the Pohnpei Constitution: "Upon service of the notice of impeachment, the official shall be suspended from his duties, but with pay, pending judgment."

So an official is suspended. This is clear. *But with pay*. So what exactly does the "with pay" part imply? Suspended with pay, pending judgment. The PSL goes on to state that this Constitutional provision is not challenged by Santos, only that "he is merely ignoring it, and creating another ground for impeachment."

Furthermore, in an attempt to move the stalled process in front of an Impeachment Tribunal that could determine the guilt or innocence of Santos, the PSL states that in addition to the illegality of Santos representing himself as the AG in the lawsuit – rather than as a private individual – the action implies that the AG's *Office* is also involved in the suit.

"The Complaint was served on

Defendant (PSL) by a staff member of the Office of the Attorney General," the PSL's Motion says. "The Office of the Attorney General in taking orders from a suspended official is abetting his violation of the law...dismissal is appropriate."

Conversations with staff at the AG's office reveal that they still consider Santos to be their boss, suspended or not. The AG's office bases this thinking on the underlying premise that the Impeachment itself is invalid.

A third argument made by the PSL – Staff Attorney Huddy Lucas is handling the case – is that it is not the Legislature that should be sued, as it is "but one of three branches of state government, and all three branches are charged with upholding the law. Typically, one sues the 'State'" when someone contests "the validity of a statute." In this instance then, according to the logic of the PSL Motion, "the Office of the AG would then defend the

State against the action.

The Motion notes further along these lines, "the error of the Office of the AG representing an impeached official. The office's paychecks issue from the State, and its duty is owed to the State, and not to the impeached official."

The Motion goes on to state that the entire Complaint just provides "another instance of incapacity" for Santos. It concludes by asserting that Santos' Complaint is "rambling...and contains a multitude of averments" that both contradict Rule 8 of the State Code, which demands concision and simplicity and directness.

Haddy did make this statement in a brief interview regarding the Court's awaited decision on the PSL's Motion to dismiss Santos' claim that the Impeachment Resolution Act is unconstitutional: "Who knows if it will ever get resolved? This could go on for quite a long time."

PVB and State Come to Terms on Use of Compact Funds

Office of Economic Affairs and PVB Board on the same page in regard to working together

By *Olivier Wortel*
The Kaselehlle Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – The staff at the Visitors Bureau were not laughing when news broke that their positions were being announced as available and the salaries for those positions subsequently reduced to the mediocre levels of a bygone era. The State would be assuming control of the \$143,269 that rightfully belonged to it under the Compact.

It was not a happy day for this NGO, or any of the other marginalized hopefuls wishing to get a seat at the Money Table, and a voice in the government dominated landscape.

But Edgar Santos, who had come over from his lofty perch as director of the FSM Visitors Board to head up this state-funded, but ostensibly private entity, railed against it from the get go. He liked the fact that it was in the private arena, that it performed, he said. Liked too the lofty salary generally reserved for Legislators, but did not address that latter benefit verbally.

"I came with the understanding of working in the private sector, but Government subsidized, and that's why I came," said Santos in an Oversight Hearing at the Legislature's Conference Room 2 last week, presided over by Mwoakilloa Senator Sailas Henry, Chairman of the Resources and Development Committee. But I'm getting a little ahead of the story here. Let's go back a bit, to just before the start of the Committee meeting that would resolve who would control the money, or better, who would get the money.

I met Sailas outside the Legislature offices. He was gracious and helpful as he reviewed a blue monster budget book. "Have to prepare for the meeting," he said.

I meander over to Conference Room 2. I am the first to enter the room. It's refreshingly cool and smells like Pine Sol cleaning disinfectant. After a moment George Stevens, Manager of the Nukuoro Black Pearl Farm and PVB Board Member, enters the room, followed by Sailas, and then Senator Magdalena Walter;

and in the next minutes come Santos and one of his staff, and Alloys Malfatini, beleaguered but successful owner of the Pohnpei Surf Club.

I'm reviewing a letter sent by Perdus Ehsa, Owner of Sea Breeze Hotel and Chairman of the Board of the PVB, to Kikuo Apis, Administrator of the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, in which Ehsa states in his second paragraph, as a lead in to his main thrust of "if is not broken don't fix it" theme in the center of the page, that PVB needs "minimal government monocratic interference." Monocratic? Monocratic... A cool sounding word, and I don't know what it means, but get the point anyway. Ehsa's wish is for the State to "relinquish back the funds to the management of the PVB Board."

"Inadvertently, Mr. Apis, we are at the clench of the cliché, "If it's not broken don't fix it," the letter states. It's beautiful stuff for a writer to read. Totally unorthodox language punctuated by clichés. It concludes basically by stating that the matter can be

solved "without any further adversarial and dissenting sides."

Edgar is now striking up a lively conversation with the two Senators. Ehsa walks into the room and shakes my hand and takes me away from my note taking with his talk about his recent trip on behalf of the PVB to Missouri State University, and the absolute cold of Lansing, Detroit, and Virginia. MSU and the College of Micronesia have entered into an MOU designed to use and/or promote the FSM as a World Park. Great stuff.

Senator Feliciano Perman enters the room. Then waiting, and hushed, respectful small talk and some laughter and banter. There are 10 people in the room now. It is 1:38 pm, eight minutes past start time for the meeting. I can hear Kikuo Apis coming before he enters the room, his cane hitting the floor every other step. Everyone likes Kikuo Apis, the man with the bad leg and the big heart. "A good man at the State level," says PVB Board Member Kent Ainsley later

See "PVB" on page 13

NEWS

Australia's Small Grants Scheme supports CSP's Environment Awareness and Education Program

Australian Embassy Pohnpei

With funds from AusAID's Small Grants Scheme (SGS), the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) is currently implementing the Youth to Youth Environmental Awareness and Education project.

Targeted towards students and community members, this project is designed to assist the Pohnpei State Government to establish and integrate environmental conservation at the elementary and high school levels through a fun and hands-on environmental education program.

The AusAID grant of USD\$6,370.00 will allow CSP to work with eight schools throughout Pohnpei on environmental



Sixth graders from Nett Elementary School enjoy a fun day outside the classroom learning about the procedures in collecting good plant specimens.

awareness projects addressing marine, terrestrial and environmental health projects in areas such as agroforestry, mangrove forests, coral reefs, marine protected areas and persistent organic pollutants. At the end of the school year, the project will conclude with an Environmental Fair where participating students and teachers present their projects to each other, parents and community members.

For more information on AusAID's Small Grants Scheme, please contact the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei – (691) 320-5448 or visit the Embassy's website at www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

	<p>Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Suva, Fiji</p> 
	<p>REGIONAL SECURITY ADVISER</p> <p>The Forum Secretariat invites suitably experienced and qualified individuals to apply for the position of Regional Security Adviser. The position is located within the Political and Security Programme in the Secretariat and will provide policy advice on trends and threats relating to transnational crime and terrorism and manage the Law Enforcement Unit's response to regional and international transnational crime and terrorism.</p> <p>Ideal candidates should have relevant tertiary qualifications with a broad security, legal or law enforcement background. In depth knowledge of regional and international security issues as well as extensive experience in analysis and report writing are essential. Experience in strategic analysis would be desirable.</p> <p>Interested applicants are encouraged to obtain an information package containing the job description and remuneration details, which is available by emailing jobs@forumsec.org.fj or at www.forumsec.org. The salary will fall in the range of SDR27,540 to SDR41,310 (equivalent FJD70,778 to FJD106,167) per annum with appointments expected to be made at the lower end of the scale. Additional allowances include housing, education, home leave airfares, life and health insurance. The term of the position will be for three years.</p> <p>Applications with an updated resume should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji and if not posted, may be sent to jobs@forumsec.org.fj.</p> <p>The public is advised that the closing date for applications has been extended to 26 January 2007. Previous applicants need not reapply, as their applications will still be considered.</p> <p>The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply. Only nationals of member countries* are eligible to apply for this position.</p> <p>*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.</p>

SPC celebrates 60 years of service

The year 2007 marks a milestone for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) with the celebration of its 60th anniversary on 6 February. Since it was founded in 1947, SPC has grown into a dynamic organisation. It also now has a sub-regional office in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, with the host agreement signed in January 2006 by His Excellency President Joseph R. Urusemal and the past SPC Director-General Lourdes Pangelinan.

SPC was founded after World War II by the six countries that then administered territories in the Pacific (Australia, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, UK and USA). Its aim was 'to promote and enhance the social and economic development and well-being of Pacific Island peoples'.

SPC was originally called the South Pacific Commission. It became the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in 1997 to better reflect the geographic spread of its island members over the entire Pacific Ocean covering Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. All 22 Pacific Island countries and territories are members of SPC along with four of the founding countries.

All member countries share financial responsibility for SPC and have an equal role in its governance, meeting annually to approve its proposed activities and direction. The close involvement of its members has been one of the main factors in ensuring that SPC's work programmes are relevant to the real needs of Pacific Island people.

Samoa was the first Pacific Island state to gain full membership of SPC in 1965. Commenting on the 60th anniversary, Samoa's Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, says, "Often, the general public do not see all the activities in which SPC staff are involved. But their work with our departments has a great impact on the lives of our communities in areas as diverse as the fight against HIV/AIDS, protection of coastal fisheries, development of new taro varieties, and training in collecting and analysing population data. I congratulate SPC on reaching this special milestone and extend my best wishes for its continued success."

Who works for SPC and where is

it based?

SPC currently has around 340 staff with offices in Noumea, New Caledonia; Suva, Fiji and Pohnpei, FSM, and field officers based in several countries who work on individual projects.

SPC's total budget for 2007 is more than USD 46 million. Funding comes from its traditional donors (founding members, European Union, United Nations Population Fund, and the Global Environment Facility) and from more recent partners such as the Asian Development Bank and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

SPC's principle role is to build and supplement the capacity of its members in key development sectors such as health, agriculture and fisheries through technical assistance, training and research. Increasingly, SPC also monitors the dynamics of international developments that have impacts on regional and national development in the Pacific and provides related advice to administrations. The broad scope of SPC's work is illustrated in the brief overview below its three divisions, Land, Marine and Social Resources (more information on specific programmes is available on SPC's website: www.spc.int).

Land Resources has two main objectives — sustainable management of forest and agriculture systems, and biosecurity and trade facilitation. The division provides advice, technical support and training to member countries on all aspects of agriculture and forestry, including diversification; plant and animal health; biosecurity and trade; crop and animal production; and plant genetic resources.

Marine Resources includes coastal and oceanic fisheries and maritime programmes. The fisheries programmes support development and management of regional and national fisheries; conduct research and monitoring of the region's tuna and reef fisheries; and assist governments to establish sustainable aquaculture systems.

The maritime programme works with member countries and territories to review and update maritime legislation, and provides training to ensure that seafarers meet international standards, thus promoting safety and wider em-



ployment opportunities.

Social Resources includes SPC's public health, statistics and demography, and human development (culture, women, youth and community education) programmes.

Activities include giving member countries and territories practical assistance and training to strengthen their capacity to fight a wide variety of non-communicable and communicable diseases (such as diabetes, HIV, tuberculosis and malaria) through surveillance and preventive measures and health promotion; collecting and analysing population data, including support and training for censuses; advocating for gender and youth issues in regional and national policies and strategies; providing training for community leaders; supporting legal protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture; and supporting access to digital communication for remote communities.

SPC in Pohnpei

The sub-regional centre in Pohnpei is managed by plant protection specialist, Mr Konrad Englberger. At present, three SPC programmes are operating: sus-

tainable agriculture, forestry and plant protection, with a contingency planning project for dealing with avian influenza among farm animals in the near future.

For the 60th anniversary the Pohnpei office has planned displays and seminars open to the public on 6 February. Contact their office at 320-7523 for further information. To conclude, we would like to share the message by Dr Jimmie Rodgers, SPC Director-General.

"We are all called to be responsible stewards of the region's resources and to make decisions that will benefit our people and ensure the sustainable livelihood and well-being of tomorrow's generations. SPC's ability to respond effectively to the priorities of our island members has been greatly facilitated by the commitment of our staff, the guidance provided by the membership, and the willingness of our development partners to invest in the well-being of the people of Pacific Island countries and territories. This year we can look back and celebrate what we have achieved in partnership with them, but we'll also be looking forward to see how we can continue to serve the people of this unique and wonderful region." —

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NEWS

COM-FSM Receives Books from Chinese Embassy



January 12, 2007, H.E. Mme. LIU Fei, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the FSM, donated about 420 learning materials, including 350 books and 64 DVD and CDs on history, culture, religion, education, trades and tourism of China, to the library of COM-FSM. Hon. Nena Nena, Secretary of Department of Health Education & Social Affairs, Mr. Spensin James, President of COM-FSM and Dr. Sue Caldwell, Director of Learning Resources Center of COM-FSM were

among the guests of honor who attended the handing-over ceremony taking place in the Learning Resources Center at COM-FSM.

Ambassador LIU said that students of COM-FSM could make full use of these materials to learn more about China. The educational and cultural exchanges will, as always, be an important field of China-FSM relations. President James extended his gratitude to Ambassador LIU and the Chinese Government for the generous donation and assistance to COM-FSM.

Night of Chinese Movies in COM-FSM



Chinese Embassy Media Release

Night of Chinese Movies, including a documentary named Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of Funding of New China and a feature film Huo Yuanjia, was successfully hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the gymnasium of COM-FSM on the evening of January 12, 2007. H.E. Mme. LIU Fei, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the FSM, Mr. Kandhi Elieisar, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs in FSM and Mr. Spensin James, President of COM-FSM attended the reception. Students and local people were quantitatively attracted.

Ambassador LIU made a welcome speech at the beginning, pointing out that China and FSM were both developing countries in the Asia Pacific region and were engaged in economic and social development, who were faced with a new international environment, the economic globalization, among others. As a sincere, trustworthy and reliable friend and partner of FSM, China paid attention to the two countries' mutually complementary economies; that is, China has funding and technical expertise and FSM is rich in some natural resources, which were potentials for bilateral cooperation. China offered zero-tariff treatment, free anti-malaria medicines and medical teams, short-term training for government officials and technical staffs, etc. It is our hope that the two countries would cooperate for a better future for China-FSM relations.

Mr. Kandhi Elieisar, on be-

half of the FSM national government, thanked the Chinese Government for the continued assistance in providing technical cooperation like building the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center and maintaining the facilities. So were some permanent landmarks (Tuna Commission Building) and another in the pipeline (Pohnpei Administration Building). Along with the infrastructure projects, the relationship is bolstered by a series of high-level visits and exchanges between leaders and officials of the two governments, training opportunities and scholarships and Chinese volunteer Dr. LU Shihua who would teach a Chinese language and culture course in COM-FSM. He emphasized the prospects for an increasingly beneficial relationship between FSM and China as good and promising with the shared principles and interests, the most underpinning of which was the one-China policy the FSM Government had been fully and consistently committed. He is confident that the bilateral relationship would be further developed as 'a model relationship' in the eyes of the region.

President Spensin thanked Ambassador LIU for her generosity in organizing the movie night free for the college community to let everyone learn more about Chinese culture and to gain educational experiences to help broaden the understanding of a different culture. The event would promote the local students and staffs to be globally connected and assist students currently taking the Chinese language course to pass that course, and even to gain more possibilities to pursue their studies at institutions of higher learning in China.

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KP-Perspective

In The Dark

It's Tuesday, December 16, 2007 and members, legal counsel, and invitees of the J & GO (Judiciary and Government Operations) committee under the chairmanship of Senator Dohsis Halbert are assembling in the Congressional Committee room. The committee meeting is being held ostensibly to hear testimony and to discuss the problems at the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C. I was one of the first to arrive for the meeting and frankly I was nervous but trying not to show it; smiling too big and perhaps too sheepishly, talking too loudly and too much. Powerful people, some of whose names have recently appeared in the Kaselehlie Press tend to have that effect on me.

I greet a few of the members by name and the smiles and handshakes of most are genuine and warm. Looking around the room I see that a few people, just a few seated along the outside walls are scowling.

As the participants in the meeting continue to assemble, some still making deals as they walk up the sidewalk the lights suddenly go out, an ominous sign and as it turns out, a foreshadowing of events to come.

Senator Halbert, an attractive and intense looking man, leans back to confer with legal counsel. I feel somewhat uncomfortable as he looks my way from time to time but write it off to the nerves I came with. Then another quick consultation between two advisors and the legal counsel starts in my direction.

I can feel it coming. "They're giving me the boot." We're friends and I know she hates this. As gently and kindly as she can, she leans down to where I am sitting to give me the bad news. "This meeting is an informal meeting and not to be reported on." I think briefly about making a scene. I think about demanding the right to report and citing my rights as a representative of the press, but I quickly realize that I don't have any.

She finishes with me and heads straight to Dave Arthurs of V6AF Baptist Radio. By the time I'm in my

car and indignantly gunning the engine, Dave is on the front porch too. I think about waiting to see what he has to say and to commiserate for a moment but I know that the language I can think to use at the moment would probably offend the staunch Baptist. Instead I put my car in reverse and tear out of the parking lot.

On the way back to the office I am thinking and driving too fast. I ease off the accelerator and let myself cool down a little. I didn't go to the meeting to come up with some sensational piece of news for all of you in the FSM. I frankly didn't expect to come up with any new news at all but since this situation has lain dormant for so long I thought it would be good to be there on your behalf just in case. I wonder why when I called the Congress office yesterday they merely told me what time the meeting started from their Public Hearings board and not that I should stay the heck away. I only have the word of the staff to rely on since the web page is not up to date. The last listing of J & GO committee meetings on the Congress website (<http://www.fsmcongress.fm/>) was for a meeting on September 15, 2005.

I don't know what they didn't want me to tell you. I don't do public speculation. I suppose if the current environment continues I'll just have to give you what I am fed. Stay tuned for more smiling right handed handshakes and left handed crossover check passing. Or perhaps I'll just have to report on more vote getting salary increases and tax cuts.

By the way, later in the day I found out that a representative of the US Embassy was also ejected from the meeting. She was told that the listing of the meeting as public was an administrative foul up and that the Washington D.C. Embassy and the Marehalau situation is still in the investigation phase. I get it...kind of. I don't envy the person who "fouled up".

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Thank you to PTA

I would like to show appreciation for the good work PTA is doing to repair the roads of Pohnpei. The repairs in front of the U.S. Embassy are helpful for any driver who goes to PICS every day. Thank you very much.

Lokia Totoh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who to Vote For

Dear Editor:

It is natural for man to indulge in the illusions of hope for we are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth. Are we willing to be of the number of those, who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so require amelioration or change? For my part, whatever it may cost, I am willing to seek the whole truth, find the worst, and provide for it. Whether through my writings, expressions, or what have you, I feel compelled to tackle this frightful path of horrid enormity, cleaning the government, which we so highly desire. Silent criticisms have long been the practice in Pohnpei, because they define who we are, a God loving people who sway away from hurting one another. However, as times change, so must ideologies and norms of any given society. The Berlin Wall reminds us that cultural barriers are often leveled to bring good to the people.

In the next two months, the whole nation, enjoined by our Constitution, will once again engage in choosing the next leaders of our nation. In exercising this fundamental right, I offer you this advice. Many [candidates] may endeavor to excite a belief that one is better than the other for one reason or another. One of the expedients of these groups (campaigning parties) to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other Districts. Furthermore, they seek to discredit or undermine opposition by steadily manipulating judgments and views. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings from which these misrepresentations spring. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together for the common good of all.

The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make or alter the course of our nation at the polls. An explicit and authentic act of the whole,

voting for the right candidates, will direct the path of our future. It is a sacred and obligatory duty of all to cast his or her vote. It is important that those who stand to receive our votes should be cautioned by the knowledge that we are a thinking people. It is important that they know that we will make a just estimate of their love of power, their proneness to abuse it, and that we will be guided in our hearts and mind by these things and others as we reason the sort of candidates we should vote for. If, in the opinion of the people, one candidate possesses the true qualities of a smart and honest leader, then may the instrument of good do him right and seat him where he rightfully belongs. On the other hand, let our pens devise the exit route of the baneful adversaries.

Never before now in time, in my opinion, have our future, and our children's future, been cast in doubt because of the acts of a few. The wound we received from the bad negotiations of the compact will never heal and 16 short years from now, total Independence will be realized. With a meager Trust Fund, a stagnant economy, restrictive foreign investment conditions, and a nation known for corruption, what is to become of us, the law-abiding citizens? Are we to follow the footsteps of our brothers and sisters who have sought better living abroad? Most importantly, what is to become of our island homes? Will our ability to travel to the U.S with our passports be stripped since our relationship will be severed? There are so many unanswered questions out there and people should demand answers.

A recent letter to the editor in the newspaper, by a former Congressman, cast great doubt on some of our leaders. Such sensitive inside information should serve to enlighten public opinion, to inform them of the performances of those entrusted to lead us. It is imperative that we bear in mind that per-

See "Vote" on Page 17

Letters to the Editor are not researched in the same manner as articles. They are simply the opinions and views of our readers. However, the policy of the paper is that we have your name, address and phone number in order to have it in print. The Editor has the right to edit Letters to the Editor. We still appreciate all tips and letters sent but just can't print them without a name.
Thank You. The Editor

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GUEST PERSPECTIVE

FSM Private Sector Development

By **HERMAN P. SEMES**
Pohnpei Business Development Center

The private sector holds the key to developing a sustainable economy for FSM but has not been given the attention and support it needs from the government to carry out its role as the primary driver of economic development in FSM. Instead, the public sector has been the dominant sector in guiding investment and economic development ever since this country became independent in 1986. Most government-led investments intended to spur economic development failed to perform as anticipated. This resulted in the loss of millions of dollars that could have been used to empower the private sector to build the needed capacity to take its role as the engine of economic growth for the nation.

It has been a hard lesson to learn. Well-intentioned funds that came from US taxpayers under Compact I as "aid" to build an economic foundation for the FSM's future economic development and growth did not yield the anticipated outcome. The US, under Compact II, gives the FSM a last chance to use its "aid" funds to put the FSM's economic development endeavors into proper order so that we can create sustainable economic development and growth for the FSM during the duration of the compact which will end in 2023.

In addition to Compact II "aid", the FSM has become a member of the ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific) which receives various types of assistance from EU (European Union) under the Cotonou Agreement.

The FSM, as an independent country, has equal sovereign status with all other countries in the United Nations. As a small island developing country, the FSM ranks low in its economic status compared to other countries. In the changing order of world economies, the FSM has been caught up in the whirlwind of globalization while its preparations at home are still out of order.

In our attempts to cushion the effect of changes in the global economic climate, the FSM is affiliating itself with other Pacific Island Countries in a regional effort to deal with bigger players on the global scene. The FSM has recently signed PICTA (Pacific Island Country Trade Agreement) and is currently involved in talks on PACER (Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations), EPA



Herman P. Semes
Pohnpei Business Development Center

(Economic Partnership Agreement) between ACP and the EU. Beyond these is the WTO (World Trade Organization) with over 130 member countries where all world trade decisions are made. FSM is not a member of WTO and is not prepared to become one in the foreseeable future.

With all these relationships around us in the Pacific, Asia, and in Europe and because we are indirectly affected by WTO policies very little is being done in the FSM to strengthen the capacity of the private sector to improve the FSM's balance of trade. The FSM continued to have a serious deficit balance of trade. According to FSM Department of Economic Affairs, the import figures in 2004 totaled USD \$132,696,280 while exports totaled \$14,002,603.

In its 3rd Economic Summit in 2004, FSM leaders declared the "High Growth Scenario" to be the principle strategy in the development of national economic development policies. The chairman of JEMCO prefers to call it "Sustained Economic Growth". The FSM Strategic Development Plan puts the private sector in the front line as the engine of economic development growth but the private sector continues to be left out of decision making processes.

How do we expect to become players in regional and international trading arenas when the FSM does not have a trade policy in place?

Things are beginning to happen whether they are internally or externally initiated. The first FSM national trade policy consultation workshop was held from October 18-20, to begin to formulate an FSM Trade Policy.

tremely important for the state governments to insure full participation of the private sector in these meetings so that the FSM will have a trade policy that will truly put the private sector in the forefront of economic development in the country.

The FSM should take advantage of all the "aid" funds coming to it in order to empower the private sector to build local capacity so that they can be armed to better compete in international trade. To do so will require political leadership and the will to create a favorable investment environment for both local and foreign investors. It is extremely important to develop the local investors' capacity to be able to gain some control in the local economy and be able to compete without the fear of being displaced by foreign investors. It includes business training, better access to government development financing, and protection in certain classes of business in which local people can easily enter to generate family income and alleviate poverty. In the end, the FSM should be relying on its own trade resources and not aid resources by utilizing private sector-led sustainable economic development undertakings.

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MLFC creditors, bankruptcy court approved reorganization plan

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM] Creditors for Micronesia Longline Fishing Company (MLFC) as well as the FSM Supreme Court have approved and confirmed the MLFC's bankruptcy reorganization plan. MLFC Bankruptcy Case is the first case under the new FSM bankruptcy law ever filed in the FSM Supreme Court.

As part of the reorganization plan, MLFC creditors will either receive shares of the renamed MLFC common stock or receive partial cash payment of their claims. The company will offer two classes of stocks, Class A for governmental entities and Class B for private entities or individuals. The equity structure is set up to ensure private sector-control at all times. All of the MLFC's existing preferred and common stock will be canceled, and holders of that stock will receive no money for it. The FSM National Government, which is the major creditor and equity security holder, has made some loan concessions and agreed to give MLFC some start-up capital. MLFC will have a new name, Oceania Fishing Venture (OFV), to ward off the negative stigma associated with MLFC, and will enter into a management joint venture with Luen Thai Fishing Venture (LTFV) for a period of 5 years. LTFV will match the fund provided by the Government.

"LTFV has been selected among a number of unaffiliated foreign and local fishing companies because it has demonstrable management, financial, operational, and marketing capabilities in fisheries as evident with its continued success throughout the Pacific. Moreover, it has secured a long-term arrangement to operate PFC processing plant, which is crucial to the joint venture, especially with respect to low and medium-grade tuna for MLFC, which are now going to add value as they will be processed to prolong their shelf-life, ensure product quality, and yield competitive price in the Japanese and US market. Moreover, the processed tuna can be containerized and shipped to major international markets via cargo vessels to keep costs low," stated Fabian Sitan Nimea, who is the court-appointed trustee for MLFC and currently the CEO of FFGI Consulting Group. Nimea stated that the reorganization process was lengthy and methodically carried out, being the first case. It took into account a multiplicity of options to ensure MLFC will emerge from financial distress not only for its own benefits and those of its creditors, but also for the reorganized MLFC to spear-head the revival of the fizzled fisheries industry, spur productivity growth in the private sector, and contribute to sustaining the FSM economy for years

to come. "It would be a disservice to our great country, MLFC, and its creditors and prospective suppliers and customers, to entrust the management of MLFC to just any company or individual without demonstrable management capability, financial wherewithal, and the operational logistical support to effect success for the reorganized MLFC. I am confident in the management of LTFV and most appreciative for their good faith and willingness to work with us in getting MLFC out of its financial woes," he said.

"We are very pleased that our plan of reorganization has been confirmed by the FSM Supreme Court," said Nimea. "We appreciate the strong support of our plan by creditors, especially the FSM National Government, and are grateful to our former crew from Indonesia and Philippines for their understanding and patience without which the reorganization would have been extremely difficult. I also want to acknowledge in particular the FSM President Joseph Urusemal, Attorney General Maristella Jack, Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olmsted, Secretaries Nick Andon and Akilino Susaia, Speaker Peter Christian, FSM Congress, FSM Supreme Court, MLFC/Trustee Attorney Andrea Hillyer, and past and present MLFC

board, employees, and vendors, and the Pohnpei community for their continued support during the reorganization."

"Bankruptcy is a difficult process because a company must confront those institutions and individuals who lost substantial sums of money while it tries to maintain its vision for an enhanced operation in the future. It also requires a turnaround mentality and a process of continuous improvement to keep the company in the peak of health. That is not to suggest that the company be in a crisis mode at all times. That would be destabilizing and would yield diminishing returns. Instead, companies should continuously assess its external environment (target market, economy, infrastructure, etc.) and internal structure—functional units, operational productivity, cash flow, liquidity, and management—for a productive fit that might benefit from the laser-sharp focus of turnaround mentality. Think of continuous improvement not only as a way to strengthen a healthy company's position, but also as a practice drill or training for dealing with significant challenges that may come some day. I am pleased, however, that MLFC foreign crew was well and composed, had been repatriated, and its core earning assets, fishing vessels, are secured and

see "MLFC" on page 18

...PVB

continued from page 6

in the meeting, who is the U.S. Peace Corps Medical Officer. Apis dominates the room immediately. With his voice, his presence, and the way he makes eye contact with everyone.

I recall Apis' letter in December to Ehsa regarding the transfer of funds of PVB to the OEA due to some changes to the approved Budget Bill of 2007 for Pohnpei State. In it Apis explains that because of these budgetary changes the State is "required to announce all the positions that were previously under the PVB based on the State Public Service System (PSS) and the Financial Management Act...we had told the employees presently under the PVB to apply for those announced positions so that they may be given the opportunities for getting or retaining their jobs."

A rough prospect indeed for PVB, whose staff, I was told in an earlier talk with Apis at his

paper packed office, would take stiff hits in pay under the PSS. Starting at the top where, \$25,000 or thereabouts, at the NGO would be chinked down to a more pedestrian but still respectable "\$13,000 - \$15,000 to start" in Government service.

"Unfortunately," Apis' December letter to Ehsa concludes, "as a result, the PVB and the Board remain without the operating budget." So these were the documents, or at least the written realities that swirled unspoken in the wafts of Freon and Pine Sol of the room. The clench of the crunch was about to be discussed.

1:43 pm and Senator Henry starts the meeting, talking at length in Pohnpeian about JEMCO, the Amended budget Bill, PVB and EOA, and so on. Ehsa is then given the floor and his main point is really the distinction between how being an NGO in the private sector is about being efficient and making decisions independently and quickly, and how the government is the opposite of this with all of its "red tape."

"Business and government do things differently. The govern-

ment one way and business one way." As Ehsa speaks the Senators huddle and talk, and read over the PVB report handed out during the meeting.

Then it is Kikuo's turn to speak. His opinion, his feeling and take on the whole subject is really what this meeting is about. His ability to balance complicity with the law set out by the '07 Budget, and his mandate to assist the private sector is really the crux of the matter, the *clinch*.

"I'm not gonna argue about this," Apis says first. He goes on to explain the background of the current situation and the bureaucratic realities that are necessarily involved. And he comes to a point that deflates some of the collective pressure in the room when he says: "My view is that there was an oversight. There was no intention to do away with the PVB. Somehow it was placed under our budget but personally I don't have any problem in working with PVB in promotion to help the government do what it needs to do."

Apis goes on to state that as temporary means to get through the problem, "We signed their (PVB

staff) contracts today, under their existing salaries. We extended for 30 more days, a second renewal. There was no reorganization, it was just the budget that was placed under my office. I have no argument about who should do what. We have discussed the set up of a Desk and also working with PVB. We really have to sit down with PVB and the Governor and work this out."

So there it was. To the point and done with, as far as the crux of the Oversight Hearing was concerned. What followed were comments by Senators Perman and Walter on "clearing up gray areas" and "an internal matter that can easily be ironed out." Senator Walter made perhaps the most cutting and interesting comment when she said, "I don't think any government agency wants to hold back an organization in the private sector." Followed by Santos saying, "I feel this matter should be resolved for the economic development of Pohnpei and not the interest of bureaucracy." Sailas closed the meeting by recommending a get together to iron out the matter before the FY '08 Budget submission currently underway at all levels of Government.

..Governor David

Continued from page 1

Governor David went on, noting the development of the new Madolenihmw High School, and a Kitti Junior High School that will become a full High School by the end of the current school year. This, he said, will spread the concentration of public high school students to different areas of the island. Also, the Governor noted that the "public trust in the police work in Pohnpei State was very low when I became Governor," and that "confidence in police work has markedly improved" over his tenure.

Speaking outside momentarily to a Sergeant in the State Police Force - decked out with a two-way radio, a 9mm Beretta, and two extra 11-bullet clips for the automatic pistol - the Sergeant noted with a tint of excitement in his voice that the State Police now have a

crack SWAT unit trained in the latest methods of Hostage Situation and Negotiation, Prisoner Escape and Tracking, and Riot Control.

David also noted that auditors examining the books for state funds said that the books had been handled properly according to Generally Accepted Accounting Standards, a first for any government in the FSM, the Governor said.

Problems? A continuing "inability to stabilize our services to the outer island people" of Pohnpei State, said David; "Occasional mechanical problems" with the state radio station, which has just returned to the local airwaves after an absence of more than two months; the "problem with land squatting; and "an on-going problem in collecting payment of the leases of Government land in the State." Chinese Ambassador Liu, stated David directly, "has given her full support" for a new field trip ship to ser-

vice the outer island citizens of Pohnpei.

The State of the State then went into a breakdown of statistics, improvements, and challenges for each of the following areas, combining loosely State Government Agency and Department input and the six Sectors under Compact II with the United States: Education, Health, Land and Natural Resources, law Enforcement and Public Safety and Protection, Economy, Infrastructure, Environment, Social Affairs, Personnel, Budget & Finance, as well as Others.

A quick rundown of this section of the Governor's speech highlight these things: enrollment in the entire public and private school system is just right around 12,000 students. Increasing population and enrollment are putting upward pressure on teacher/student ratios at the public schools. Pohnpei has one State Hospital and nine dispensaries, with three private clinics rounding out the health care service sector. Dia-

betes remains at the top of the hospital hit list, along with skin diseases, Hypertension, and heart attacks and strokes, amongst several others. No new cases of HIV (precursor to AIDS) were confirmed. 73% of school-going 12-year olds have "dental decay."

221 deeds to land were issued. Monitoring of Marine Sanctuaries and Mangrove and Watershed Forest Reserves continues. A Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team was created. There are 169 inmates in the Pohnpei Prison. Black Pearl farming is being pursued by the State in Pakin and Mwoakilloa Atolls. A Rapid Ecological Assessment shows Pohnpei is being over fished. The average monthly catch of Fresh Tuna that is caught and flown out is over 200,000 kilograms per month. The Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation is expected to bring in 40 fishing boats in 2007, ramped up from the 23 long liners plying the state's waters in 2006. Tourism generates \$5 million per year. Pohnpei is exploring the possibility of becoming a World Park area to increase tourism.

8 out of 16 foreign investment permits were issued in 2006, creating "500 local jobs" and generating \$3.9 million in tax revenues. Capital Improvement Projects totaled \$2.2 million. 36 "needy families" have been assisted by the State to build sanitary toilet facilities for their homes. Four new women's organizations were chartered, bringing the total to 16. Guaranteed, low-rate housing loans were provided to 20 families, with another 228 pending loan applications pending.

The Executive Branch maintained a ratio of 1,380 local and 68 expatriate employees for operations in 2006. The total state budget for FY 2006 was just over \$36 million. Total FY budget for 2007 is \$34 million. The FY 2008 budget is being formulated, and estimated to be around \$30.5 million.

The deadline for ads and news items for the next issue is February 2, 2007

Earlier is better!

LAST Issue's Solution

P	L	E	W	A	T	I	L	E	W	E			
R	I	D	E	S	O	L	I	D	E	A	S	E	
O	M	A	R	S	O	L	V	E	A	N	T	E	
D	A	M	A	G	E	D	E	N	T	R	E	A	T
				N	A	T	A	R	S	O	N		
R	I	N	G	S	F	L	Y	W	E	E	P	S	
A	L	O	E	E	E	L	P	E	D	O	L	E	
N	I	I	S	L	E	E	P	E	R	I	A	N	
T	U	L	I	P	S	G	O	P	O	T	I	S	
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PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SCHEME – MEDIA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

In recognition of the need to foster the development of young people with policy skills within the region, the need to scale up human resources required for our strengthened policy mandates and the associated effective implementation of the Pacific Plan, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is looking for a highly motivated and qualified individual to be attached to the Pacific Plan/ Strategic Partnerships Programme as the **Media Young Professional**. The successful applicant will be placed in a **full-time internship** for a period of no less than six months and no longer than 24 months.

• **Eligibility:** To be eligible, applicants should be:

- Nationals of Forum Islands Countries;
- No more than 30 years of age;
- Fluent in spoken and written English;
- In an early stage of their career or holders of public office if they are professional applicants;
- Able to work fairly independently and demonstrate initiative and flexibility with strong team-working capacity in a multi-cultural environment;
- Familiar with the standard features of word processing programs and be competent in MS Excel and HTML documents/ internet web sites.

**Please note that relatives of PIFS staff are NOT eligible to apply*

Essential: Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications:

• **Young Professional – Media:**

- Undergraduate or Postgraduate degree in Communications, Journalism or Media Studies;
- Knowledge of the Pacific Plan and the Pacific Islands Forum;
- Knowledge of regional media issues and trends;
- Strong research skills.

Remuneration: Please note the position is not for employment purposes but is aimed at helping further develop regional capacity. The successful intern will be paid a monthly allowance to help with living expenses. Where necessary, airfares will be covered by PIFS.

Applications can be obtained by: downloading forms off the Secretariat's website www.forumsec.org (Click on the following links in this order: *Activities, Enabling Mechanisms, PIFS Young Professionals*) or collecting forms from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji.

Procedure: Applicants should submit a completed application form with certified copies of completed certificates for each qualification stated and academic transcripts to the **Development Cooperation Adviser, Private Mail Bag, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji**. Applications close on **8 February 2007**.

For further information, contact the Scholarship Assistant on email: info@forumsec.org.fj; telephone: (679) 3312600 or fax: (679) 3305880.

CONSERVATION CORNER

PRESERVING AHND ATOLL'S TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM

By *Conservation Society of Pohnpei*



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage



Ahnd Atoll, located 18.5 km Southwest of Kolonia, Pohnpei, is home to 13 species of reptiles (including the hawkbill and green turtles), 25 bird species, 7 mammals, several species of land crabs, and hundreds of marine species. Privately owned by the Nanpei Family, Ahnd Atoll is one of the most biologically diverse and undisturbed atolls in the Federated States of Micronesia. In the FSM National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) and the accompanying TNC-authored "A Blue Print for Conserving the Biodiversity of the Federated States of Micronesia," Ahnd Atoll was determined to be a national Priority Action Area and Pohnpei's top marine area of biological significance (ABS). Ahnd Atoll's terrestrial biodiversity is threatened by two invasive rat species, *Rattus rattus*, and *R. exulans*. The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) in partnership with a California based NGO, Island Con-

servation (IC), and New Zealand based Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) is developing a plan to eradicate rats from Ahnd Atoll, thus allowing natural recolonization and augmentation of seabird, forestbird, terrestrial reptile, terrestrial invertebrate and bat populations. Aside from restoring integrity to Ahnd Atoll's terrestrial ecosystem, this project will provide safe habitat for many species that are threatened or nearly threatened on nearby Pohnpei. From January 24 to February 26, 2007, CSP and IC will initiate the Ahnd Atoll eradication project by conducting a trial eradication on 5 small islands in the Madolenihmw Municipality to test and perfect rat eradication

methods that will later be used for the Ahnd Atoll rat eradication. Conservationists from Kosrae, Yap, Guam, Fiji, Samoa, New Caledonia, and Tahiti will join the CSP-IC team to conduct the trial eradication.

This project offers significant learning opportunities for local and regional conservation entities, as well as economic, social, and environmental benefit for Pohnpeians. Through this project, knowledge gained by local and regional conservation groups can be used to eradicate rats from other islands in Micronesia.

The eradication team will stay at the former Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School facility in

Madolenihmw Municipality for the duration of the project. This important conservation project is funded by a grant from the Australian Government's Regional National Heritage Programme (RNHP), and is supported by the following organizations: the Pacific Invasive Initiative, Pohnpei State Government, the Micronesia Conservation Trust, the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), Micronesians in Island Conservation (MIC), Pohnpei Invasive Species Taskforce (PIST), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and especially the Pohnpeian land owners who have given permission to use several small islands for the trial rat eradication.

PEACE CORPS VACANCY

Peace Corps/Micronesia is seeking to fill the following fulltime, contracted position, based in Kolonia, Pohnpei. To apply, qualified persons must send a cover letter describing their qualifications for the position. They must also send a resume in English with work history, salary history, and names of work-related references.

Applications may be dropped off at the Peace Corps office in Kolonia, or faxed to 320-2658, or sent by email to techtrainer@fm.peacecorps.gov.

The deadline for receiving applications is Friday, February 16, 2007.

TECHNICAL TRAINER - EDUCATION

The primary responsibility of the Technical Trainer is to manage the design, delivery and evaluation of competency-based technical training that prepares Peace Corps Trainees for two years of volunteer service in FSM and Palau. The Technical Trainer will support education and education-related programming, including ESL instruction, community-school relationships and youth development activities outside of the classroom like after school programs, tutoring and summer camps. She/He will also provide support to Program staff and Volunteers in the field with technical issues. The position requires the ability to speak, read, and write English and work with Microsoft Word and Power Point. The Technical Trainer reports to the Programming and Training Officer (PTO).

Duties include:

- Guides/implements training design, revision, evaluation, and monitoring for education-related competencies designed to prepare and support Peace Corps Trainees and Volunteers.
- Facilitates training activities, modeling a variety of education techniques in training delivery.
- Develops and presents information on factors affecting education including gender, parent involvement, school-community linkages, resources, the experiential learning cycle, etc. and provides recommendations for working successfully in the Micronesian environment
- Develops technical training documents/reports and shares these with key staff.
- Designs and delivers appropriate Training of Trainers sessions.
- Collaborates with PTO, Training Director and Program staff to design, revise, and implement training to improve Volunteer capabilities and project success.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in education or 5 years of equivalent experience in education.
- Knowledge of and demonstrated skills in teaching methodologies, preferably as relates to teaching English as a Second Language.
- Experience designing, implementing and evaluating training.
- Experience working with an international organization and/or in a cross cultural environment.
- Experience working with PTAs and the Department of Education.
- Ability to investigate educational resources and develop/adapt training programs to reflect core principles.
- Self-motivated to investigate and take initiative in providing a competency-based and effective technical training program.

Salary Range: \$12,000 – 16,000 depending on prior experience and salary history.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Moved forcibly
- 5. Look over
- 9. Valentine cherub
- 14. Melted rock
- 15. Fact helping solve mystery
- 16. Make amends
- 17. High cards
- 18. Uncommon
- 19. _ firma; firm earth
- 20. Slight hollow
- 21. Actress — Claire
- 22. Expert
- 23. Values highly
- 25. Barbara — Geddes
- 26. Tree's juice
- 27. Clean up, repair
- 32. Spider's weaving
- 35. Ward off
- 37. Zsa Zsa
- 38. New thought
- 40. Draw off liquid
- 42. Acorns and filberts
- 43. Portioned out
- 45. Perfect model
- 47. Golf ball holder
- 48. Completely
- 50. Orange pekoe
- 52." in the Family"
- 53. — Falls
- 57. Assault
- 61. Overly
- 62. Shakespeare's tragic "King.
- 63. Beverage
- 64. Ache
- 65. Great Lake
- 66. "The Divine Comedy" poet
- 67. "Born Free" lioness
- 68. Opera by Verdi
- 69. Quick motion
- 70. Film spool
- 71. Army meal
- 4. Squanders
- 5. Economized
- 6. Scottish social groups
- 7. Surrounding atmosphere
- 8. Before marriage
- 9. Complete list
- 10. Shoshonean Indians
- 11. City with harbor
- 12. Concerning (2 wds.)
- 13. Precious
- 22. Human males
- 24. Hearing organ
- 25. Misrepresent
- 27. Prepared
- 28. Mover's truck
- 29. Border upon
- 30. Carry (colloq.)
- 31. Gaelic
- 32. Broad
- 33. Paradise
- 34. Whip
- 36. Beadlike pellet
- 39. Baba
- 41. Affecting whole country
- 44. Followed footprints
- 46. Grassy field (poet.)
- 49. Mooselike deer (2 wds.)
- 51. Shining
- 53. Din
- 54. Eagle's nest
- 55. Sudden invasions
- 56. Regions
- 57. Calculates total
- 58. Ambush
- 59. Prong
- 60. Poker stake
- 61. Story
- 64. For each

DOWN

- 1. Leaf of grass
- 2. Shoestrings
- 3. Occurrence

Word Search - GROUNDWORK

Concentrate on terra firma to solve this down-to-earth puzzle whose hidden entries of four or more letters are all associated with things found on the ground. We have looped one entry for you and provided the first letters of those remaining.

- A CORN _____
- A _____
- B _____
- C _____
- C _____
- C _____
- D _____
- D _____
- D _____
- F _____
- G _____
- G _____
- G _____
- H _____
- L _____
- L _____



- M _____
- P _____
- P _____
- P _____
- P _____
- R _____
- S _____
- T _____
- T _____
- W _____
- W _____

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RELIGION

HOW SHOULD I LIVE AND REFLECT?

Many times people have asked me what is the most frequent question that people ask when they come looking for advice. Some might think that this is a tough question, but honestly I feel that the answer is very simple. It is basically the same question that the young man asked in Matthew 19, 16-30. What do I have to do to lead a good life? What do I have to do to be happy with the gift of life that God has promised to me?

I hope that this past Christmas season has been a happy one for all of us as we celebrated once again in a meaningful way the fact that Jesus Christ has leaped down from being with the Father to "pitch his tent with us" To become like us in every way, but sin, (Hebrews 2, 17-18) and to walk

with us at every moment of our existence to be the model of how we should live. He tells us that I am the way, the truth and the life." (John 14,6).

It seems to me that the basic answer that Jesus was trying to give the young man in the gospel of Matthew was a word of encouragement — and I trust that this is our message that we give to all that come to us in anyway for advice. Most people really do want to do what is right and really do want to love God and to love their neighbor. (Mark 12, 30-31)

Another question that people also ask me very often is, "what is the biggest problem that you find with the people that you work with?" My an-

swer to this is that I feel that it is also my biggest weakness. I feel that myself and others fail to reflect as much and as often as we should. We are too busy doing other things. Often very important things! How much more can we be and how much more can we grow and become a better person if we spend more time reflecting and talking deep within ourselves with our God?

I find these days that some people tell me that often all of my sermons seem to move around the same three questions. I have thought a lot about this. In the end I have decided that I am happy with this evaluation. I feel that there is nothing more important than these three questions. I feel that these are questions that should always be on our minds.

1. Who does God see when he looks at me? Many people tell me that they feel God sees them as sinners and people who are enemies of God or as weak and unlovable. Is this your thought? I think that this is far from the truth. I believe that God loves us always. He always wants the best for us. He wants our happiness and peace. He promises that he will always hold our hand and walk with us. We are important to God. He made us to be happy with him — and this is what he sees and desires when he looks at us.

2. What do I feel about God when I think about him? Many people tell me that they feel that God is always the judge preparing to punish them for mistakes and failures in keeping commandments. I would rather remember that God has declared his love for me when he created me to be with him forever and to share in his work. He calls me to do his work now, to tell others about his love for us. No matter what I do, he will always be with me, helping me to grow. He wants me to reflect on his love and his call. I am very important to him.

3. What binds together God, myself and all that He has created? God is unlimited love, He created me to share this unlimited love with me and He created all other people and the gifts of this earth so that we can share in this love forever. God promises that we will all live united in love forever. Do I really believe this?

As we venture into 2007, it seems these are good reflections to keep with us at this time. Please pray they will be with me and I will be praying that they will be with you.

FR. JOSEPHA. CAVANAGH, S.J.

...VOTE

continued from page 11

performances in the past may dictate a need for change. Those candidates, who cannot resist temptation, are most likely to become corrupt, and may end up surrendering the interest of those they serve. A resolution of appreciation is deserved for whistle blowers such as Congressman Asor. The type of thinking that he displayed though we may not all agree with it is the type of analytical thinking we all need to undertake.

I have, but, one candidate and his name is Mr. Honesty. May the New Year bring you peace and prosperity. May we all help to prepare a bright future for our children.

Sincerely,
Mason Albert

Tide Table January 24 - February 6, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	24 12:29AM 0.6 06:35AM 3.0 12:19PM 1.2 06:26PM 3.3	31 03:10AM 2.1 07:51AM 1.2 02:40PM 4.2 09:47PM 0.3	24 05:43AM 0.8 09:46AM 0.6 04:12PM 1.4 11:19PM 0.1	31 01:52PM 2.2 10:23PM -0.6
Thursday	25 12:55AM 0.8 07:18AM 3.0 01:11PM 1.5 06:54PM 2.8	01 03:33AM 2.3 08:33AM 0.9 03:13PM 4.3 10:09PM 0.2	25 06:14AM 1.0 10:21AM 0.9 03:07PM 1.1 10:51PM 0.0	01 02:18PM 2.3 10:28PM -0.4
Friday	26 01:19AM 1.1 08:16AM 3.0 02:41PM 1.8 07:13PM 2.2	02 03:56AM 2.6 09:09AM 0.8 03:43PM 4.4 10:30PM 0.2	26 07:08AM 1.2 10:40AM 1.1 12:29PM 1.2 10:22PM -0.2	02 04:14AM 0.3 06:30AM 0.2 02:41PM 2.3 10:34PM -0.3
Saturday	27 01:43AM 1.3 09:56AM 2.9	03 04:19AM 2.8 09:41AM 0.7 04:10PM 4.4 10:50PM 0.2	27 11:51AM 1.4 10:05PM -0.4	03 03:55AM 0.4 07:27AM 0.2 03:02PM 2.2 10:39PM -0.2
Sunday	28 02:05AM 1.5 12:05PM 3.2 08:46PM 1.2	04 04:42AM 3.0 10:12AM 0.7 04:34PM 4.2 11:08PM 0.3	28 12:21PM 1.7 10:03PM -0.6	04 03:58AM 0.6 08:08AM 0.2 03:20PM 2.1 10:42PM -0.1
Monday	29 02:27AM 1.7 05:14AM 1.6 01:16PM 3.5 09:03PM 0.8	05 05:05AM 3.1 10:40AM 0.8 04:56PM 4.0 11:26PM 0.4	29 12:53PM 1.9 10:09PM -0.6	05 04:08AM 0.8 08:44AM 0.2 03:35PM 1.9 10:42PM 0.0
Tuesday	30 02:48AM 1.9 06:55AM 1.4 02:03PM 3.9 09:25PM 0.5	06 05:28AM 3.2 11:07AM 1.0 05:15PM 3.7 11:41PM 0.5	30 01:23PM 2.1 10:16PM -0.6	06 04:23AM 1.0 09:17AM 0.3 03:45PM 1.7 10:38PM 0.1

...Miguel

continued from page 1

incomplete...the logbook for business licenses and fees did not reflect the corresponding receipts issued to payors and cash receipt books were missing. The auditors sorted the voucher payables and found that there were missing check stubs and other supporting documents."

Under the heading "cause" for the problems the auditor reported "An official claimed that some records, documents, and checks were burned."

When asked who burned the documents, Miguel said that the former Accountant/Clerk who is under investigation by State Police for allegedly forging checks totaling \$14,200 burned the documents before she was fired from the Municipality.

Miguel said that the former dispensary where the Municipality's Government was housed from 1954 until Pohnpei State built a new facility for them which was dedicated on September 10, 2004, was prone to flooding and the records stored there were destroyed by that flooding. He said the absence of those records should not have affected the audit results because they covered 1999-2003 and were outside of the audit period. Law requires records to be kept for five years.

Pohnpei State audit exceptions included un-receipted income that was never banked; 56 un-recorded checks totaling \$13,898 missing but paid by the bank; payroll advances of \$14,078, \$4,701 of which has yet to be reimbursed by employees; bank statements that were never reconciled; internal cash controls that were not in place; untimely deposits and several other exceptions.

Payroll dates in Kitti, according to the audit, seemed to be fluid. There were 26 pay periods in the fiscal year. Each of the 26 pay days in FY 2005 came between 3 and 14 days early.

Miguel said that he had a policy that employees that had funerals or other events involving immediate family could advance their salaries. He also said that council members (Isokohnedi) always advanced the \$25 a day fees they were due by law. He said they got their fees whether or not they actually showed up for the sessions. "If they can do that, why can't the others do it too?" he reasoned.

The audit states that McGarry Miguel owes Kitti Government \$752 in outstanding salary advances. Miguel said that Kitti instead owes him \$28. He said that the council authorized a \$30 per pay period COLA (cost of living allowance) the total of which would have been \$780 for the fiscal year in question.

Among the audit exceptions listed in the audit was the lack of a Fixed Asset Log to record the hard goods and property of the Municipal Government. Miguel spoke of two outboard motors mentioned in the audit as having been donated by Pohnpei State. He said that both of the motors were still the property of Pohnpei State and not the Municipality.

A Jeep Escudo was listed as having been purchased during the audit period. The status of the commodity was listed as "junk" in the audit. Mayor Miguel said that because of the limited budget of the Municipality, his brother had let him use tires for the vehicle. He said that when he was impeached he had to take the tires back to his brother so the vehicle was on blocks. "That was the only thing wrong with [the vehicle]."

...MLFC

continued from page 13

in tact even for nearly a year of extensive negotiations with major creditors and joint venture partner. That is a testament to the months of hard work that went into formulating the reorganiza-

tion plan. MLFC will emerge from bankruptcy with a good strategic and business plan and solid opportunities for growth," says Nimea.

In April 2005, MLFC filed for bankruptcy protection, listing about \$2.4 million in assets and \$6.5 million in estimated debts, all of which are unsecured.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00pm. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.



Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Seabreeze Hotel at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.



The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei State meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.



FSM Veterans Association meets the first Friday of every month at 6pm at The Rusty Anchor.



Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Baha'i Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.



Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meeting every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.



Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30p.m. Everyone welcome.



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15p.m. at PCR/Nantehlik.



St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlle Press

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ANOTHER CLASSIC

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Soon he would die.
And this is no lie.
Directly to Hell he was sent.

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PLEASE HELP KEEP POHNPEI ISLAND
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CALL ☎ 320-3868 or 320-5058

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Pingelap Taro Documented, Collected, and Promoted

By **AMY LEVENDUSKY**
Pohnpei Island Food Community

From January 5 to 8, 2007, Kiped Albert, Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs, Dr. Lois Englberger and Amy Levendusky of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), and Welsy Hagilmai of COM-FSM Land Grant visited the island of Pingelap in order to study and promote the giant swamp taro (*mwahng* or *mweiang*) varieties and other local foods growing there. Milden Sackryas, Mayor of Pingelap, assisted greatly in the facilitation of this visit.

The Pohnpei Traditional Food for Health project, based in Mand, coordinated by IFCP in collaboration with Mand Community and the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), generated much data from May to August 2005 relating to Pingelapese food customs, crops and varieties. A visit to Pingelap was important for the Mand Project in providing further background material, as well as documentation of the traditional food system and promotion of local foods.

A total of 12 varieties of giant swamp taro were named, described, and photographed. The local name, any alternate name, stalk color, if stalk has thorns, corm color, corm size, corm texture, leaf shape, growth rate, and other pertinent comments were recorded.

Planting material from eight varieties were collected and brought back for planting in the taro genebank collection at the FSM



Pingelap Elementary School children and teachers and the IFCP team pose for a photo with the Pohnpei Banana and Carotenoid-Rich Foods Posters during the awareness session on January 6, 2007.

Pilot Farm in Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw, a joint project of Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs and IFCP. These varieties were *Simihden*, *Nehn Sehm*, *Nein Aikem*, *Nein Seria*, *Nein Silingden*, *Nein Pisop*, *Mweiang Mwas*, and *Mweiang En Inbarahw*. Also one pandanus variety, *Swaipwehpwe*, was brought for the pandanus collection.

Around 100 adults attended the two community workshops, one of which included a womens group. The aims of the visit were shared, along with an important health

message about how yellow-fleshed carotenoid-rich varieties of local foods including banana, breadfruit, pandanus and giant swamp taro can protect against diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, vitamin A deficiency, and anemia. During the second day, this important health message was given to 45 elementary school students at the school.

There is an abundance of local food on Pingelap, such as taro, banana, and coconut, but there are large stocks of rice kept and evidence that many families are heavily relying on rice (which has

little nutrient value) as their staple food.

This project was supported by the Pacific German Regional Forestry Project, Sight and Life, Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, and College of Micronesia-FSM. Thanks are extended to Milden Sackrayas, Damaso Endere, Perdon Samson, Ibrahim Capelle, Erwin Kiahd and others in the community for facilitating and helping in the visit, providing the information used to document the different foods and providing planting materials.

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Kousapw Sapwohn Basketball Court Opens

By **HERSON ANDON**

Sokehs, Pohnpei, FSM - Kousapw Sapwohn has a new basketball court and gathering place in one of the most populous areas in Pohnpei. Residents from the area gathered for a celebratory opening ceremony on Monday, January 15, 2007.

Pius Choitalug, Chief of the FSM National Police was one of the spokesmen at the event. In his remarks Mr. Choitalug said that funding for the basketball court was provided by the Department of the Interior, which encourages and assists communities throughout the FSM to establish similar sporting facilities as a deterrent against alcoholism among youths.

Kousapw Sapwohn is located in Mwalok in Sokehs where many young people, having nothing else to occupy have, in the past been attracted to alcohol as an outlet. It is hoped that the new facility will give them something more constructive to do with the hours of their day.

The project which took two years to complete, is credited mainly to the untiring efforts of Soichy Kiopulos, also a member of the FSM National Police force and a resident of Kousapw Sapwohn in Pohnpei.

Approximately 80 people, including traditional leaders, young adults and children attended the opening ceremony.



Pius Choitalug, Chief of the FSM National Police, ambitiously sets up to shoot the first basket during a brief opening ceremony held Monday, January 15, 2007, at the Kousapw Sapwohn Community Center.

CONTINENTAL MICRONESIA EMPLOYEES BEAR GIFTS AND CHEER TO POHNPEI STATE HOSPITAL

Employees distribute forty-one Christmas gift baskets

HAGATNA, GU, January 18, 2006 — Continental Micronesia station personnel from Pohnpei showed their holiday spirit by bearing gifts and cheer to patients and staff at the Pohnpei State Hospital on Saturday, Dec. 23. They distributed 41 Christmas gift baskets donated by employees in Honolulu, Majuro, Kosrae, and Guam. In addition, the airline's Pohnpei employees donated fruits and cash.

"The holiday season is about giving. Helping those less fortunate or having health challenges was our way to demonstrate the true spirit of the season," said Regional Manager Art Day.

"Everyone at the hospital appreciated our baskets of gifts and fruits. The visit was our gesture to show Continental Micronesia's commitment to the islands we serve," said

Day. "Our many thanks to Pohnpei Team Leader Sylvia Cruz who helped organize the hospital visit and to the station personnel who participated," he said.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. A wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia offers more than 260 departures each week between 23 cities throughout the Pacific Rim, the Micronesian Islands and Hawaii with a fleet of 13 next-generation Boeing 737 narrowbody and 767 widebody aircraft. In addition, Continental Micronesia and its code share partner Cape Air operate 90 weekly commuter service flights between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 3,200 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 151 domestic and 136 international destinations. More than 400 additional points are served via SkyTeam alliance airlines. With more than 44,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with Continental Express, carries approximately 61 million passengers per year. Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture.

In 2006, Continental Airlines won its sixth J.D. Power and Associates

award since 1996. The carrier received the highest rank in customer satisfaction among network carriers in North America in the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Airline Satisfaction Index SurveySM. For the third consecutive year, *FOR*TUNE magazine named Continental the No. 1 Most Admired Global Airline on its 2006 list of Most Admired Global Companies. Continental was also named the No. 1 airline on the publication's 2006 America's Most Admired airline industry list. Additionally, Continental again won major awards at the OAG Airline of the Year Awards including "Best Airline Based in North America" for the third year in a row, and "Best Executive/Business Class" for the fourth consecutive year. For more company information, visit continental.com.