

The KASELEHLIE Press

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MOMI President Says Fuel Will Cost More in Pohnpei If It Stands Alone

By **BILL JAYNES**

The Kaselehlie Press

Mobil Oil of Micronesia, Incorporated (MOMI) President Karnal Singh in a letter to Pohnpei Governor Johnny P. David said that while the lease of facilities in Chuuk and Yap will soon expire, MOMI holds a valid lease on Pohnpei facilities that is not due to expire for another 16 years.

The letter, dated October 11 was written to "reiterate MOMI's position and outline the benefits of the proposed consolidated approach." According to the letter the FSM Fuel Task Force (FTF) and Pohnpei State representatives met with Mr. Singh on October 6 to discuss potential concerns raised by Pohnpei State regarding the proposed MOMI assets sale to the newly formed FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC).

The FSM Fuel Corporation was

established by the FSM Congress on September 7 of this year. According to FTF members a loan package from the Bank of Guam would enable the new corporation to purchase MOMI's assets in the States. The loan agreement would require the participation of all four States.

Pohnpei State, though Lt. Governor Jack Yakana, along with representatives of all the States signed a Chief Executive Council resolution endorsing the FSM Fuel Corporation. That resolution was transmitted to Congress who passed the Bill establishing the corporation though Pohnpei State Senators expressed real surprise that Yakana had signed the resolution.

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Photo by Bill Jaynes

Mobil Oil of Micronesia, Incorporated - Fuel Farm in Pohnpei

**Scooters and Cycles of Micronesia
KP 8th Anniversary
Scooter Giveaway
Register to Win!!
Clip Out Entry Form Inside!**

Tahiti Based French Frigate Prairial in the FSM



Photo by Bill Jaynes

Story on page 10

One of two guns, the 100 mm 68 CADAM on the forecastle of the FS Prairial. The gun is capable of firing 80 shots a minute. The vessel also has two Exocet MM38 missiles and two 20 mm guns capable of firing 600 shots a minute.

World Food Day in Pohnpei

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**Lt. Governor and Governor Candidates
Speak Out at COM Forum** Details Page 2

Candidates Answer Questions and State Their Views

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

On October 25th at the College of Micronesia Pohnpei Campus' nahs, some of the candidates for Lieutenant Governor gathered for what College of Micronesia organizers called a "Question and Answer Forum". On the 26th, all of the Gubernatorial candidates participated in a separate event for the same purpose. Both forums extended through the sweaty lunch hour beginning at 11:30 and ending at 1:30 and were largely attended by students of the Pohnpei Campus. Students from the Seventh Day Adventist School also attended. Standing in the periphery on each day were older adults waiting to hear what the candidates had to say and how they performed.

The midday forums were held in English. They were repeated with different questions in Pohnpeian each day from 6:30 to 8:30.

All of the forums were simulcast on AM 1000, the Calvary Baptist Radio Station, run by Dave Arthurs.

According to forum organizers, State funded Pohnpei State Radio AM 1450 would not broadcast the events unless they were paid to do so. As the first forum closed, organizers were still trying to decide how they would get the video tapes edited for broadcast on Island Cable Television's channel 20. The Q & A's were intended to educate voters on the public policy platforms of the candidates for the two highest offices in the executive branch.

Several of the candidates on the first day expressed surprise that the debates were being held in English at all especially third time candidate for Lt Governor, Solpasio Salvador who pointed out that the Pohnpei State Constitution says that Pohnpeian is the official language of the land.

The Q & A forum drew three Lt. Governor Candidates for the midday English language session: Solpasio Salvador, Churchill Edward, and Bert J. Rodriguez. Three candidates also showed for the evening session in Pohnpeian: Ed-

ward, Rodriguez, and Estephan Santiago who had earlier been attending a funeral. Lt. Governor Candidates Yosuo Phillip and Kiomy Albert-Kilmede did not participate in either session.

The forums drew all five Gubernatorial candidates for the Friday, English language session: Del S. Pangelinan, Senator Feliciano Perman, Lt. Governor Jack E. Yakana, John Ehsa, and Dr. Rufino Mauricio. Del Pangelinan was unable to participate in the evening session in Pohnpeian. The rest of the candidates did participate in the session.

Each of the candidates was given five minutes to introduce themselves and to give opening statements. Questions, which had earlier been solicited from the community by the organizers, were asked of each candidate. The first candidate to answer the question was chosen at random and was allowed five minutes to answer the question. Each of the other candidates were then given one minute to respond to the question and were instructed not to respond to the previous speaker's responses but to speak only about the issue itself.

Lt. Governor Candidates' Opening Statements

Candidate Bert Rodriguez was the first up and gave simple greetings not understanding that he was allowed to say anything he wanted for five minutes. He spoke for only just over a minute and was allowed after Salvador and Edward spoke for five minutes each to speak for another three minutes. During his second speech he said that his priority is a corruption free government. "There is no way that we will have development in the State when corruption is still going on. . . . The governor down to the lowest employee must adhere to the law."

Another priority, he said, is to find a way to help farmers and fisher-

men to find a way to get their products to market either locally or in foreign markets. Lastly, he said that he felt it was important to increase the minimum wage especially for private sector employees, many of whom are still making the minimum wage of \$1.35 an hour.

Candidate Churchill Edward said that he chose to run because of young people and because he cares about what Pohnpei's future will be. He wants to help spur the State's economic development. Currently Pohnpei State relies too much on foreign help and its citizens need more education and health services, Edward said as part of his platform. He has as one of his priorities, the development of a well trained and strong work force consisting of local people.

Candidate Solpasio Salvador gave his opening comments in Pohnpeian and said to those of us who don't speak Pohnpeian that we should find someone to translate for us, an understandable statement especially since we can't vote.

The well chosen questions started with the issue of Pohnpei secession, foreigners in Pohnpei, high fuel costs and what can be done about them, the dumpsite's location in Dekehtik being the first thing that tourists see and smell, the implications of the financial irregularities of other States on Pohnpei, the high cost of medical referrals versus the cost of a well equipped and staffed hospital in Pohnpei, and how to deal with the problem of under prepared students. Only one question was submitted by the audience. The question regarded what the candidates would do to help local fishermen and farmers in efforts to export their products.

See "Forum" on Page 6

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Tuna Commission Welcomes Prominence of Fisheries at 38th Forum

Nuku'alofa, Tonga: Forum Leaders, meeting during the retreat at Vava'u, Tonga on the occasion of the 38th Pacific Islands Forum agreed last week to formally invite the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to observe future meetings of the Forum. Mr Glenn Hurry, Chairman of the Commission, welcomed the invitation. Speaking from Canberra, he said "taking into account the other major issues before leaders it is extremely encouraging that the Tongan Forum elevated fisheries to a level of prominence that is long overdue". He expressed appreciation to Leaders and officials for the effort involved in securing this level of political recognition and hoped that it would lead to greater attention to the many priority issues that increasingly challenge the region's fisheries management agencies.

Andrew Wright, the Executive Director of the Pohnpei-based

WCPFC, in Tonga for the Forum, looked forward to the Commission working closely with officials and regional agencies in a combined effort to ensure regional tuna stocks are effectively managed. He said that the potential to contribute to long term economic development aspirations in Pacific Island members, in particular small island developing States, can only be realized if tuna stocks are managed within sustainable limits. He said "tuna catches from the region now exceed 2 million tonnes annually". Pacific Island countries make up almost 50% of the membership of the WCPFC and catches from within the national waters of these countries account for 44% of the region's total tuna catch. As a result, Pacific Island countries have significant capacity to influence exploitation levels and address challenges, such as those associated with over-fishing. He noted with concern that available information suggests that, despite



WCPFC Members agreeing to cap recent levels of fishing effort, current indications are that these limits are being exceeded. While he acknowledged that this was a major challenge for the Commission, he believes that an opportunity existed for Pacific Island countries to display leadership and responsibility to address over-fishing concerns.

Mr Wright said that... "the commitment to implement and strengthen WCPFC conservation and management arrangements recorded in the Vava'u Declara-

tion on Pacific Fisheries Resources: Our Fish, clearly demonstrated strong and committed leadership to work collaboratively to ensure fisheries for tuna in the WCPO are managed within sustainable limits". He said that a significant coordinated effort was required in order to achieve these outcomes and that the forthcoming annual session of the Commission, scheduled for the first week of December at Guam, was an excellent opportunity to implement many of the commitments made in Vava'u".

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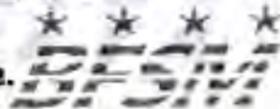
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...MOMI

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Shortly afterward, Pohnpei State expressed to the National Government, its intention to move forward on a separate plan.

Mr. Singh said in his letter that MOMI's "strong preference still remains the sale of assets to FSM Petroleum Corporation as the negotiated terms and conditions reflect a thoroughly considered and consolidated approach to the future supply of fuel to FSM." He said that the negotiations had been in process for a year and that Pohnpei State had representatives in the process of negotiation. He said that all parties had incurred substantial costs in the process of finalizing the agreements.

In a bulleted list Singh enumerated some of the benefits of the negotiated "all inclusive" approach.

He says that though, MOMI has a valid lease that doesn't expire for another 16 years, the proposed asset sale to FSMPC is

consistent with Pohnpei State's vision to own terminals some 11 years earlier than the expiry of the lease.

He says that should MOMI continue to operate its business directly in Pohnpei as their lease would allow them to do, some of the "off-shore overhead and support costs presently borne by the three States party to the 1996 Fuel Contract will have to be borne by Pohnpei on a stand alone basis, with the transition to the new operating model of Yap and Chuuk." This would increase Pohnpei's cost which would ultimately have to be passed along to the consumer.

The cost for a gallon of unleaded fuel at the pump for Pohnpei is currently \$4.48 having jumped 18 cents in the last three weeks. PUC is charging 37 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity. 27 cents of that price is for fuel cost. A spokesman for PUC said that the price is due to increase very soon.

Singh continued his bulleted list by saying that though MOMI had negotiated a bundled sale of their assets at a 40% discount off the asset valuation which was per-

formed by the global and reputable real estate corporation CB Richard Ellis, they are not required to give the same deal to any third party including Pohnpei.

He said that if Mobil assets are sold on "an unbundled basis" and separate deals are to be negotiated, the higher asset price would equate to higher financing costs which would then be necessarily passed to the consumers.

He pointed out that if the price of fuel was higher in Pohnpei than in other ports it could potentially divert marine traffic to other ports where fuel is cheaper which would in turn decrease the amount of revenue collected in tax by the State.

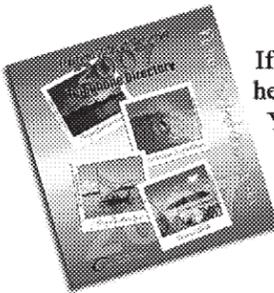
Singh said that the bundled approach was designed to spread the overhead and support costs to all of the States in order to keep fuel costs down as much as possible. He specifically mentioned the provision of Technical Support by Mobil for aviation operations by the four States. Pohnpei would have to pay that cost separately if they arranged a separate deal with MOMI.

He said that MOMI agreed not to pass on the costs they have incurred during the negotiations and during the preparations for the transition prior to change. "This concession," he said, implying that Pohnpei's change of heart is the cause, "cannot carry on in the face of continuing delays."

Singh strongly urged the "Leadership team" to resolve their internal differences as soon as possible in order to avoid "the potential loss of a win-win opportunity for all parties concerned...Most importantly, FSM consumers, including the Pohnpei community, are the ultimate beneficiaries of the new arrangements. They also stand to be the losers if this unique opportunity passes by due to misalignment of the States' interests."

Governor Anefal of Yap has been authorized to sign off on the plan despite the State's earlier misgivings. Lt Governor Jack Yakana said in a very brief moment after the COM Candidates' Forums that Pohnpei is still "very serious" about their stance on the FSM Petroleum Corporation and its implications for Pohnpei.

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...Forum

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Secession?

On the possibility of secession, Edward said that he is glad that Pohnpei is a part of the FSM and that he believes it should stay that way. He said that Pohnpei should very carefully weigh the advantages against the disadvantages. By his analysis there are more disadvantages for secession in terms of the loss of Pohnpei's international identity as part of the FSM, the loss of social security, insurance and other problems that would come with secession. "What will be the result of my decisions?" He said that Pohnpeians should carefully weigh the choice and decide as a people. He wants to be sure that people including his five children don't get hurt by decisions he makes for the State.

Rodriguez said that the issue is a very sensitive one and that his thoughts on the matter were in line with those of Edwards. Currently, he said, the amount of money that the States get from the Compact is based on population. "If Pohnpei secedes, the money would be reduced. Are we ready for that?"

Salvador said, "The Federation is not working or the system is not working." He suggested that the National Government system

should be revisited; that perhaps the FSM should have a prime minister and that the FSM Congress should be eliminated in order to reduce the size of the National Government. At this time there are more cons than pros on the issue of secession according to Mr. Salvador

Foreigners in Pohnpei?

The second question of the afternoon went to Bert Rodriguez, "What do you have to say regarding concerns by some Pohnpeians about the increasing number of foreigners on Pohnpei?" He said that more tourists equates to more money for the states. Pohnpei needs more visitors because it is good for business, but "I want the good guys not the bad guys!"

Churchill Edward said that foreigners as tourists are good for the State but that if they're here to replace the State's workforce it's not good.

He reiterated his earlier message saying that if foreigners are here because Pohnpeians don't have the skills that they need on island then they should do more training.

To foreigners he said, "If you're here to help, we like you. Stay with us!"

Salvador used his one minute response time to say that foreigners classified as professional and skilled workers are welcome but that mechanics, construction workers, and laborers are not.

He challenged the students of COM to study hard so that Pohnpei can replace foreign workers with local ones.

Fuel Prices?

On the high price of fuel in Pohnpei, Salvador said that Pohnpei doesn't make fuel and so it can't control fuel's price. As a solution he said that when Pohnpeians import vehicles they should import more diesels that can be converted to run on coconut oil instead of gas. "That's the only solution unless you can design something that doesn't use fuel."

Bert Rodriguez said that there are two options. 1) Raise the salaries of employees so that the cost is not such a big problem or, 2) invite more companies to see if that might lower the cost. "I don't think we have enough coconuts on the island."

Churchill Edward said that he hoped that Pohnpei could find alternative sources of energy but that the ultimate solution lies with consumers. He said the answer was in how Pohnpeians live their lives. Customers could cut back on their use of electricity and consolidate car trips and that would lower the cost for individuals.

The "Yucky" Dekehtik Dump as first tourist exposure to Pohnpei?

Solpasio Salvador was faced with

the question, "Is there a solution to having the dump site at Dekehtik? For people who come to visit Pohnpei from other places, it is the first thing they smell when they arrive on our island." He smiled a large smile and said, "We can ask them not to breathe." His solution was to relocate the dumpsite "not too far from Kolonia...Sokehs is the best solution."

Rodriguez agreed that the dump needed to be moved "someplace far away from Kolonia and the airport."

Edward said that Pohnpei State has a plan to move the dump to Palikir but that money is a problem. He said, maybe Pohnpei should "ship the trash to countries sending trash to us."

Do "Financial Irregularities" in other States impact Pohnpei?

On "financial irregularities" in other States and their impact on Pohnpei State, Edward said that the FSM has huge governments and not enough resources. Though Pohnpei posted an \$8 million surplus at the end of the last fiscal year some of that money may now be obligated. He said that Pohnpei needs to plan ahead and reminded the audience that the first step down of compact is in 2008. He suggested that the Government needs to find a way to supplement the income to make up for the decrease. Pohnpei State should look at tax enforcement. Edward said that the State might not be collecting all that it is due by law.

"Government should be downsized... We should be ready for bad times coming our way.

Rodriguez in his one minute response reminded the audience that the amount of money Pohnpei receives is based on population and that it receives less money than Chuuk does. He said that the nation needs a leadership change, distribution regulations need to be changed, or "we conserve our money and make good use of it and not waste it because it's not much...take good care of it and not mismanage it."

Salvador said, "Pohnpei is not like Chuuk or Kosrae." He announced that on the previous Tuesday, Government had approved a COLA (cost of living allowance) of \$30 per pay for government employees. He said that the state was told that the COLA could be sustained at least until 2010.

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continued from page 6

"Financial irregularities have little to do with our state."

New fully equipped hospital or more off island referrals?

After a ten minute break Bert Rodriquez was faced with the question, "What would you say regarding the increasing requests for off island medical referrals versus the need to construct a specialized hospital in Pohnpei to provide such services?"

He said that the hospital doesn't have the money to refer patients outside of Pohnpei. Perhaps the best thing to do, he said, would be to spend money on education programs to teach the people of Pohnpei what they need to do to stay healthy so that they won't have to be referred off island.

Churchill Edward said that Pohnpei spends a lot of money referring patients off island and that we should construct our own National hospital. "The problem is money." He spoke of a rumor at the National government level to construct a National Hospital in Chuuk.

Solpiso Salvador said that it's easy to say that having a special hospital in Pohnpei is the best solution but that the question is one of money. He referred to Pohnpeians with licenses to practice medicine who couldn't afford to practice in Pohnpei because of the low salaries for physicians.

He talked about Continental Micronesia One Pass miles for government travel being designated for hospital saying that three patients per month travel for medical referrals if they did that.

Under prepared students in Pohnpei and how they would fix the problem...

On the issue of under prepared students from the State school systems, Salvador said that PICS High School, where he is Principal, is in the process of being accredited and that when they are, students will be able to be admitted from their school anywhere in the world. He said that the other High Schools on the island are following suit.

Edward said that the government should help to enhance the small programs that are working to boost educational levels in Pohnpei.

He mentioned that he had been involved in a workshop with all of the education units in the previous

week and that the group had developed a five year plan to deal with precisely that problem.

Rodriquez said that the first thing the State should do is get rid of the mass entrance of elementary school students into High School. He felt that students should be tested before entering High School and that if students don't pass, the Government should "come up" with other programs to recruit those students separately into vocational programs. He said that the Government should concentrate on students with potentially high levels of academic performance and should train the rest of the students for work of some other type.

Local Farmers and Fishermen

Churchill Edward got the question from the audience about what he would do to help local farmers and fishermen to export their product. He said that he had been hearing that farmers and fishermen had been exporting their products but that the products, either through handling of shippers or lack of knowledge by the producers had not met quality expectations of those receiving the produce. He felt that the government and private sector had not come together well to help facilitate quality standards for Pohnpei. As a result customers have received bruised, over ripe bananas and spoiled fish. Edward said that if he was elected he would put together a plan to help farmers and fishermen with a group of people who truly know how to do what needs to be done.

Solpiso Salvador said that the government should help to provide adequate skills and "know how" to help farmers. Particularly the government should help to identify countries that can receive the products that Pohnpei can send.

He mentioned that air freight is a concern and that he would work with Continental Micronesia to lower air freight.

Rodriquez said, "I'm also a farmer... Why can't the government do something for local farmers and fishermen?" He spoke of his experience in Fiji and Western Samoa where he had seen local farmers exporting their local produce to New Zealand and Australia. "Why can't our government send people out there to find external outlets?" He suggested that the State could buy from local farmers and then export the produce to other countries.

Lt. Governor Candidates' Closing Remarks

Each candidate gave his closing remarks. Edward was first saying, "A strong man stands up for himself but a stronger man stands up for others... I am standing up for you because I care about you."

Salvador said, "I am not a strong man but I am the strongest man here." He said that it was because of his work experience and the thing that he had done. "Try me. Remember me. Vote for me."

Rodriquez closed saying that he thought that the time for talk was over and that now was the time for action. He challenged the audience to check his record saying that he never once supported anything that was not good for the people of Pohnpei. He said, "We not only need vision to succeed, we also need proficiency to survive."

The crowd departed the Pohnpei Campus naqs quickly, having heard enough. The night passed, the next day came and it was time for yet another Q & A forum, this time for the Gubernatorial candidates.

Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum

The candidates for Governor were ready and Del Pangelinan gave the first introductory comments. He said that he wants,

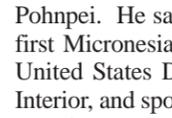
though he had already been Governor once to help Pohnpei State in a very important time and that he feels that the State should begin to think about how to move forward. He is concerned about the future of Pohnpei. He said that it doesn't matter who you vote for but that you must vote for the person that can best run the State.

Senator Feliciano Perman said that he had spent 36 years serving in Pohnpei State.

Twelve years of those were spent working for the Governor's office, and twenty four of them were spent as a Senator for Pohnpei State. He said that his vision is contained in Article 7 of the Constitution of Pohnpei where the founding fathers established their plan for environmental and economic development, education and health, skill building for the workforce, and the establishment of a peace keeping force. He said that he would do everything possible to

carry out the mandates of Article 7.

John Ehsa said that though he is the youngest candidate of all of the five candidates he has the most experience starting 32 years ago during the Trust Territory days of Pohnpei. He said that he was the first Micronesian to work for the United States Department of the Interior, and spoke of his financial experience as the FSM Secretary of Finance where he served from 1995 through 2002. He was part of the US Compact negotiation team through 2004 and has been doing consulting work since that time. His financial management experience, he said, would help him to lead Pohnpei through these times and into the future.



Dr. Rufino Mauricio said that though he has the least public service experience of the candidates he has the most education. He attained a PhD degree in archaeology and anthropology in 1993. He decided to come back to Pohnpei where he was born and raised and ran the National Government's Office of Historic Preservation. He has served on many boards including the ground breaking Pohnpei Island Food Community. His priority is education and health services along with public safety.



Lt. Governor Jack Yakana stood on the administration where he has served for nearly eight years. He said that Pohnpei has the best financial record of all of the States. He pointed out that the last two audits of financial transactions in Pohnpei have been unqualified meaning that no noteworthy faults were found by auditors in the State's records and accounting systems. He noted that Pohnpei State had a surplus of \$8.4 million in reserves in their general fund. During the previous administration they built two new High Schools, completed the paving of the circumferential road, and achieved numerous other accomplishments. He said that he ran because he wants to continue to deliver in the same way he has done all along.



See "Candidates" on Page 8

...Candidates

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Secession?

Former Governor Del Pangelinan received the question that Lt. Governor's had received the day before regarding secession. He had five minutes to talk about the subject. He said that some years back Pohnpei State approved the Federation as a unit and that since that time talk has occasionally gone to the subject of membership in the Federation. He said that membership in the FSM should continue until the people decide otherwise. By his estimation, Pohnpei benefits by the location of the National Government and "we should not turn that away too quickly... The reasons given for secession are not good enough." He reminded listeners that the State is approaching the end of the Compact. "What do we do then? We should plan for that time."

"I think we should be cautious... creating a Nation at this time is not easy... [I think] We should go forward as one."

Senator Feliciano Perman, in what was supposed to be a one minute response went well beyond his time. He spoke of President Mori's inaugural address when the President said that more power should go to the States. Perman said that more taxing power should go to the States. In terms of secession talks he said, "I have nothing against the other States but we should seek out what is good for the people of Pohnpei." If it is good to dissolve the association then he will support that.

John Ehsa, in forceful language said that the question is "more valid now than ever before." He said that if he was elected he would set up a process to work with the Legislature and the public to explore the question of secession.

Dr. Rufino Mauricio said that there is obviously a problem and that we should get to the bottom of the problem. "If we secede, what will we want to be?" He said that timing is important and that we should address all of the issues carefully.

Lt. Governor Jack Yakana said that right now the FSM has five governments, three of which are having financial difficulties. If he is elected he will set up a commission to study the pros and cons of remaining in the FSM. The commission will bring its findings to the people and let the people decide.

Do "financial irregularities" of other States have an impact on Pohnpei

Regarding "financial irregularities" in other States and their impact on Pohnpei, Perman said that the \$8.4 million surplus in the General Fund of Pohnpei was on September 30, 2006. He claims that the surplus is now down to between one and two million dollars. According to his statements he feels that that the drain on Pohnpei's surplus is the fault of other States. He said that other States must be fiscally responsible in order for the nation to be successful.

Pangelinan gave his congratulations to the current administration for the surplus. He said that the surplus could have been used to build up weak areas in Government service. Building on Perman's statement he pointed out that a decrease in surplus from \$8 million to \$1 million shows how much it costs to run the government. The surplus, he said, should have been returned to the citizens of Pohnpei in the form of services.

On John Ehsa's turn to speak he said that the impact of other State's financial irregularities is negative. He said that their improprieties could affect the ability of Pohnpei to attract financial assistance.

Mauricio said, "Let it be a lesson to Pohnpei that we need a good financial management system." He conjectured that Pohnpei is bearing more than its fair share when he asked, "To what extent is Pohnpei shouldering other State's problems."

Yakana gave a very short response, "Financial irregularities in other States impact Pohnpei."

What kind of skills do the candidates bring to the table to help Pohnpei if they find themselves in an economic disaster?

When asked what kind of skills he brings to the table if Pohnpei finds itself in serious economic disaster, John Ehsa reminded the audience of the days when Pohnpei's government employees found that they were to retire early if they qualified and that other's hours were to be cut back. He called it a productive time because people went back to their farms. He said it was productive because people had alternatives. "I believe that my experience as a financial manager can offer alternatives during economic hard times."

Each of the candidates said that they hoped the State would never be in

position of economic disaster. Pangelinan said that the State should be prepared. He based his response on what will happen in "sixteen years" when the Compact runs out. He said that if we fail to plan we will definitely have that problem.

Perman said that amending the Constitutional items that relate to taxing power will help the State to avoid the possibility of economic disaster. He said that he wants the United States to advance the remaining amount of money, over \$442 million that is left for Pohnpei in Compact payments so that Pohnpei can invest it to avert any such disaster.

Mauricio responded to the question by saying that Pohnpei State is fortunate in that it can still depend on the land and that certain conservation skills should be taught.

Yakana said that Pohnpei is blessed with human resources and agricultural ability. He possesses person to person skills and will be able to, in the event of economic hard times, bring in professional people that can help.

2008 Compact Review Recommendations

All of the candidates for Governor when asked what their recommendations would be on the 2008 review of the Compact with the United States said that they would recommend that JEMCO representation be equalized. Currently the representation is 3 to 2 in favor of the US. Dr. Mauricio was not an exception. He said that there are currently priorities of Pohnpei State that are not funded and he would recommend to the US that they be funded. He said that the reporting system still needs to be ironed out and made clear to the FSM.

Del Pangelinan said that currently big projects are given to outsiders and if the infrastructure management was delegated to the States that would not necessarily be the case.

Senator Perman, going beyond his allotted time, reiterated his idea that the United States should advance the remaining money in the Compact for Pohnpei State investment. He talked about the Investment Development Fund that was authorized under the first Compact at \$60 million but only \$20 million was drawn from the fund. He said that Pohnpei State has had a hard time proving why they need the other \$40 million and they have a limited time to do so. He would bring that topic up during the review. He

also talked about Federal programs that will go away when the Compact expires and said that if elected he plans to discuss that issue with the US when the time comes.

John Ehsa said that he intends to evaluate where the State has succeeded and where it has failed. He also wants to bring to the table the devaluation of the initially negotiated Compact due to the unpredictably high price of fuel which in Pohnpei has gone up 18 cents at the pump in the last three weeks.

Jack Yakana, speaking of the US said that he had found that "The more you ask the less they give." He had only one request. He wants funding for alternative fuel sources.

What can be done to aid the private sector? What do you think about the Foreign Investment Bill?

Yakana was asked what his administration would do to help develop the private sector and what he thought about the Foreign Investment law. He said that there is too much reliance on the public sector and that there is too little money in circulation in the State. In a situation such as the State faces, foreign investors are needed. He said that the current administration does not support the foreign investment law passed last year despite the Governor's veto of the law. He said, "it is not working for us", and that it benefits only a handful of local business people. If he is elected he will ask the Legislature to amend the law.

Pangelinan responded in overtime that the government needs to do more to support the private sector and that business people are handicapped by the lack of help of government. Regarding the Foreign Investment law he was adamant, "The law needs to change—period!" He said that it sends negative messages to the outside and that it was based on a few businesses protecting their own interests by a strong lobbying effort.

Perman said that the private sector is the backbone of Pohnpei's economy. He said that he would probably be the only candidate supporting the Foreign Investment law and that it was not an "anti-foreign investment law". It is instead, a law to balance out what people of Pohnpei can do in the State as opposed to what foreigners can do. He said that if Pohnpei threw its doors wide open it wouldn't be big companies that come to Pohnpei, it would be Mom and Pop stores that Pohnpeians could own. Pohnpei,

...COM Forum

continued from page 8

he said, has no problem with serious investors.

Ehsa said that private sector growth is vital to Pohnpei. One of the keys, he said, is the reestablishment of the Chamber of Commerce. He suggested that turning over foreign investment activities to a group of already established business owners might solve the problem of foreign investors; how to attract them and how to keep them from taking over. He suggested that Pohnpei wants "serious" investors, businesses that could invest \$50 million or more.

Mauricio said that export in the FSM is far behind what it should be and that he would seek to develop it. He said that if he were elected he would promote commercially based tourism in Pohnpei. He remained neutral on the issue of the Foreign Investment Law.

What area would you focus on for economic development?

The last question came from the audience, "If there was one area you would focus on for economic development what would it be and why?"

Del Pangelinan was given five minutes to answer the question. He said that when you are Governor you have to deal with many sectors and that you must prioritize on the basis of what is quickly doable. Pohnpei State already has facilities to accommodate fisheries and he would prioritize that area first. Tourism and agriculture would be his next priorities.

Senator Perman said in his overtime response that he was reminded of a summit in Palikir where fisheries, tourism, and agriculture were set as the focus of private sector development in the FSM. Pohnpei has the facilities to develop fisheries but it needs to do more in his estimation. He said that the Foreign Investment law favors tourism and applauded PPA's pursuit of the Japanese Government to extend the runway at the airport in order to bring in more tourists.

John Ehsa said that he would concentrate on the reestablishment of the school lunch programs in Pohnpei. Local farmers and fishermen would have no problem selling their produce with a school lunch program for 8,000 students. If Pohnpei State, every Tuesday, put one banana on a plate for each stu-

dent, farmers will sell 8,000 bananas. This will, if Pohnpei can afford it, redistribute the wealth down to the grass roots.

Rufino Mauricio said that Pohnpei has an accommodating infrastructure in that there is enough land to develop agriculture. He would concentrate on agriculture and that wealth would be spread under his administration to farmers that have not had it before.

Jack Yakana said that agricultural experts have said that farming wouldn't work in Pohnpei State but that he disagrees with them. He would concentrate on the exportation of Black Pepper, Sakau, and Betelnuts.

Gubernatorial Candidates' Closing Remarks

Though this article is the longest that The Kaselehlie Press has ever published Del Pangelinan, in his closing statement said that the responses of the day had been shorter than the complex issues suggested they should be. He implored his listeners to make their choice carefully because they would reap the fruits of their choice for years to come.

Senator Perman implored the audience to make intelligent choices for the next Governor because he will pave the way for the people of Pohnpei. To the gathered students, "It has been said that your generation is easily bought." He warned them to be careful saying that the choice they would make as voters is important to their future.

John Ehsa closed by saying that he had benefited by his time at the forum. "If you have a shred of doubt about anything I've said...you can call me 24-7 until November 13. After that, don't bother me!"

Dr. Mauricio Rufino said that the candidates on the day of the Forum had demonstrated cooperation, honesty, and respect for each other. He challenged the students who he called the future leaders of Pohnpei State to work and think hard as they make their choices.

Lt. Governor Jack Yakana said that he took his job at Pohnpei State very seriously. Because he has children he said, "I'm going to vote for myself because I care about our future."

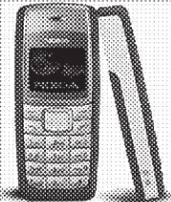
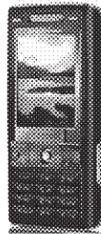
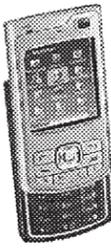
With that, Joe Saimon of COM who had mediated the forums declared the Q&A Forums ended.

The election will be on November 13.

Candidates Views

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Tahiti Based French Frigate Prairial in the FSM

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehle Press

This was Commander Benoit Rouviere's first trip to Pohnpei as Commander of The Prairial. He was here 15 years ago as a crew member on another vessel. They joined the FSM National Police for an exercise and operation in the southern waters of the EEZ. He said, "the waters were pretty empty this time."

The vessel normally patrols the waters of French Polynesia making their presence known as a deterrent to wrong doers like illegal fishing vessels.

We asked him if vessels in French Polynesian waters utilize Vessel Monitoring Systems as they are required to do in the FSM's EEZ. He said that they get a lot of help from Polynesian vessels because those are the only vessels that are allowed to fish in their EEZ. VMS systems are not used. Polynesian fishermen have a vested interest in notifying them of illegal fishing vessels in the waters.

The vessel is equipped with an Alloette II SA 219 B helicopter

aboard. The helicopter has a range of 140 nautical miles greatly increasing the Prairial's investigatory range. Commander Rouviere said the helicopter gives the Prairial, "good control of a large area."

The helicopter is charged by the Navy with ships recognition, search and rescue, and medical evacuation.

During the exercise with the FSM the French crew helped with some inservice training of the Police. The helicopter performed an airlift to and from the deck of the FSM Vessel.

While here the crew enjoyed some shore leave in Pohnpei. On Tuesday they challenged locals to a game of softball in the morning and soccer in the afternoon.

Invited guests on Monday evening attended a cocktail party of the 307 foot vessels with the Capitaine de Fregate and crew.

The vessel was scheduled to depart for Hawaii on Thursday morning but due to a short term engine problem they were unable to leave until Friday morning.



Photo by Bill Jaynes

On Tuesday, October 23rd the crew of The Prairial took on all comers in a friendly game of Soccer. They dominated ball handling in the first half. Pohnpei scored first in the second half but the French team scored two goals in rapid succession late in the game winning by a score of 2 to 1. Pohnpei did better the next day tying the crew 2 to 2.

Chavez Flags Oil-Fired Push in Pacific

THE AUSTRALIAN
PACNEWS

22 OCTOBER 2007 NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) -The Venezuela Government of international pariah Hugo Chavez has signalled a challenge to Australia's influence in the Pacific with an aggressive diplomatic push based on cheap fuel for island states, *The Australian reports*.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 38th Pacific Islands Forum in Tonga last week Venezuela's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs for Asia, Middle East and the Pacific, Vladimir Poljak, said his Government was ready to help end the West's "domination" in the region.

In a further challenge to Australia — one of the region's biggest aid donors — Mr Poljak said Venezuela did not need the "permission" of bigger countries to establish contacts in the Pacific. Oil-rich Venezuela was granted observer status at the forum by host nation Tonga, despite international disquiet over Mr Chavez's ties with Iran and communist-controlled Cuba.

Mr Poljak seized the opportunity to court influence among the 15 nations represented at the forum. "I really want you to rest assured Venezuela has a very aggressive energy-(linked) political philosophy," he said.

"Venezuela wants to end the use of fuel as a weapon of domination over smaller countries."

Since coming to power in 1998, Mr Chavez has embarked on a program of populist Left-leaning economic policies that challenge US pre-eminence in Latin America and now, apparently, the Pacific

The Chavez Government's decision to nationalise most of Venezuela's oil industry has led to prices there falling as low as 9c a litre, making it among the cheapest in the world. Asked how Venezuela might be able to help Pacific states, he suggested moves to tie them to the Chavez Government through cheap fuel.

"We can say our oil in Venezuela is used as an instrument of liberation because our oil policies are truly independent," he said.

"We have two choices: either we use it and be selfish about it or we use it and help others with it.

"We've used our oil to fund schools, health and research for the people. So I think our presence here at this forum really shows the true interest Venezuela has towards the Pacific.

"One of the things we are thinking of for Pacific countries is for them to have a storage space for their fuel and petroleum."

He did not say where or when the facility would be built but confirmed there had been approaches in recent months by Pacific states interested in securing closer economic and diplomatic links with Venezuela.

NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT SALE OF VESSEL F/V "ORYO MARU"



In accordance with Civil Action Number 2003-021 issued by the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, Trial Division, on October 25, 2007:

The Fishing Vessel "Oryo Maru" is offered for sale to interested persons in 'as is condition'.

The vessel is currently located at the Pohnpei Port, FSM National Police Maritime Wing.

Offers by persons wishing to purchase this vessel must be received no later than close of Business on **Friday November 30, 2007**.

For additional information and to arrange inspections, please contact FSM National Chief of Police, Chief Pius Chotailug on:

telephone number 320 2826 or
email nphq@mail.fm



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LOOK FOR OUR SPECIAL AREA

National Police Participates in the Pacific Heads Of Human Resources Conference

FSM National Police

Samoa hosted the second Pacific Police Heads of Human Resource Conference, an inaugural event bringing together a network of HR representatives from various police agencies across the North and South Pacific. This year's conference was attended by 15 delegates representing 11 agencies including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Nauru, Samoa, Palau, and of course the FSM National Police.

The FSM National Police realize that human resources managed well, will assist the organization to achieve its goals by making sure that the right people are attracted, retained and motivated to deliver the policing services expected by the communities in which they operate. As such, Sergeant Herman Melsohr (FSM National) attended the conference and along with the other delegates enjoyed being able to share experiences with each other over the course of their time together thus creating a strong support network for the HR

challenges they face in their respective agencies.

The purpose of the conference was for participants to receive further training on some fundamental elements of HR management and to assist in the development of select HR tools. Building on the training provided in last year's conference held in Suva, Fiji, topics covered this year include:

- The importance of job descriptions and competencies
- Promoting ethics and integrity through HR systems
- Managing performance and morale, and
- Succession planning

The 2007 Pacific Police Heads of Human Resources Conference was facilitated by Ms Sandra Tindale-Lam, the Human Resources Adviser for the Pacific Regional Policing Initiative (PRPI). PRPI is a joint AusAID and NZAID program designed to support Police agencies of the Forum Island Countries to create a safer and more secure Pacific.



Update on Tuna Commission Building

During the recent visit to Kolonia in late September by some 130 tuna industry representatives and officials from the 33 countries and territories that make up the membership of the Tuna Commission the new headquarters building was officially opened by Vice President the Hon. Alik L. Alik. Since then, the Kolonia community has been wondering why the staff of the Tuna Commission secretariat has not yet taken up residence in the building. The Commission's Executive Director, Andrew Wright, explains "The opening of the building was timed to take advantage of the visit to Pohnpei of representatives of the Commission. So, while we were able to arrange for a formal opening we are still working through the process of having a due diligence exercise for the building. This includes en-

suring that all the utilities, such as the electrical, computer, stand-by power, communications and fire prevention systems are fully operational and functional. Once any remedial work is complete, we will be in a position to re-locate to the new building." Although anxious to move as soon as practical Mr Wright noted that the secretariat is now heavily involved with preparations for the Annual Session of the Commission in Guam in early December. As a result, he thought that actual occupancy of the building would probably occur in January or February. Mr Wright explained that the December meeting was being held in Guam because the 280 delegates expected to participate in the meeting would experience no difficulties finding hotel accommodation there.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT FULL PROPOSALS



Federated States of Micronesia



European Union

Micronesia Conservation Trust is accepting project proposals for the Conservation and Environment Protection Programme (MCT-CEPP), funded by the European Union under the 9th European Development Fund.

Project proposals must address at least one of the following nominated thematic areas in the FSM National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) www.fsmgov.org

A) Ecosystem Management

Research and Monitoring for implementing appropriate resource management programs and conservation and protected areas.

Conservation Areas that include newly established and better managed existing areas that fully represent FSM's ecosystems.

B) Human Resources and Institutional Development

Human Capacity to coordinate and implement the conservation, preservation, sustainable utilization, and development of FSM's biodiversity is developed and strengthened.

Institutional Capacity to coordinate, educate and implement the conservation, preservation and sustainable utilization of FSM's biodiversity is developed and strengthened.

Public Awareness and Education on the importance of FSM's biodiversity for all stakeholders is strengthened.

Eligible Recipients:

Any Non-State Actors (NSAs) such as non-government organizations, educational and research institutions, and community-based organizations/groups in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) that is chartered, **OR** if not chartered, have evidence of legitimacy.

Grants:

There is a minimum USD \$50,000 and maximum USD\$100,000 for each project. Duration of project implementation must not exceed 18 months.

How to Apply:

Contact the Program Officer (*see address below*) to obtain an application form. Fill out application form and mail or hand-deliver to Micronesia Conservation Trust. Faxed/e-mailed applications will **NOT** be accepted.

Deadline for Submission:

Mailed applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2007 (Monday). Those delivered by hand or courier must be submitted to MCT office by 5:00 p.m. that day.

For more information, please contact the following:

Ms. Mary Rose Nakayama, Program Officer

P.O Box 2177

Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Tele: (691) 320 5670 Fax: (691) 320 8903

e-mail: mctcepp@mail.fm;

website: www.mctconservation.org

Transnational Crime Maritime Security Surveillance Coordination

Transnational crime and maritime security featured as the key issues at the annual 8th bi-lateral Australia Maritime Surveillance Coordination Talks between the Federate States of Micronesia (FSM) and Australian Government, in Palikir.

The FSM Government has undertaken to continue with cooperative arrangements for surveillance and enforcement at sea and promoting subsidiary agreements under the Niue Treaty.

The Australian Department of Defence has a long-standing Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) that uses the Pacific Patrol Boat Program to increase maritime surveillance and law enforcement capacity building.

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert, said the FSM was grateful to Australia for providing the Pacific Patrol Boats (PPB).

"The Pacific Patrol Boat Project is a flagship program in our bilateral relationship not only for capacity-building, but also for strengthening our relationship. This is in keeping with the key pillars of the Pacific Plan; sharing resources and assets in the spirit



Signing of the minutes of the 2007 Maritime Surveillance Coordination Talks talks by FSM and Australian Defence Delegates. L-R Mr Johnson Asher (Acting Secretary, Department of Justice), Mr Kandhi A. Elieisar (Assistant Secretary for Africa, Pacific, Asia and Multilateral Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs) CAPT Vic Jones, RAN (Australian Defence Attaché to Philippines, RMI, FSM and Palau) and Mr Tom Ciesniewski (Deputy Director Maritime Security Australian Department of Defence)

of cooperation," Mr Robert said.

The Secretary expressed appreciation to the Australian Defence Force for its long-term technical and financial commitment as well as its continuing efforts to assist the region in combating illegal fishing through multilateral operations such as Operation Big Eye 2007 that was conducted in the region last month.

The Defence Attaché to the

Federated States of Micronesia, Captain Vic Jones, RAN reiterated Australia's commitment to supporting the DCP. He said it was important to the security of FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone as well as regional maritime security.

"Australia also remains committed to the Pacific Patrol Boat program in the region and to the FSM's three PPBs. The Government is to be congratulated for the

conduct of maritime surveillance operations throughout the year which have resulted in some successful prosecutions," said CAPT Jones.

CAPT Jones also remarked on how well the nine countries involved in Operation Big Eye worked together as part of the Joint Coordination Centre which helped to coordinate the operational activities of eleven vessels and seven aircraft covering an area of 5.5 million square nautical miles.

This year, Defence agreed to fund nine projects proposed by the FSM Maritime Wing. These projects will provide equipment and training for the Police Maritime Wing to enhance their effectiveness in the conduct of their duties.

Maritime Security Talks are held annually between Australia and the Federated States of Micronesia to continue to promote a close and cooperative relationship which has been cultivated over the sixteen-year life of the Pacific Patrol Boat Project, and to support the FSM Maritime Wing and the FSM's three Pacific Patrol Boats: FS Ships Palikir, Micronesia and Independence.

Pacific Police Chiefs Meet in Wellington, New Zealand

National Police Press Release

The annual meeting of the 36th Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) was held in Wellington, New Zealand from 8 - 12 October 2007. The theme for the conference was "Future Directions of Pacific Policing" and was hosted by the Niue police.

Representing the FSM at the conference is FSM Chief of National Police Pius Chotailug who was accompanied by Pohnpei State Chief of Police Joe Roby and Chuk Acting Director of Public Safety Jimmy Emilio.

The conference adopted a Future Directions in Pacific Policing strategy which focuses on ethics and integrity, capacity development and regional cooperation. The Chiefs believe that this project will ensure policing jurisdictions will be well positioned for the future.

The members of the PICP considered a range of issues such as HIV Aids, the Pacific Patrol Boat Programme, Domestic Violence Project and Human Rights. The Chiefs reaffirmed their commitment to the PICP/UNAIDS programme. PICP has been represented in a number of interna-

tional forums including a police focused meeting on HIV Aids in the Hague. They agreed to continue the HIV AIDS programme for another two years with an additional emphasis on human rights.

The Chiefs continue to support a range of activities to enhance the response capability and management of information intelligence to combat transnational crime in the region. An example of this was an agreement made with the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC) to improve regional cooperation. This will strengthen working relationships for the benefit of all participating immigration and police administrations and their respective countries.

Many of the police jurisdictions operate patrol boats under the Pacific Patrol Boat Programme. At their conference last year the Chiefs recognised the potential of their patrol boats to expand their current role. The Chiefs will continue to support and promote interagency cooperation and multitasking of the patrol boats for wider law enforcement purposes beyond fisheries.

The Acting Chair of the 35th Conference, Palau's Deputy Di-

rector of Police Norvert Yano awarded the Chairman's Award for Outstanding Service to Acting Superintendent Kalinda Blake of the Nauru Police. The award recognised her outstanding service through her involvement on the Pacific Regional Policing Initiative, Regional Training Team and the development of training opportunities within Nauru Police.

The conference reiterated its support given to domestic violence prevention by signing a Declaration of Partnership between the PICP and the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP). At their last meeting the Chiefs approved a Women in Policing survey which was conducted by Victoria University. This document is now available to the Chiefs as a strategic planning tool. The conference accepted the results of that survey.

They also endorsed the PICP WAN Exchange Programme. This programme enables one female



police officer from six countries each year with the opportunity to travel to another Pacific police service and undertake three weeks of study related to a specialised aspect of policing.

The conference reconsidered the suspension of Fiji police from the PICP and resolved that it should continue.

The effect of the suspension has been that the PICP continues to interact with Fiji Police staff on humanitarian and operational issues, such as HIV AIDS and Human rights, as well as disaster response development. The PICP has not engaged Fiji police on any new projects or initiatives.

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police will meet again in Samoa in 2008.

Letters to the Editor

K-Press Taken to Task on “Single Vote” Ruling Coverage

Dear Editor:

This comes to you from a disappointed voter in regards to the recent Pohnpei court decision, outlawing single voting in the legislative districts where there are two or more legislative seats to fill. I am disappointed in your article in that it did not discuss the court's decision and its constitutional rationale but instead conveyed the personal interpretations and/or political biases of Election Commissioner Mr. Manuel.

My gut reaction to the court decision, without reading the written opinion, is that the judgment may have gone too far, way beyond the limit of the power of the court. The court seems to have limited the God-given right to the individual as to how, why and when to vote in Pohnpei legislative elections. The judge is ruling where God has intended no rules to be made—the individuals' right to vote that no one has the power to alter or take away.

The ruling will certainly open up a political-can-of-worms, after the initial election results are tabulated for the affected districts, as there could very well be numerous law suits by losing candidates.

I am disappointed in the ruling and in Mr. Manuel's ill-advised published political opinions.

Sincerely Yours,
Resio S. Moses

[Editor's Note: Thank you to Senator Moses for pointing out to me what I should have seen in the first place. On a re-read of my article in Issue 23 on this subject I find that I did deal with the ruling of the Supreme Court as if everyone had seen it, which was never my intention. I apologize for that. Below you will find a summary of Chief Justice Judah Johnny's ruling on the matter of single voting.

The judgment itself is eleven pages long, double spaced as most court documents are. It begins with a background of the legal action itself. The legal action names all candidates of the upcoming November 13 general election in Pohnpei as respondents. It came about because of a controversy that resulted from a workshop in which the petitioner, Election Commissioner Kolden E. Manuel told the participants that Single Voting would not be allowed under the Pohnpei State election law.

The issues before the court were:

“Whether the petitioner Election Commissioner has standing to sue in this action;”

The court ruled that the Election Commissioner did in fact have the standing to sue in Ex Relatione. Usually it is the Attorney General that sues Ex Rel. but since the Attorney General was in this case, the attorney for the Election Commissioner and there was no objection by that office, the Election Commissioner was ruled to be the proper petitioner in the case.

“Whether this Court has jurisdiction by judgment, to declare the validity/invalidity of single voting.”

Justice Judah C. Johnny declared this question to be the crux of the merit of the case. He said in his ruling that “the Court required counsel, together with the Court to search in the laws the manner of voting on election seats. Careful research by counsel and this Court is futile.” He said that in the absence of law on the issue there is a void and that is why the parties came to the court for a declaration on the issue of single voting.

He said, “Given that the proposition that the Pohnpei Constitution and election laws are ambiguous on the issue, it is a proper function of this Court to search for possibility that a provision reposes in

the Constitution or laws of this State, and to construe.”

Justice Johnny quoted from articles 6 and 8 of the Pohnpei State Constitution regarding who can vote, what limitations can or cannot be put on voters and the apportionment of the Pohnpei State Legislature. He also quotes the Constitutional Committee Report Number 26 which also regards apportionment.

The judgment says, “Careful examination of Committee Report Number 26 indicates without doubt that the framers of the constitution carefully carved membership to the Legislature so that the body will be composed with economy, and representative of all ethnic and cultural groups, but in fair and equal representation.”

Justice Johnny said in his closing words, “These constitutional articles must be read together in harmony. It follows therefore that while Article 6 guarantees every eligible voter the freedom to vote and to elect his/her choice representative to the Pohnpei Legislature, such right is limited and subject to the mandate of Article 8 of the Constitution. To say in simpler terms, it will be in violation of

Article 6, Section 1 of the Pohnpei Constitution to restrict eligible voter to cast vote in State elections. However, the eligible voter is constitutionally required under Article 8, Section 16, to cast vote in accordance with the dictate of the Constitution. While a legal resident of this State has suffrage right under Article 6, Section 1 of the Constitution his right is limited by other provisions of the Constitution and State law. While an eligible voter is given the right to vote, such right must be exercised in accordance with the Constitution and State law. It follows that to cast vote for more or less number than the number of seats constitutionally apportioned for each of the election districts would be inconsistent with the intent of the Constitution. Any act inconsistent with the Pohnpei Constitution is constitutionally null and void.

“Accordingly, it is the finding of this Court that single voting in those election districts of the State of Pohnpei requiring more than one representative seats must be treated as null and void.”

As Editor of The Kaselehlie Press, I apologize deeply for not including this information in the previous issue.]

Isn't This a Spoiled Ballot?

Dear Editor:

Thirty seven years ago I was a voting registrar in the District of Columbia. Thirty five years ago I served as a vote counting observer during Fiji's first post-independence national election.

In the training I received for that work—and in the work I've done since—I was taught that an incomplete ballot is a spoiled ballot (but only for the office that had the incomplete ballot—if several other offices were on the subject ballot and filled in correctly they would be counted).

It seems from a report (quoted below) from a “usually very reliable source” that this rule has changed or has been interpreted differently over the miles and years.

I know that the democratic maxim of “one-person/one-vote” is often distorted or ignored. For instance, in Vanuatu voters get only one vote whether their constituency has one seat or seven seats. (Which means that in the seven-seat Port Vila constituency, and given an average of four candidates per seat, one can win election with votes from as little as 10% of the electorate.)

But this twist is different—the implication is that one person can vote more than one time for one candidate, and this is no more democratic than what is done in Vanuatu's multi-seat constituencies.

Or have I misinterpreted the ampersands, etc., and read the report wrongly?

Dr. Charles G. Kick, III

Letters to the Editor

No Such Thing!

Kaselelie Press Staff,

Thanks for your continuing coverage of all the news in Pohnpei. We appreciate what you do. I must however, point out a mistake in the subject named article from your Wednesday Oct 17 - 30 edition. There is no such thing as a Marine Corps Medic. All Medical assets to the Corps, are supplied by the United States Navy. So, there are **Navy Corpsman** attached to Marine Corps units. I

realize this is a minor point, but I feel I must mention this, on behalf of all those brave and underappreciated Navy Corpsmen who are currently attached to Marine Corps units in harm's way throughout the world, who serve **both**, the elite United States Marine Corps and the World's finest Navy. Thanks again for your service.

Marylynn N Pedrus

Don't Sit...Go For It!

Dear Kaselelie Press,

My name is Berly Martin. I'm from Rohi, Kitti- Pohnpei. I am writing from Greenville, SC where I am attending college at ITT Technical Institute. My major is Computer Design & Drafting. I am a graduate of COM with an AS degree. I graduated in the spring of 2006. My major at COM was Building Technology- Construction Electricity.

After graduation, I was a teacher's aide at Rohi Elementary School. What a change from my major it was, but I survived. While some of the other teachers at Rohi wasted time checking their mail on "My Space", or doing other sorts of crazy stuff that might get them fired or maybe even divorced, I applied for several schools on the internet.

The next thing I knew I was here studying at ITT with one thing in mind—success!

I want to encourage all the islanders to remember that school is the key to the door that opens to a bright future.

I know a lot of you at COM just want to go to school and drink



Grand Award (151 Rum) or play volleyball in the gym. Believe me, I have been there and done it before. Don't let the alcohol and games get in your way. Remember to always believe in yourself and strive to be the best that you can be!

Special thanks to the best teacher at COM, Grilly Jack, and my parents, Ponsper and Maria Martin.

This is for all the islanders, friends, and family.... Love you all!

Kaselelie.

Your friend,
Berly Martin

B N N

By Bermin F. Weilbacher

bnn_fsm@yahoo.com

The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.

"Consultants" and "Acting Sectarys" minding the store..

After 6 months in office, the FSM President can only muster support for only 4 out of the more than a dozen posts requiring the advice and consent of the FSM Congress.

Already confirmed and functioning at their desks are:

Lorin Robert - Secretary of For-

eign Affairs
Finley Perman - Secretary of Finance

Andrew Yatilman for the Office of Environment and Emergency Management—Wooow that long?

Fabian Nimea - Office of Statistics, Budget, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management— Whooh! Stop, stop, it's too long!

The rest of the government func-

tions are either manned by hangers-on who are retained as "Consultants" or rotating "Actings" who take charge every so often. They keep the mills running in these remaining functions:

Justice, Health and Social Services, Education, Resources and Development, Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure, National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation, Ambassadors to US, Japan, China, the UN, Fiji and the Consul Generals for Hawaii and Guam

When the cat is away, the mice have a field day.

The FSMPIO recently sent a press release saying that both the President and Vice President were off island—one in Tonga and the other in Guam. It appears that the feds are copying the State?? The current administration in Pohnpei State is known for this double disappearance act. I mean is it REALLY necessary for both leaders to take off the country or State? And while they are gone, we hear tremors from some employees in some of the departments at Palikir are not happy and are contemplating quitting while others are eyeing legal recourse.

That once-every-four-years fever is about to end...

Pohnpei Election is picking up more speed and hitting cyber space and raffle fund raising. This time around, there are web sites touting some of the candidates' platforms or messages and there are raffles and fund raising to support the candidate's expenses, which could be astronomical.

The banners, billboards, you name it, they got it all over town, are getting larger and more colorful. Someone noted that there appears to be pairing of some candidates' banners or billboards—that where Candidate A posted his billboard, Candidate B would post his next to it. I am not sure if that is a silent message to the voters or accidental happening in politics.

The single vote issue has been struck down by the courts. That is, if voters were given a slate of candidates, and they voted for only one candidate, that ballot will be "Null and Void" as told

to the voters by the Election Commissioner. Now the other related issue is—since time immemorial, island voters have been given ballots that carry an extra blank line that says, "Emen torohr" meaning another person (singular emphasized). But if they are asked to vote for 2 to 4 candidates from a slate of 3 to 12, the phrase should have said, "Ekei torohr" meaning some others (plural emphasized). If voters were very very wicked and fraudulent, all they have to do is pick their favorite candidates (singular) and jot down any old Tom, Dick and Harry to fill in the "Ekei Torohr" lines. But it will take a whole lot of voters to make that tactic work.

An observer of Pohnpei's election sent us this clip: "Saipan and Guam are swarming again with candidates seeking out voters. It seems they only come around once every four years to fool us and leave us with empty promises. Last night we had two gubernatorial candidates who spent tons on powder sakau for the voters. It was interesting to see one candidate attempting to mislead the voters while the other simply told us as is. Now, if only everyone here is educated enough to be able to read between the lines, I am sure Pohnpei will benefit immensely from our good choice of a candidate."

I am not sure that they are not doing the same thing right here at home.

There are now 62 candidates running for something like 24 positions, not including municipal elections in Kolonia Town, Sokehs, U, Mwokilloa and Kapingamarangi. Hopefully there will be space in this paper for this Column to publish their names and positions before the November 13, 2007 date.

Some things that I can never figure out how or why they are the way they are...

***. Those drivers who come to an intersection, then veer to the right to make a left turn—don't they ever look in the rear view mirror to see the congestion they leave behind?

***A school girl to her dad, "Daddy, I can't stand the stench of the pig pen near my classroom. Must I bear this bad odor throughout the school year?"

To Listen or Not to Listen

The following is an excerpt from *Good News Comes to Pohnpei*, an English translation of *Rohng Mwahu Leledohng Pohnpei 1852-2002*. The original book, written in Pohnpeian for Sunday School youth, is a history of the establishment of the Congregational (Protestant) churches. It was compiled by a team of Micronesians and written by career missionary, Ms. Birgitt Gehring, who now resides in Austria after serving on Pohnpei for twenty years.

“Don’t listen to the missionaries! They are no good. They’re coming to cut down all your breadfruit trees!”

These were some of the comments made by some of the outsiders who were living on Pohnpei. Although they were not Pohnpeians and may have heard the Gospel before, they didn’t have God’s Word in their hearts. These kinds

of comments made the Pohnpeians suspicious of the missionaries. But the leaders of Kitti somehow felt that they could trust them. The Nahnmwarki even moved to Rohnkitti so that he could be close to Dr. Gulick. In addition, Iso Nahnken Nahngu supported the missionaries’ work because he saw that they brought hope and help. His wife also frequently visited the doctor to get medicine.

One morning in October 1852, soon after the missionaries had just settled in, the Nahnken sent a messenger to the missionaries to ask them to come and visit him and hold a worship service in his traditional meetinghouse (called a *nahs*). When they arrived, many people were there, waiting for them. During the service, the Iso Nahnken interrupted Rev. Sturges to ask Mr. Corgat, (a foreigner who helped Rev. Sturges), to translate into Pohnpeian what was being said so that everyone could

understand. The Iso Nahnken frequently asked questions and showed a keen interest in knowing more about the Gospel. His comment to Rev. Sturges that day was, “Excellent!”

There came a day when the Iso Nahnken visited the missionaries in their homes, and they gave him an English primer. He was very excited about it and said, “I want to learn English. And I will tell those other foreigners that are around to help me with that. If they don’t, I’ll beat them up!”

Another time he came to the missionaries and showed them a paper which two ships’ captains had given him to sign. He wanted to know if it was a good idea to sign it. According to his agreement with these captains, the Nahnken had been asked to allow the captains the use of a small island called Dolotik, which was located in the Nahlap harbor area. But when the missionaries read the agreement they discovered that the

captains were trying to deceive the Nahnken. Not only was the island to be given to the captains, but also the whole harbor. All the business that would take place in it was to be under their control. The Nahnken was very glad he had asked

the missionaries what was written, for he had almost signed the agreement. Of course the captains were very angry with the missionaries for ruining their plan to cheat the Nahnken.

In November and December of 1852, Dr. Gulick visited the village of Wone in Kitti, and also the neighboring chiefdoms of Sokehs, U and Madolenihmw. This was significant, for even though the two chiefdoms of Madolenihmw and Kitti were fighting one another, nobody bothered the missionary. He was able to visit both groups without fear.

In June 1853, Dr. Gulick and his wife moved to Sallong in Madolenihmw. The people immediately came to visit them, because there they would see two very strange sights. Dr. Gulick had brought a cow with him and the people had never seen a cow before. The other strange thing was Dr. Gulick’s library, which was made up of more than 400 books. He had brought them with him from America and Hawaii! Maybe it was the sight of so many books that made the people eager to learn to read for it wasn’t long before Dr. Gulick and his wife Louisa started a school there.”

Recently published, *Good News Comes to Pohnpei* is now available on Pohnpei at the Pacific Missionary Fellowship Bookstore and the Village Resort Gift Shop for \$12.95. You may also order copies online at: www.advbookstore.com for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.

Gary Gardell

Tide Table October 31 - November 13, 2007				
POHNPEI, KOSRAE			CHUUK	
Wednesday	31 Wed	07 Wed	31 Wed	07 Wed
	12:49AM 1.5 05:52AM 2.3 10:30AM 1.7 06:08PM 4.2	01:35AM 3.5 07:36AM 1.3 02:06PM 4.3 08:25PM 1.5	06:46AM -0.5 04:13PM 2.1	12:52AM 0.9 06:35AM 0.2 01:27PM 1.7 08:23PM 0.4
Thursday	01 Thu	08 Thu	01 Thu	08 Thu
	02:29AM 1.7 07:30AM 2.0 09:49AM 1.9 07:10PM 3.8	02:03AM 3.5 07:54AM 1.2 02:26PM 4.5 08:53PM 1.3	06:55AM -0.5 04:31PM 1.9	01:13AM 0.8 06:30AM 0.2 01:33PM 1.9 08:44PM 0.2
Friday	02 Fri	09 Fri	02 Fri	09 Fri
	05:06AM 1.7 09:23PM 3.4	02:29AM 3.4 08:12AM 1.1 02:47PM 4.7 09:21PM 1.2	07:04AM -0.4 04:37PM 1.6	01:33AM 0.7 06:30AM 0.2 01:46PM 2.1 09:09PM 0.1
Saturday	03 Sat	10 Sat	03 Sat	10 Sat
	06:05AM 1.6 01:27PM 2.9 05:31PM 2.7 11:21PM 3.4	02:54AM 3.2 08:31AM 1.1 03:10PM 4.7 09:50PM 1.1	07:09AM -0.2 04:12PM 1.4	01:51AM 0.5 06:33AM 0.1 02:04PM 2.2 09:36PM 0.0
Sunday	04 Sun	11 Sun	04 Sun	11 Sun
	06:35AM 1.5 01:19PM 3.3 06:42PM 2.3	03:19AM 3.1 08:50AM 1.1 03:34PM 4.8 10:20PM 1.1	07:05AM 0.0 03:08PM 1.2 08:02PM 1.0 11:49PM 1.1	02:08AM 0.4 06:40AM 0.0 02:25PM 2.2 10:08PM 0.0
Monday	05 Mon	12 Mon	05 Mon	12 Mon
	12:22AM 3.5 06:58AM 1.4 01:31PM 3.7 07:23PM 2.0	03:45AM 2.9 09:09AM 1.1 03:59PM 4.7 10:53PM 1.2	06:56AM 0.1 02:06PM 1.3 07:55PM 0.8	02:21AM 0.3 06:46AM -0.1 02:48PM 2.2 10:46PM 0.0
Tuesday	06 Tue	13 Tue	06 Tue	13 Tue
	01:03AM 3.5 07:18AM 1.3 01:47PM 4.0 07:56PM 1.7	04:12AM 2.7 09:29AM 1.2 04:27PM 4.6 11:31PM 1.3	12:25AM 1.0 06:44AM 0.2 01:35PM 1.5 08:06PM 0.6	02:28AM 0.2 06:52AM -0.1 03:14PM 2.2 11:38PM 0.0

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Kumer Panuelo Sets New Club Yellow-Fin Record At 12th Annual True Value Tournament

By **BOB SPEGAL**
Pohnpei Fishing Club

In May of this year, at the Pohnpei Fishing Club's Annual Tournament, Noel Boylan caught a 114.5 pound yellow-fin tuna that eclipsed his own record of 93.5 pounds, which had stood firmly since September 1993, fourteen years. It took Kumer Panuelo only five months to jump to the top of the yellow-fin list with a monster weighing 117 pounds caught during Pohnpei True Value Hardware's 12th Annual Tournament. That fish, plus two wahoo and another yellow-fin were enough to win the two True Value \$200 gift certificates awarded for Big Fish, and Total Boat Weight (*Tygris* - 190 lbs.).

Nine boats participated in the True Value Tournament vying for \$1,400 worth of gift certificates. Second place (\$100) Big Fish went to Alex Tretnoff, Jr., fishing on *Boat*, for a 60 pound yellow-fin. Third prize (\$50) Big Fish was won by Kazuhiro Fujita, fishing on *Pohnpei Ocean Cruise*, for a 10 pound dog-tooth tuna. Captained by the senior Alex Tretnoff, *Boat* won second place (\$100) for Total Boat Weight with 158.5 pounds, and *Try-Ton*, captained by Noel Boylan, took the \$50 third place

certificate with 63 pounds.

The \$200 first prize for Junior Angler went to Evan Boylan for a 9.5 pound yellow-fin, and the \$100 Junior Angler second place certificate went to Alex Kalau, fishing from *True Blue*, for a 4 pound barracuda. The \$200 first place prize for Lady Angler went to Anna Dolon for a 9.5 pound barracuda, and a seven pound yellow-fin won the \$100 second place Lady Angler certificate for Mary Allen Manuel. Both Anna and Mary were fishing aboard the *Saucerful of Secrets*, captained by Dennis Gearhart.

All the 12th Annual Tournament anglers and Pohnpei Fishing Club members extend a thank you to Pohnpei True Value Hardware for its continued support. The next tournament of 2007 will be the 4th Annual Budweiser/Bud Light Tournament on November 24th. See you there.



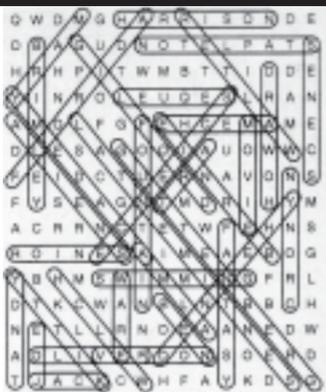
The monster fish and Kumer Panuelo. Kumer is on the right!



Photos by Bill Jaynes

The deadline for ads and news items for the next issue is November 9

LAST Issue's Solution



LAST Issue's Solution

CRAM URGE PIP
HOLE SEAL ERA
OATS HARK SOL
PROSPECT LONE
ARTERY
ALTARS REREAD
PEARS TIARA
EDGIER SACRED
SCAMPI
ACNE VIOLATED
MOO PINK CHAI
MAP ONCE HERS
OLE TEEN YENS

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.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.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

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

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Pohnpei Farmers Focus on the Right to Food!

By Dr. Lois Englberger
Pohnpei Island Food Community

The 2007 Pohnpei Farmers Fair/World Food Day celebrated 19 October, 2007, at Pohnpei Agriculture, Botanical Garden in Kolonia, focused on the theme "The Right to Food" and showed a wealth of unique local food crops.

Two exciting entries were those of the 250 pound yam of Sosner Hedgar, winning the *kehpeniou* category and the 225 pound yam of Domisy Elias, winning the *kehpen dol en wai* category. These yams topped last year's yam entries, which weighed 210 pounds. Over 100 farmers, women and men, participated in this year's crops competition. Kesia Paulino won the prestigious Farmer of the Year Award, based on the number of points won in the prizes.

Winners in the main categories included: Samuel Washington, 1st Prize Karat; Ioana Saimon, 1st Prize Utin Iap (a whopper bunch weighing 100 pounds); Kesia Paulino, 1st Prize Karat en Iap; Sailome Edward, 1st Prize Utimwas; Joahna Henry, 1st Prize Daiwang; Kilastina Pelep, 1st Prize Ihpali; Pedrus Abraham, 1st Prize Mangat; Walter Ladore, 1st Prize Akadah; Aquilla Washington, 1st Prize Akadah Weitah; Salome Edward, 1st Prize Utin Kerenis; Semens Pluhs, 1st Prize Utiak; Kesia Paulino, 1st Prize Utin Rais (also called Kudud); Kilastina Pelep, 1st Prize Peleu; Walter Ladore, 1st Prize, Utin Menihle; Cantero Henry, 1st Prize Inahsio; and Bengka Eperiam, 1st Prize Utin Ruk.

Other crop categories included: taro, cassava, sweet potato, pepper, sugar cane, coconut, fruits and

vegetables, and pigs and chicken. The School Essay Competition, coordinated by the Pohnpei Department of Education, was won by Kimo Caro, an 8th Grade student from CCA Elementary School, with his essay titled "The Right to Food."

The Healthy Cooking Competition, coordinated by the College of Micronesia-FSM, focused on local food recipes low in fat, sugar, and salt. Serly James won the taro category, with her recipe Kariana Mweiang, baked in the energy-efficient smokeless charcoal oven, see the attached recipe and photo. Other winners included: Lolanda David, Karat; Nelihser James, local food open category; Rekihna Andon, Daiwang; and Nelihser James, pandanus.

A final activity of World Food Day 2007 in Pohnpei will be the Candlelight Vigil, to be held at the Spanish Wall in Kolonia, Monday evening 29 October, 2007, at 6 pm. Similar ceremonies are being held around the world to commemorate local and global efforts on promoting local food and food security.

As in previous years, the Farmers Fair/World Food Day event was an inter-agency activity, coordinated by the Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs, COM-FSM CRE, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP), and Departments of Education and Health. Warm thanks are given to the funding agencies: IFCP, Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Forests and Trees Programme.



The large 250 pound yam of Sosner Hedgar, winning the *kehpeniou* category, at the 2007 Farmers Fair, held 19 October 2007, at Pohnpei Agriculture in Kolonia.

Recipe of the Week Kariana Mweiang

4 cups grated giant swamp taro
1 cup ripe banana
1 ½ cup coconut cream
½ cup sugar

Method

1. Mix taro, banana, sugar and a bit of the coconut cream.
2. Shape round balls and make a hole in the center, filling these with coconut cream.
3. Leave some coconut cream for putting in the cooking pan.
4. Bake in the energy-efficient charcoal oven for about one hour.



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