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Pohnpei breaks ground on Nan Madol World Heritage site visitors center

By PJ Pedrus
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A Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Nan Madol Visitor Center was held on May 24th at Temwen, Madolenihmw. Guests included His Majesty Kerpet Ehpel, Isipahu, Nanmwahrki en Madolenihmw, Governor Marcelo Peterson, Ambassador Ryoichi Horie of Japan, and other representatives of communities from Pohnpei and the United States. After several welcoming remarks, dignitaries performed the ceremonial ground breaking. The event was blessed with refreshments for all and a lovely impromptu concert by Ambassador Horie and his wife Yuko who sang Amazing Grace and Somewhere Over the Rainbow for His Majesty.



UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2016. It was also placed on the World Heritage in Danger List at that time due to its current state and the lack of conservation and management systems of the site. The proposed center will control the number of visitors and traffic at the site. It will have a function as the base for heritage education for school students and guide trainees. Thus, the center will play a significant role in site conservation.



Projects Scheme contributed US\$181,394 towards the Visitors Center. The grant will be used only for constructing the building, while other costs such as the access road, landscaping, infrastructure, and displays will be funded by Pohnpei State Government. Pohnpei will also be paying for continued maintenance and staffing. The State Historic Preservation Office and Tourism Office will co-manage the center.

Nan Madol was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2016. It was also placed on the World Heritage in Danger List at that time due to its current state and the lack of conservation and management systems of the site. The proposed center will control the number of visitors and traffic at the site. It will have a function as the base for heritage education for school students and guide trainees. Thus, the center will play a significant role in site conservation.

The Japan Government's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots

The traditional feast house nahs-style

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FSM audit says some FSM employees receiving "pro" salaries without "pro" qualifications

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 4, 2019

FSM—FSM's Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) said in a recently released audit that there are still problems with the FSM's Professional and Market Place Premium Programs that have created the possibility for fraud. Auditors determined that there were employees who did not qualify for the

premiums but were receiving professional premiums. Those cases have been referred to ONPA's Compliance Investigation Division.

The Professional Premium is a salary enhancement given to an employee of the National Government who has achieved professional status in the fields of law, accounting, or engineering, or who has earned a doctorate degree in any field. If qualified, the employee will receive a premium of 90% in addition to the base salary for a position with the National Government.

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Future of Pohnpei Transportation Authority is uncertain as losses continue

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 3, 2019

Pohnpei—Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA) brought its annual losses down to only \$278,750 last year, 15 percent less than it lost the year before, says an audit by the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (OPA).

The audit was conducted to analyze and express an opinion on PTA’s financial statements as of September 2018, after auditors suggested adjustments they found to fairly represent the financial condition. It also conducted a performance audit. As has happened before with PTA audits, auditors found deficiencies in record keeping and other matters.

PTA, a component unit of the Pohnpei State government, still owes a lot of money to the government. The amount only increased in fiscal year 2018, up 19 percent from \$1,363,873 to \$1,623,344. In its collection efforts Pohnpei’s Department of Treasury and Administration issued a memo dated January 25, 2018 saying that 30 percent of all reimbursements received by PTA should be credited to Pohnpei’s General Fund to pay for the liability. The government approved board of directors of PTA has not yet approved that plan.

“The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that PTA will continue as a going concern,” the audit said. “The agency has suffered recurring losses during the prior years,” the audit said. “In spite of large and overdue non-current liability, PTA’s current operating expenses also significantly increased...The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this

uncertainty.”

The executive summary of the audit said that operating revenues for the year were \$1,463,301, an increase of 38 percent over the prior fiscal year which had \$1,058,097 in revenues. However, operating expenses also increased by 26 percent from \$1,386,567 to \$1,742,051. 37 percent of total operating expenses was for payroll related costs.

PTA is also a party to six legal proceedings, some of which may require them to pay damages. No provisions for any liability that might result from court cases have been made in their financial statements.

Though the principal purpose of the audit was to verify that PTA’s finance statements fairly represented the financial condition of PTA, it also covered performance issues. Auditors discovered numerous control weaknesses in the Authority. As in past years’ audits, many of those weaknesses had to do with the failure of PTA personnel to ensure that records were accurately filed.

Auditor mentioned that one of the problems was that the former PTA comptroller left the Authority in September of 2018 and therefore no qualified staff remained to ensure appropriate records were prepared and maintained. “Having no qualified personnel to perform accounting and financial related duties has been a constant problem that management has not been able to resolve successfully,” auditors said.

However, in his response to the audit, PTA Commissioner Sadorino Martin said that PTA hired a new certified accountant in April of this year who has been instructed to work with the staff to ensure that records are better maintained in the future.

Pohnpei auditors point out problems in handling official travel expenses

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 3, 2019

Pohnpei—Pohnpei’s Office of the Public Auditor has released an audit of travel and transportation arrangements for Pohnpei State government officials. The audit says that the Pohnpei State government spent an average of over \$540,000 per year for travel during the audit period for a total of over \$2.1 million. The audit covered fiscal years 2013-2016.

The report listed several internal control weaknesses:

1. Non-compliance with the Pohnpei State Government Travel and Transportation Legal Framework;
2. Excessive unpaid outstanding Travel Advances;
3. Official Travelers “double dipping”;
4. Inconsistent travel rates/allowances paid to official travelers; and
5. Travel expenditures in excess of approved budgets.

Auditors found cases of missing documentation, incorrect per diem rates paid, and incidents of travel vouchers having been filed well beyond the 10 days employees are given to file them after returning from official trips.

\$103,841.57 worth of travel vouchers had simply never been filed, though the Director of Treasury and Administration (DoT&A) is authorized by law to deduct owed amounts from employees’ paychecks after the filing of travel voucher documentation is 60 days overdue. The auditors said at least one

of the employees with an outstanding travel advance no longer works for the Pohnpei government. They further said that DoT&A has continued to issue travel advances to employees with outstanding balances.

In his audit response, Feliciano M. Perman disagreed with nearly all of the audit findings. On the matter of outstanding travel advances he said that all travelers had been notified, some are allotting and others have paid off their advances. He said that only three travelers have not filed their vouchers. He said that his department constantly follows up with those travelers.

Auditors included the finding in the audit despite the objection saying that the auditee is responsible for the accuracy and reliability of documentary information provided to auditors. “We have repeatedly requested DoT&A to provide our audit team (with) an updated schedule of travelers who have filed their travel vouchers, are paying or have paid off their outstanding travel advances without success,” auditors wrote.

The same auditor response applied to DoT&A’s objections about the finding that in at least three cases, travelers had received double entitlements for the same expense. DoT&A wrote that the Legislature requested 40 percent of the per diem rate to cover expenses of travelers that were not included by the sponsor. Auditors left the finding in the audit saying that there was no appropriate documentation filed at State Finance to support Legislature’s requests.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Interior Announces \$830,848 in FY 2019 discretionary funding support for the Federated States of Micronesia

Office of the Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, today announced \$830,848 in fiscal year 2019 Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grant support for the benefit of the Federated States of Micronesia.

“Secretary David Bernhardt and I are pleased to support both public auditor training as well as the expansion of robotics training to Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with this year’s funding,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “Oversight and accountability are essential for any government to be fiscally sound, and we are glad to see the FSM continue its focus on these important responsibilities. In addition, we welcome the growing interest in STEM areas by students in the FSM focused on robotics training. This funding is only a small aspect of the relationship that the United States and the FSM share under the Compact of Free Association,” Domenech concluded.

Both Secretary Bernhardt and Assistant Secretary Domenech met last week with Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo as well as with President Hilda C. Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. of the Republic of Palau. The three presidents traveled to Washington to a meeting with President Donald J. Trump and other high-level U.S. officials. In these meetings, the United States, the FSM, the RMI, and Palau all reaffirmed their respective commitments to the Compacts of Free Association and continued close cooperation.

Technical Assistance Program FY 2019 grant funding provided for the benefit of the Federated States of Micronesia follows:

- FSM National Public Auditor’s Office, Pohnpei State Public Auditor’s Office, and Yap State Office of the Public Auditor - \$546,354 will be provided to enhance capacity building and professional development training initiatives for the various

offices. Funding supports professional development and certification through training programs with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of the Inspector General and the annual Association of Certified Fraud Examiner Conference, among others. Funding this year will be used to purchase TEAM Mate audit software with a goal of connecting the four state audit offices to the FSM national office. Finally, funding will support participation in the upcoming 30th Annual Conference of the Association of the Pacific Island Public Auditors, which will be from August 26 – 30 on Guam. For more on the APIPA 2019 conference visit their website at www.apipa2019.org. The APIPA program is another program supported by the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs (OIA).

- Habel - Robo League - \$240,492 will be used to support student robotics teams at 23 public and private high schools across the Federated States of Micronesia where at least 450 students are participating in weekly in designing, building, and navigating robots. Micronesian States of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap. FY 2019 funding will expand the program to include isolated schools on outer atolls in the FSM and Kosrae State.

First established in Yap State in 2011, the Yap Robo League was organized and hosted by the U.S. non-profit organization Habel Outer Islands Education Fund. In 2018, it was turned into a nationwide league, expanding to Chuuk and Pohnpei with funding assistance from OIA. OIA is proud to again provide assistance in FY 2019 that supports the program’s expansion to Kosrae State, thereby covering all four states in the Federated States of Micronesia.

“I am especially pleased to see that opportunities to participate in robotics provided by the Yap Robo League have now been extended to students in Kosrae State, covering the entire FSM,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “When I last visited the FSM in June 2018, I had the honor of meeting with FSM Vice President Yosiwo George where we celebrated the expansion of the program to Pohnpei and Chuuk.

We believe that this program has and will continue to impact students’ lives for good,” Assistant Secretary Domenech concluded.

Technical Assistance Program funding is made available each year by the U.S. Congress to benefit the U.S. territories and freely associated states. The funds are used broadly to help strengthen economic development resources and opportunities in the islands, which also directly supports President Donald J. Trump’s recent Executive Order on the Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. TAP priorities have included, but are not limited to: accountability; financial management; economic development; education; energy production; management control initiatives; disaster assistance; natural and cultural resources; capacity building; public safety/emergencies; health initiatives; and invasive species management.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Bank of the FSM posts record breaking profits and dividend payments

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 5, 2019

Yap, FSM—On May 28, 2019 the Bank of the FSM held its Annual General meeting in Yap. The meeting was held at the Small Business Development Center’s Conference Room in Colonia. During the meeting Vice Chairman Patrick Mackenzie announced record setting results for the Bank of the FSM and congratulated the shareholders for their wise investment. He said that the Bank of the FSM is delivering excellent numbers and great results year after year.

The bank currently has 9,200 depositors and 5,434 loans. As of April 2019 the bank had 4,599 shareholders most of whom paid a price of \$10 per share. This year shareholders received another record setting dividend of \$1.37 per share. The dividend shareholders received in June of last year was \$1.12 per share for a total of \$1,046,470 in dividends paid out that year. The Bank’s Annual Report was published before the dividend amount for 2018 earnings had been decided upon so

total amount of dividends was not available in that document.

Mackenzie congratulated his co-directors and the bank management for outstanding results and grades, saying that the bank has had a sustainable banking model and has continued to grow and prosper year after year. He produced graphs, charts and numbers, and an Annual Report that showed 15 years of steadily improving results.

The Bank of FSM press release says that record or near record results were achieved in the areas of Assets, Deposits, Capital, Dividends, Book Value per Share, Core Earnings and Profit. The Annual Report says that for the year ended December 31, 2018 the earned a net profit of \$2,553, 731 compared to \$2,100,612 in fiscal year 2017. Its Loan Portfolio increased from \$45 million in 2017 to \$48.7 million in 2018. Deposits increased by \$18.5 million over the year to \$139.4 million.

Board Chairman Larry Adams recently announced that the bank is firmly committed to remaining a locally incorporated Bank that is dedicated to the people of the FSM and to helping the economic growth of the FSM.

Other members of the Bank of the FSM’s Board of Directors are Secretary Senny Phillip who is the Assistant Secretary of Investment and International Finance at the FSM National Government; Anna Mendiola, the President and CEO of FSM Development Bank; Andy Choor, Owner, Savannah Store; John Sohl, Board of Directors of the FSM Development Bank; and Feliciano Perman, the Director of Treasury and Administration Office of Pohnpei State Government.

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...Premiums

Continued from front page

The Market Place Premium benefit is given to an employee who is recruited in a location outside of the FSM, who is a non-citizen of the FSM, and at the time of original hire, a non-resident. The qualified person is paid a premium based on labor market conditions in the place of recruitment and on the level of the base salary.

Auditors said that they conducted the audit, the first since 2010, based on information from a key departmental staff member who alleged that a recipient of the professional premium who worked in the same department where he worked did not meet the eligibility requirements. Auditors also wanted to see if any of the changes they had recommended in 2010 had been enacted. The current audit covered 2016 through 2018 fiscal years.

Auditors determined that there were no appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the beneficiaries deliver the services required in terms of training and capacity development for the local employees. Auditors also concluded that there was no awareness provided to the departments/offices/and entities of the National Government regarding the existence and purpose of the Professional and Market Place Premium Program. Consequently, a small number of employees from only a few departments were aware of and took the effort to apply and access the Program.

The audit said that in 2016, 14 employees received professional or market place premiums. In 2017 the number was 17, and in 2018, 25 employees received a salary adjustment. Though at least one engineer in other years received a professional premium, the recent audit showed that only the Department of Justice, the Office of the Public Defender, the FSM Supreme Court, and the FSM Congress had employees who were receiving a salary premium of one kind or another. Considering the nature of those offices, the premiums were likely provided to attorneys, though the audit did not say so.

The auditors admitted that the beleaguered Division of Personnel has been shuffled around with the government from the early Office of Administrative services to the Department of Finance and Administration, to its current position under the Office of the President. As such, they were subjected to inherently different oversight responsibilities. Each of the

moves was mandated by executive orders from different FSM Presidents.

“The importance of the services which the Division is mandated by law to administer is recognized,” auditors concluded, “however, empowering the Division with adequate resources and capacities seems to be ignored.”

The auditors concluded that the Division lacked effective internal controls in relation to the salary premiums. It said that some of the personnel files for employees who received premiums were missing copies of earned degrees; background checks; certificates of admission to practice law in another jurisdiction; and certificates of good standing issued by Supreme Court or law society in the jurisdiction where the beneficiary was a Bar member.

“As of February 28, 2019, 10 out of 25 employees receiving premiums did not meet the eligibility requirements,” the audit said. “Of the 13 employees on Prime Employment Contracts receiving professional premiums, seven were members of the FSM Supreme Court Bar and six were not. Of the six, four had conditions stated in their employment contracts which required them to sit and pass the FSM Supreme Court Bar examination within the first year of their employment. As of February 28, 2019, one of them had been working for more than 5 years and not passed the bar examination,” the audit continued.

Auditors further noted that the condition for recipient of a premium to pass the FSM Bar within one year of employment was instituted even though it did not comply with the law which requires that an lawyer be a FSM Bar member in order to be eligible for a premium

As its third finding, auditors found that there was a failure to ensure that values from the Premium program are maximized, particularly the value of premium recipients providing help to build local capacity through training.

“Out of 13, eight employees with prime employment contracts and recipients of the professional premium indicated that their job duties and responsibilities were only verbally explained and discussed with them. Only six out of 13 employees with prime employment contracts had provisions in their contract which required them to conduct training and capacity development programs for the local employees. Of the six employees, four of them confirmed that they were actually conducting and providing training for the local staff. None of the 4 employees provided sufficient records and/or documentations to confirm that trainings were indeed conducted by them,” the

audit said.

“The employment contracts for some of the employees were renewed. However, there were no documented performance evaluation reports to justify contract renewal(s),” the audit said.

Auditors identified potential effects of the failure to realize the values and the benefits of the premium program as “continued payment of high salaries (base plus premium) on foreign and local employees without corresponding benefits; perpetual dependency on externally sourced employees; and the risk of poor performance issues within the public service if job skills, knowledge and expertise are not shared by those with specialized knowledge and hired under the premium program.”

Dwight Edward, Personnel Officer/

Administrator generally agreed with the findings of the audit.

“For what it’s worth,” he wrote, “I have already initiated a number of mitigating and corrective measures with the assistance of our in-house special consultant during the past year through a number of Policy notes, proposed amendments to the PSSR and PSS (FSMC Title 52) and the reactivation of the Executive Branch’s Manual of Administration(MOA), with a view to respond to most, if not all (of) the weaknesses and efficiency challenges and issues faced by the Personnel Office and as identified by this report. We are also analyzing the administrative and budgetary impacts and I have currently filled one position which will be the key person responsible for reviewing and making sure that persons receiving these premiums meet the requirements.”

FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs explores developing a National Human Rights Institution

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—From May 20th to May 24th, 2019, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) sent representatives from the Department of Health & Social Affairs (DHSA), in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community’s Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC RRRT) and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), to consult with the Governments of the States of Yap, Kosrae, and Chuuk regarding the feasibility of establishing a National Human Rights Institution for the FSM. These consultations are a follow-up from the 2017 scoping mission for such an institution which involved both the FSM National Government and the Government of Pohnpei State, which concluded that outreach with the remaining FSM states was necessary for moving forward.

The FSM, given its wide range of indigenous languages, cultures, and ethnic groups, as juxtaposed to the Nation’s commitments on the United Nations Conventions on the rights of the child, women, and persons with disabilities, is interested in determining—through consultation with citizen stakeholders—whether a National Human Rights Institution would improve the Nation’s capacity to ensure that the rights granted to citizens and residents by our National and State Constitutions are provided for all.

by law, given the mission to monitor, protect, and promote human rights in a given country. National Human Rights Institutions appear in developing countries, such as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and in developed countries, such as New Zealand, and concern themselves with alleged violations of rights recognized in the nation’s constitution, and/or in international human rights measurement systems.

The combined outcomes of the consultations with all four FSM States, once reported back to the FSM Office of the President by the end of July, will be used to determine the Government’s informed opinion on whether developing a National Human Rights Institution is feasible and, if so, whether such an organization would be in the best interest of the citizens of the Nation.



A National Human Rights Institution is an independent organization, established

The National Human Rights Institution consultations in Chuuk State

President David W. Panuelo meets with Secretary Robert Wilkie of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, discusses supporting veterans in the FSM

FSM Information Services

Washington D.C., May 24, 2019 – Near the conclusion of his visit to the United States, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with the Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The two had met earlier at the occasion of His Excellency’s visit to Arlington National Cemetery.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss specific issues on how to improve support to veterans of the U.S. military residing in the FSM. These issues include veterans’ access to healthcare, home loans, education, and other benefits available to all veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces but whom veterans who are from, and reside in, the FSM have had difficulty in fully utilizing.

Veterans from the FSM who have served honorably continue to face difficult challenges in being able to access benefits that they are eligible for, simply based on the fact that they work and reside in the FSM. The United States Government is working to change that; the introduction in the U.S. Congress of the COFA Veterans Review Act represents the first step in improving the process.

The Act, upon passage, will require the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a three-year pilot program to enable U.S. military veterans from, and residing in, the FSM to have access to an electronic database in order to simplify registration requirements, the promotion and ease-of-use in distance-learning educational opportunities, and the establishment of a tele-health network.

Regardless of the status of the Act pending in the U.S. Congress, Secretary Wilkie and his Department clearly recognize the shortcomings in

...Nan Madol

Continued from front page

building will include a central area for cultural activities, exhibition areas, office, multi-purpose room and toilets. It was designed collaboratively by Director Nicholson Solomon of Pohnpei Resources and Development, State architects from Pohnpei Transportation and Infrastructure, Drs. Osamu Kataoka and Takuya Nagaoka, Pohnpei HPO staff and the AFCP team.

Dr. Douglas C. Comer, President of the Cultural Site Research and Management Foundation, is also working on this project. He is suggesting that specifics of the interpretive element of the center include a short orientation film created by College of Micronesia students, a detailed map of Nan Madol, a landscape diorama, and linking the site to other archaeological, historic, and culturally important natural features on Pohnpei and on other FSM islands, for example, Chuuk and Kosrae.

It is hoped that the inscription of Nan Madol on the World Heritage List will gradually boost tourism in the FSM. It is critical that sufficient care must be taken to make improvement which will not create damage to the site and that tourists are educated to be respectful visitors to this sacred place. This center will provide that education and will help to ensure that the increase in tourism is positive and generates healthy economic development.

the access process, and are moving forward with ways to adequately address veterans’ needs in the interim. The Secretary emphasized the fact that his proposed budget submissions to the U.S. Congress are the largest in history, partly because of plans to widen the scope of delivering benefits to all eligible veterans, and to improve the current service delivery processes as well. He was quick to point out that FSM veterans and enlistments are the highest rates per capita of any other country, including the United States itself, and how appreciative the U.S. has been regarding the honorable service and, most importantly, the ultimate sacrifice paid by some of those veterans.

As part of the emphasis and importance that the United States places in this effort, Secretary Wilkie has indicated the U.S. Government’s intent for him to visit the FSM, and attend the National Joint Inauguration ceremony on July 29th, 2019; Secretary Wilkie advised that he looks forward to meeting as many veterans as he can during his short visit.



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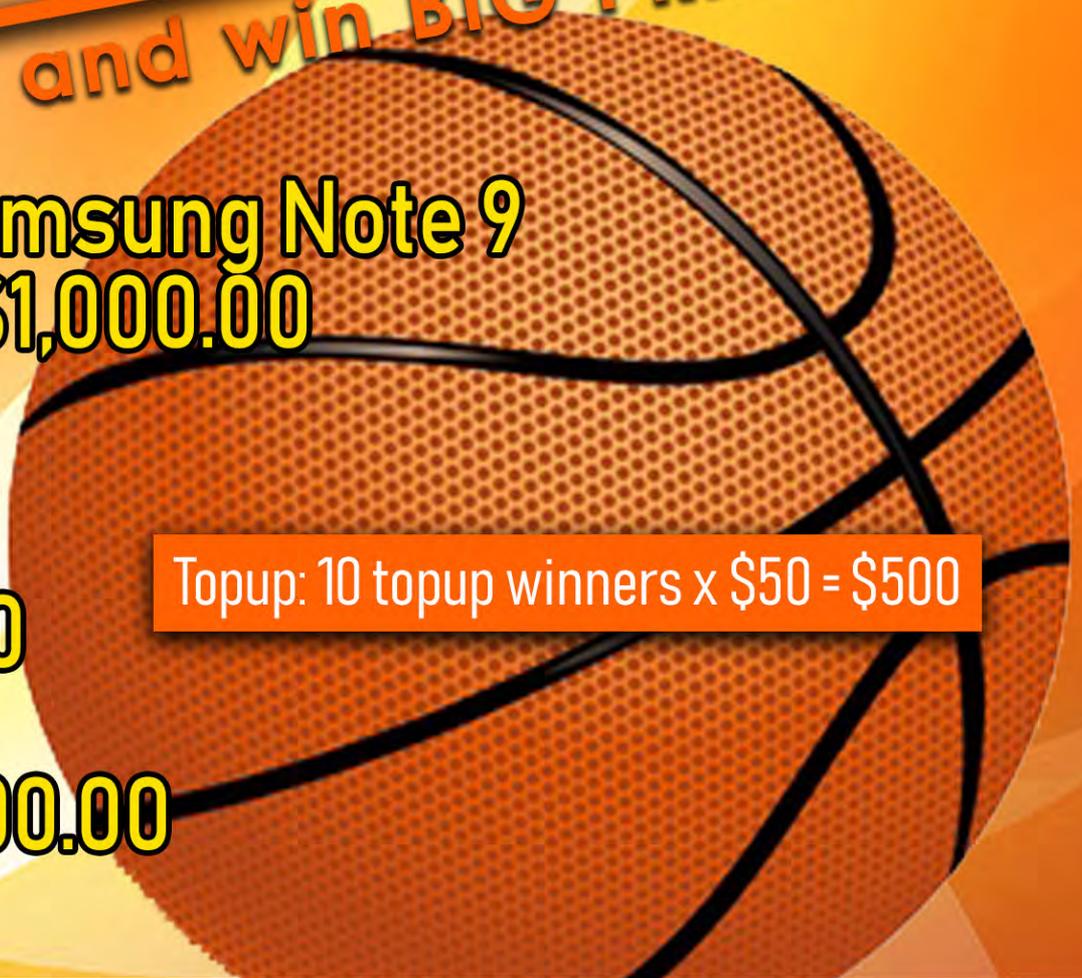


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FSM National Government Condemns “Machete Attack” in Guam, Calls for Unity & Compassionate Response

FSM Information Services

HAGATNA, Guam—The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) understands that on Tuesday June 4th, 2019, an altercation between three individuals occurred in the vicinity of a store close to the University of Guam in Mangilao involving the use of machetes. One individual was reportedly injured by a machete, and the two other individuals approached cars leaving the University of Guam campus, hitting seven of them—including one driven by the Honorable Judi Guthertz, a former Senator in the Guam Legislature and presently an employee of the University of Guam. The Government of the FSM understands that one of the individuals involved in this incident is a citizen of the FSM, and that the incident has propagated sincere discussion in Guam on the issue of some citizens of the FSM living there conducting themselves in a manner that undermines public safety.

The Government of the FSM condemns the behavior of the individuals involved in this incident; these types of threatening actions, real and perceived, negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of other human beings. The Government of the FSM hopes that the people and Government of Guam will not condemn the people and Government of the FSM for the undesirable and unlawful actions of a few, in light of the continuing positive and productive community contributions of the vast majority of FSM citizens living and working in Guam.

The Government of the FSM promotes the values on its seal of peace, unity, and liberty, and abjectly condemns any and all violence and disorder, in any shape or form. The Government regrets that the behavior of a citizen of the FSM has negatively impacted one or more lives and, through the FSM Consulate Office in Guam, working with

partners such as Guam FSM community Leadership organizations, local Guam community outreach organizations, local law enforcement, and the Micronesian Resource Center, will work with as many stakeholders as possible to develop and implement programs that will attempt to ensure that incidents of this sort don't occur.

The FSM National Government recognizes that there are linguistic, economic, and cultural challenges involved when citizens of the FSM migrate outside of the FSM's borders—as there are when citizens of other nations migrate to the FSM. The Government and people of the FSM express their sincerest apologies to those affected by this unfortunate incident.

“As President of the FSM, I apologize for any harmful conduct by some of our citizens. I call upon the people of the FSM to work together to be one Nation that

promotes peace and love in our common humanity,” President Panuelo said.

We emphasize our continuing message that citizens of the FSM living in Guam are our ambassadors of the Nation; they help promote a better understanding of the FSM to our host communities in Guam, and help promote FSM citizens' understanding of our Guamanian neighbors. Citizens of the FSM living in Guam are encouraged to collectively strive to improve their lives and the lives of those around them.

The FSM Consulate Office can be contacted by phone at +671-646-9154/5, or visited in person at 1755 Army Drive, Harmon, Guam 96913. The Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop can be contacted by phone at +671-686-2227, or visited in person at 272 East Harmon Industrial Park Rd, Tamuning, 96913, Guam.

FSM Digital ICT Conference outlines coming changes to provide wider spread digital access in FSM

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

June 6, 2019

Pohnpei—This morning the Federated States of Micronesia kicked off the Digital ICT Conference on internet connectivity and telecommunications within the FSM.

Though the process of introducing competition in the FSM has been going on since before the FSM Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 2014, and undersea cables have already reached Pohnpei, Yap and Chuuk, in that order, the process has been little understood by most people in the FSM.

During the conference Pieter Bakker, the new CEO of the FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMTCC), the Open Access Entity (OAE) which now owns the undersea fiber optic “pipelines” that transport our digital information back and forth, announced that the bidding process for contractors to roll out the cable to service Kosrae, Kiribati, and Nauru will begin within just a couple of weeks. From that time it will be approximately a year and a half until that line is laid and ready to go. By the time that line is ready to go, the World Bank will have provided nearly \$64 million in funding to make the project possible.

FSM Telecommunications Corporation paid for the spur to the HANTRO-1 line

to Guam.

Though the 2014 Telecommunications Act opened the doors for the idea of competition in the telecommunications industry, the FSM isn't quite ready yet for that to take place. That is the role of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) which, according to a presentation by Takuro Akinaga who is the CEO of TRA was established in October of last year. During his presentation he said that regulatory measures to ensure a level playing field for the current telecommunications operator and any new operators in the FSM should be ready for review by the end of this fiscal year. The regulations would, in addition to many other detailed measures, ensure that the possibility of new competitors “cherry picking” the most lucrative markets to the detriment of smaller markets won't take place. Assuming that they are approved, the regulatory environment should be set to allow for competition on an open playing field as soon as they are enabled.

Rob Solomon, consultant to the FSM National Government said that currently, 52 percent of the world's population does not have internet connectivity. “For FSM, the data is even worse,” he said. “We have mobile subscribers that are only 21 out of 100. Per person, we are the lowest connected country in the Pacific... this project, we see as the opportunity

to leap frog in front of the others by connecting all four States and getting fiber to the home. Fiber to the home is very important connecting not only the main islands and the lagoon islands but also connecting the outer islands.”

The roles of the two main FSM participants are the most misunderstood aspects of the project by people in the FSM. The presentations during the first morning's session of the conference presented by TRA and OAE were quite detailed in nature, particularly by Pieter Bakker who has an extensive background in the telecommunications industry.

During the question and answer period after TRA's presentation, Frank McLaughlin of Chapman Tripp, Consultant and Adviser to the FSM gave possibly the best and most simple analogy for lay people to understand the basics of what is happening among the various entities as FSM's digital future is laid out and implemented. Not absolutely perfect, it still went a long way to explain what is happening.

He used a sporting analogy. He asked the audience to imagine for a moment, the digital and telecommunications industry as a basketball sporting event. Imagine that the spectators at a basketball game are the customers in a digital market. They get the best value when the competitors

perform well. It's the best value for their money. He likened the teams to competitors in a digital market. But the rules have to be firmly established for the game. They can't be written to favor one team over another or it will be one sided and the customers won't have value for their money.

That is where TRA comes in, McLaughlin said. TRA is the referee only this time, not only is the referee there to be sure that the rules are followed, he writes the rules and makes sure that the teams know what they are. He might have to blow his whistle on occasion to explain the rules and sometimes he might have to penalize a player but the referee's main role is to be sure that the rules are followed for a good game.

Again, the analogy isn't quite perfect but McLaughlin asked the listeners to imagine that the Open Access is the owner of the stadium infrastructure. Anyone can put on a game in the stadium as long as they pay the owner.

Though there was nowhere near enough room in this article to provide all of the details, and they will be coming up in future articles that will likely be more technically based, the bottom line is that the FSM with donor support of the World Bank is making great headway toward a brighter digital future for its people.

Micronesia Plant Propagation Research Center cranks out huge pineapples, teaches locals to do the same

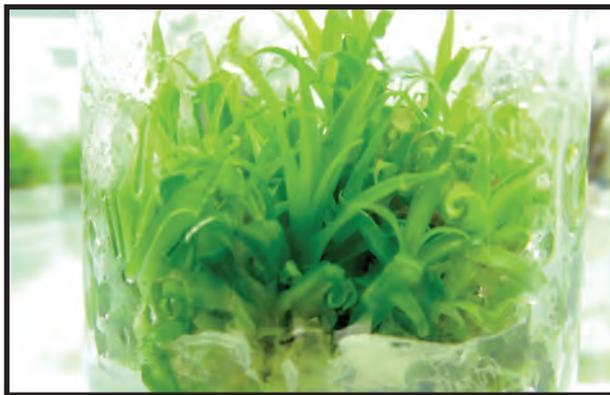
By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 29, 2019

Pohnpei—Like a proud parent, Dr. Virendra M. Verma showed off the hundreds of pineapples at the demonstration farm in Palikir that are ready for harvest. Rows upon rows of pineapples, the two varieties, each exactly like the brothers of their own kind, identical in every way except for their differing ages, reached toward to sky basking in the sunlight that makes them happy, many bearing massive fruits.

Two varieties are being grown at the farm, *Ananas comosus*, the Kosraean variety, and *Ananas comosus* the Hawaiian variety. Verma says that locals tend to prefer the hearty Kosraean variety because its taste is sweeter than its Hawaiian relative. For canning purposes, the Hawaiian variety is better due to its more cylindrical shape and larger size. That variety grows to over 10 pounds. The Kosraean variety is smaller, only seven to eight pounds and more, sort of bullet shaped. Canners pack their pineapple with corn syrup which boosts the sweetness factor of the Hawaiian variety and preserves it for canning.

Dr. Verma is the Researcher and Project Director of the Micronesia Plant Propagation Research Center of the College of Micronesia FSM. 'Pineapple micro-propagation and commercial cultivation to enhance productivity in Micronesia', is an integrated research,



outreach and education project approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) for the Micronesian region. According to Dr. Verma, enhancing pineapple production in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands will help in overcoming the regional agricultural challenges, primarily the



non-availability of disease-free and uniform seedlings, shortage of trained agricultural professionals, and limited acquaintance of farmers with sustainable, commercial cultivation practices. By providing a means of sustainable, climate-smart and organic commercial cultivation of pineapple, this project will create opportunities of income generation for local farmers, and will ultimately result in improved food self-sufficiency, and nutritional security in the region.

He says that pineapple has been celebrated for centuries for its distinct and unique taste and miraculous health benefits. The health and medicinal benefits of pineapple include the ability to improve respiratory, digestive and immune systems. Pineapple consumption cures coughs and colds, strengthens bones, improves oral health, boosts eye health, increases heart health and blood circulation, reduces inflammation, fights off infections and parasites, prevents cancer, and also helps in losing weight.

Dr. Verma explained the various ways used to propagate pineapple. One of the ways that has been developed

is the development of a highly efficient and reliable in vitro cloning method for mass multiplication and production of elite, uniform and disease-free pineapple plantlets, and acclimatization of thousands of cloned plantlets into uniform and disease-free seedlings of selected pineapple cultivars. Propagation of that type is currently performed in the plant tissue cultivation laboratory in

Kosrae thousands of clones are cultivated and cloned from cells taken from hardy plant stock.

He said that pineapples grow without seeds and that traditionally people have cut the top from the pineapple fruit and replanted those, so that one pineapple yields one pineapple plant. Through cloning, millions of pineapples can be grown from tissue cultures from even one plant. They are grown in the lab until moved to a greenhouse where they develop the

resistance to the elements that can't be developed in the controlled environment of the lab. They are transferred to the field before they get to be 18 inches tall. Harvesting can happen within about 18 months.

Since they are clones and since 1000's of plants go into the ground at one time, the process is excellent for commercial harvests.

In the field, fertilizer is applied approximately every three months. Dr. Verma said that all plants require stress before they will flower and then produce fruit. The fertilizer cycle is calculated to provide just enough nutrition to provide stress while producing the biggest and best fruits. Each of the plants can provide three harvests before they are removed and other plants planted in their

place. Without this rotation, the soil will be drained of the nutrients that pineapples need to grow and produce and all plants have different nutritional requirements.

Dr. Verma says that of course, the principal goal of the project is to provide farmers with a productive way to profit economically—to put more money in their pockets and stimulate the Micronesian economy. In Micronesia, the program distributes pineapple plants to local commercial farmers and provides intensive training. Dozens of farmers in Pohnpei, Kosrae, and in Majuro, RMI, where because of its alkaline soil has not previously been able to grow pineapple, have taken advantage of the training and established several commercial farms. In Pohnpei almost 4000 plants and several thousand suckers which can be replanted have gone to farmers. Those plantations were established a little less than a year ago. Pohnpei farmers can expect to have an abundant harvest of pineapple in about 7 to 8 months from now.

Dr. Verma says that they will soon extend the program to Chuuk and to Yap. Sometime later they will also extend it to Palau. He says that they will be building



a new laboratory facility in Pohnpei though the Kosrae facility will remain open. He said that one of the difficulties they have faced is the outmigration of Kosraeans. After they have been trained at the lab, some of his employees have then gone on to work in labs in Hawaii leaving the Kosrae lab technicians who are still being trained.

The program so far, which has also included banana and pepper has been hugely successful.



Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Elementary Education Program in Fall 2019

Admissions application into the program is now open.

For admission to the fourth-year program (BS in Elementary Education), the applicant is required to:

1. Complete the application form;
2. Earn a minimum cum GPA of 2.75 by the end of the Third Year-Teacher Certification of Achievement Program in Teacher Preparation-Elementary;
3. Pass the FSM Teacher Competency Exam.

Deadline to submit application is by: **June 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm (Pohnpei time).**

Applications are available at the College of Micronesia-FSM Office of Admissions, Records, and Retention at the National and State campuses. On-line application forms are also available at:

<http://www.comfsm.fm/oar/forms/BS-Elementary-Education-Application-Form.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

Maria Dison
 Dean of Academic Programs
 College of Micronesia-FSM
 P.O. Box 159
 Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Phone: (691) 320-2481 ext. 123
 Email: mdison@comfsm.fm



SEG For Summer 2019

SEG Financial Aid Assistance this summer

All continuing students who carried full time credit loads for both last fall semester and spring semester, maintained good academic standing and will be registering for less than six credits (6) load this summer will receive SEG assistance. Eighty percent (80%) of their tuition for the summer session will be covered by the SEG assistance.

Continuing students who carried full credit loads in both last fall and spring semester, maintained good academic standing and will be registering for least six credits (6) load this summer will receive Pell Grant.

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Close allies of the FSM in the U.S. Congress react to urgent plea by President Panuelo, & Presidents Heine & Remengesau Jr., to remedy the REAL ID Act issue

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—In a letter dated May 24th, 2019, the Honorable Tulsie Gabbard, the Honorable Don Young, the Honorable Ed Case, the Honorable Rob Bishop, the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, the Honorable Aumua Amata, and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan—all members of the U.S. Congress' House of Representatives—formally requested the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to honor the intent of the REAL ID Act Modification for the Freely Associated States Act to assist citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (ROP) living in the United States in obtaining full-term drivers' licenses. Specifically, the members requested that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security expedite applications for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) and, through partnership with the U.S. Congress, seek to remove the requirement for citizens from the FSM, the RMI, and the ROP to require visas and/or EADs when seeking a REAL ID card.

"...It makes no sense for these citizens [from the FSM, the RMI, and the ROP] seeking a REAL ID card to be required to provide a visa or an EAD when the Compacts approved by law do not require them to have either," the letter says.

The letter was prompted in part by recent meetings between several of these members of the U.S. Congress and His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the RMI, and His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the ROP.

The Governments of the FSM, the RMI, and the ROP stand in solidarity in pursuit of fair and equal treatment for our citizens, both at home and abroad. The Government of the FSM acknowledges, and appreciates, the support from the U.S. Congress on this matter and others, and looks forward to a swift resolution to the REAL ID issue affecting the Nation's citizens abroad.

For more information on how the Government of the FSM serves its citizens abroad, call the Embassy of the FSM in Washington, D.C. at (202) 223-4383 or visit the website at <http://fsmembassydc.org/>

For access to the letter from members of the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, visit here: https://pio.gov.fm/files/House_Lawmakers_Pen_Letter_to_DHS_Acting_Secretary.pdf

Vice President George receives Chinese Education Delegation, discusses FSM-China shared future

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 20th, 2019, the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received a courtesy call from His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, and a delegation representing China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU). The purpose of the meeting was to inform Vice President George of CFAU's diplomatic training courses, and to discuss how the FSM and China can promote further cooperation for FSM's economic development.

"If your Government wants to send personnel to attend [CFAU's] trainings, you are most welcome to do that," said Ambassador Huang. CFAU has an established reputation as the "cradle of Chinese diplomats."

"Not if," said Vice President George, "We do—we already want it...we have employees in the [FSM] Department of Foreign Affairs who would benefit from [diplomatic training]."

Dr. Guo Yanjun, Assistant Professor at CFAU, asked Vice President George "How do you think China and Micronesia can work together in the future?"

"We need to develop our economy," said Vice President George, who echoed His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, who has asked if China's private sector can cooperate with the FSM's private sector to create jobs and improve opportunities for FSM citizens. "For the past thirty years [that the FSM and China have had diplomatic relations], we have been and continue to respect China and...China respects our sovereignty, as [the FSM] respects the One-China Policy...and anything that can help us to grow our economy is something we look forward to."

Vice President George reaffirmed the FSM's official stance of seeking cooperation and friendship with all nations and peoples throughout the world, including China. "We would like to see peace, harmony, and a shared future—and we would like that the ultimate result be good for all of us," Vice President George said. "Our countries talk together as friends."

The FSM is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. September 11th, 2019, marks the 30th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the FSM and China, and it is the hope of the FSM National Government that the FSM and China will be able to cooperate more closely over the next 30 years and beyond.



Mr. Wang Senhao, Deputy Director of the Department of Policy Planning within the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Dr. Guo Yanjun, Assistant Professor at China Foreign Affairs University, Dr. Zha Wen, Associate Professor at China Foreign Affairs University

FFA's smallest fisheries surveillance Operation still covers an area 22 times the size of New Zealand

Forum Fisheries Agency

HONIARA, 4 June, 2019 – Operation Tui Moana 2019 is the smallest regional fisheries surveillance operation conducted by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) yet it still covers a total area of six million square kilometres, equivalent to an area 22 times the size of New Zealand.

The twelve-day operation to detect, deter, report and/or apprehend potential illegal, unregulated or unreported (IUU) fishing activity ended on 31 May 2019. It involved seven FFA member nations – Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu, and the Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group (QUADs) made up of Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States defence forces. It also included one of the FFA King Air aircraft from the Pacific Maritime Security Aerial Surveillance Programme operated by FFA.

During the Operation, 57 vessels were boarded and only five minor infringements were found including one vessel with a fish species that was not in accordance with its licence, another with an unsigned logbook after a day of fishing and one that was not carrying line cutters and de-hookers – a requirement for all longline vessels to help ensure they can promptly release sea turtles that are caught or entangled. These infringements have been reported to member countries for further investigation.

"FFA conducts four Operations every year and Tui Moana is the second this year. Lately we have found a steady decline in fisheries infringements and this is very likely due to our regular coordinated regional patrols," said FFA's Director of Fisheries Operations, Allan Rahari.

As a regional surveillance operation, Operation Tui Moana involved over one hundred personnel from across the region, with joint coordination led by the FFA's Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) team.

During the operation eight police, fisheries and military personnel were based at the RFSC and trained in the use of the vessel monitoring systems and associated software.

"The Operation teaches them to experience how the Operations Room functions during a multi asset and nation Operation. The intention is for these officers to be able to utilize what they have learnt in the RFSC in their own headquarters during their own surveillance operations," said Mr. Rahari.

12 Pacific island countries commit to improve child protection services at regional workshop

UNICEF

SUVA, 31 May 2019 – This week in Fiji, at the Pacific Regional Workshop on Child Protection for the Social Welfare Sector, participants from government ministries across 12 Pacific island countries have joined together for the first time to develop a framework to improve child protection services in the region.

Sheldon Yett, UNICEF Pacific Representative, said, “Children have the right to be safe and protected, and to grow up free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Violence against children affects their brain development with consequences that impact the child and continue into adulthood and the next generation.”

UNICEF Pacific is supporting 40 officials from Ministries responsible for social welfare to attend the workshop and develop a regional framework and network to strengthen child protection systems in the Pacific.

During the workshop, participants will share a common understanding of child

protection issues and how to address these; and share experiences, lessons and best practices from the Pacific and other countries. They will also identify approaches to child protection best suited to the Pacific region.

“Every child has the right to grow up in a safe and protected environment. Strengthening child protection services and systems across the Pacific region through legal frameworks, policies, and working with communities, is vital to reach those children most at risk,” said Yett.

In the Pacific islands, about four in every five children between two to 14 years experiences some form of violent discipline. Violence at school is also high with about one in every two students between 13 to 15 years reporting being bullied, involved in physical fights, or experiencing severe injuries as a result of school violence.

Violence against children affects their brain development and consequently their physical, psychological, social, emotional and cognitive development, which has impacts on these children

throughout their lives.

In addition to the impact on the child, violence against children also creates a high cost to society through the loss of human capital and pressure placed on health, social, justice and security services.

In the Pacific, child marriage rates are also a concern, with one in every five girls marrying before the age of 18. Other protection issues affecting children include family separation, customary adoption, child labour and sexual exploitation.

The workshop held this week will support social welfare officials to strengthen their country’s child protection systems, including laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all sectors. This will support the prevention and responses needed to protect children at risk, which involves the government, civil society organisations, communities and families.

FSM Immunization Program steps up MMR vaccination promotion as measles resurfaces in other countries

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 6, 2019

FSM—The FSM Department of Health Immunization services encourages residents of the FSM aged 18 and under who have not been vaccinated against measles to do so, particularly if they will be traveling abroad. Measles is a highly infectious respiratory disease that can result in severe, sometimes permanent complications including pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and death. It is highly contagious and spreads easily by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing.

Measles symptoms typically include a high fever, cough, a runny nose, and red, watery eyes. The rash associated with measles breaks out three to five days after symptoms appear.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children younger than five years of age and adults older than 20 years of age are more likely to suffer from complications that can include ear infections and diarrhea on one end of the spectrum and pneumonia and encephalitis (swelling of the brain) on the other. But it can be serious in all age groups.

Measles is resurfacing in many parts of the world. Currently there is a measles outbreak in the Philippines, the closest affected country to the FSM. Though the US is further away, more travelers from the FSM go there than to the Philippines, though a good number of travelers come in from the Philippines to the FSM. The United States has seen a huge upsurge of measles in recent months.

The FSM Department of Health offers free Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccines through a partnership and grant from the United States government. The FSM Immunization Program

See “Measles” on next page

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK

Corporate Office P.O. Box M
Kolonias, Pohnpei FM 96941



Opening Date: June 03, 2019
Closing Date: July 03, 2019

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2019-004

It is the policy of the FSM Development bank that FSM citizens be given first priority for employment consideration, with other Micronesians, U.S. citizens, and other nationals utilized in positions for which no qualified citizens are available.

POSITION: ACCOUNTANT
LOCATION: FSM Development Bank, Headquarters, Kolonia, Pohnpei
SALARY: \$16,515.20 minimum per annum, Higher Salary may be Considered Depending on Qualification

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Illustrative only):

1. Provides daily oversight support to the CFO in the Accounting Division.
2. Prepares and compiles financial statements and other accounting reports as required.
3. Posts general disbursements, loan disbursements and journal vouchers to the General Ledger and to the Loan Management System.
4. Journalizes daily transactions.
5. Posts receipts, deposits and daily collections to the Loan Management System and subsequently to the General Ledger.

6. Reconciles Bank accounts and all loan accounts.
7. Assists in setting loan collection targets, produces and maintains reports on collection results.
8. Assists in the monthly and year-end closing activities.
9. Maintains records of the managed Funds.
10. Processes disbursements.
11. Performs other duties as required.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

None but may be directed from time to time to serve as lead person on special projects.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

EDUCATION/Experience Requirements:

Bachelor’s Degree in accounting plus three years related experience in accounting.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei, or any of the FSMDB Branch offices in Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap State. You may mail to: FSM Development Bank HQ, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941; or fax to 320-2842 or by email to: loverh@fsmdb.fm, on or before July 03, 2019.

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Third FSM Police Academy opens, emphasizes tactical, survival, & investigative Training

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Starting on Monday, June 3rd 2019, twenty-six (26) National Police officers hailing from all four States of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will participate in the 3rd FSM Police Academy. Operating under the theme “Improving Law Enforcement in the FSM for Tomorrow”, the Police Academy’s rigorous ten-week schedule includes courses on the use-of-force, open-hand tactics and control, firearms training, evidence gathering and analysis for human trafficking and financial crimes, report writing, and more.

On Thursday, May 30th 2019, the 3rd FSM Police Academy held its opening ceremony at the Pohnpei Port Authority. The brief ceremony included a keynote speech by His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, with the opening remarks provided by the Honorable Jose R. Gallen, Secretary of the Department of Justice.

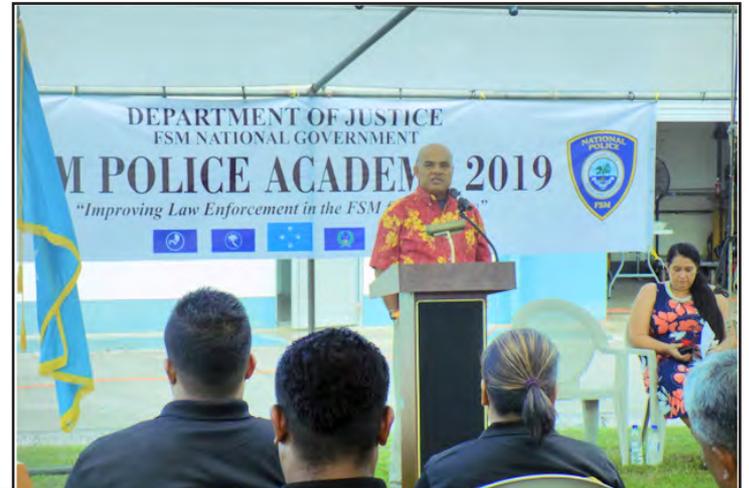
“The value of hard work [for the benefit of others] is something I value as a person, so I want you to take this training in a very serious manner; improve upon it, learn as much as you can so you can be a better person, a better police officer, because we need you at both national and state levels,” said President Panuelo. “Our citizens trust in you and have confidence when they see the police force...always build on that trust, being careful to never cross the line [between enforcement and oppression].”

“You have many responsibilities as public servants,” President Panuelo continued. “They include [tackling] human trafficking, and surveillance...so I want to wish you all the best in your training, and expect a very productive and successful outcome in the next 10 weeks that you’ll be undergoing.”

The 3rd FSM Police Academy trainers are Acting Chief Hilario Bermanis Jr., Senior Instructor; Captain Bronson Martin, Chief Instructor; Lieutenant Darney Phillip, Lead Physical Instructor; Police Officer Trickson Ladore, Instructor; and Police Officer Jeffery Panuel, Instructor. Additionally, Police Officers from the Guam Police Department will be conducting training in areas such as firearms training of trainers, and several specialists from Controlled Force and relevant agencies of the United Nations will be conducting instruction in areas like tactical training, anti-human trafficking and financial crimes investigations, how to care for victims of human trafficking, and more, over the course of the Police Academy.

The twenty-six (26) participants in the 3rd FSM Police Academy are Dexter Paul, Keoni Wilson, Roland Johnny Jr., Jayleen Rabroy, Thomas Nakamura, Saimon Abraham, Maxie Mack, Barkley George, Morgan Lipai, Rickson Shoniber, Wayner Manuel, JJay Primo, Marlo Edgar, Gisele Roland, Rendalyn Reurungun, Jensin Lebehn, Wick Seriew, TJ Shirai, Kimberly Koichy, Dorothy-Ann Inchin, Arition Mailo, Puhnaton Robert, Inch C. William, Rebucca Alfons, Alikxa Johnnyboy, and Chesney Ludwig.

The FSM National Government is committed to the values on its seal of peace, unity, and liberty, recognizes the crucial role the police play in our Nation in demonstrating those values, and wishes the participating officers all the best in their forthcoming training.



...Measles

Continued from previous page

encourages all residents of FSM to be immunized if they have not already been vaccinated, especially if they will be going abroad.

The FSM Immunization Program says vaccines are safe and offer the best protection against measles. The phone numbers for the immunization programs in each State are as follows: Chuuk – 330-3945, Kosrae – 370-2125, Pohnpei – 320-3144, and in Yap – 350-2115.

Call your doctor or clinic right away if you think you or your child may have measles. If you or your child has symptoms of measles, stay home and avoid having visitors until you have spoken with your doctor or clinic. They will tell you if you should come in for a visit.

Interior applauds President Trump for Executive Order on economic empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

US Embassy to the FSM

WASHINGTON – Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, today applauded President Donald J. Trump for signing the Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

“I applaud the specific recognition given in the Executive Order to naming the U.S. Pacific territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as they are an important part of our American family,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “This new executive order recognizes Americans who may hail from other Pacific Islands and allows for participation in the AAPI Commission by citizens of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia who have long held a special relationship with the United States under the Compacts of Free Association,” continued Domenech. “The Office of Insular Affairs’ mission is to

support and improve the lives of families and communities in the U.S. Insular Areas. We will continue to carry out this important mission and we look forward to supporting the President and the AAPI Commission in strengthening access to economic resources and opportunities.”

On Monday, May 13, President Donald J. Trump signed the Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to improve the quality of their lives, raise the standard of living of their families and communities, and more fully participate in the U.S. economy. The Initiative shall also advise on the implementation and coordination of Federal programs as they relate to AAPI access to economic resources and opportunities.

Some highlights from the executive order are as follows:

Recognizes residents of the U.S. Pacific Island territories and freely associated states as part of the AAPI community;

Defines the term “Pacific Islander” to include persons within the jurisdiction of the United States having origins or ancestry in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or other Pacific Islands;

Re-establishes the Co-Chairs of the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from the Department of Commerce and Department of Transportation where it was previously with the Department of Education and Department of Commerce;

Expands membership of the Commission previously only for American citizens and nationals, to allow for citizens of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia who have a Compact of Free Association relationship with the United States and have a history of engagement and involvement with AAPI communities to be appointed by the President as Members of the Commission;

Incorporates as one aspect of the Mission of the Commission to advise the President on the economic condition of the United States Pacific Island territories and freely associated states in an effort to devise strategies for helping each island develop and maintain a strong and diversified economy that supports its residents.

The full Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, signed on Monday, May 13, is on the White House website.

David Cohen, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Insular Affairs and Aumua Amata Radewagen, American Samoa’s Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, are two Pacific Islander American members of the AAPI Commission. The Office of Insular Affairs serves as the U.S. Department of the Interior’s point of contact for the Federal Working Group of the White House Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS
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March 4, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: ALL FSM REGISTERED CORPORATIONS

PURSUANT TO TITLE 36 OF THE FSM CODE, EVERY CORPORATION REGISTERED WITH THE FSM IS REQUIRED TO FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT REFLECTING THE PREVIOUS FISCAL OR CALENDAR YEAR WITH THE FSM REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS **NO LATER THAN JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR**. THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE WHAT IS REQUIRED UNDER PUBLIC LAW NO. 20-35. IF AN ANNUAL REPORT DOES NOT CONTAIN THE INFORMATION REQUIRED OR NO ANNUAL REPORT IS FILED, THE CORPORATION MAY FILE ITS REPORT WITHIN **30 DAYS** AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF NOTICE FROM THE REGISTRAR AND IT WILL BE DEEMED TIMELY FILED.

FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE OF AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE REGISTRAR NOT EXCEEDING \$100 FOR EVERY VIOLATION, NEGLIGENCE OR FAILURE. A CONTINUANCE OF FAILURE TO FILE IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE FOR EACH **30 DAYS**. THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS MAY REDUCE OR WAIVE THE PENALTY.

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PALIKIR, POHNPEI, FSM 96941. ANNUAL REPORT FORMS CAN ALSO BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE FSM REGISTRAR’S WEBSITE AT <https://www.roc.doj.gov.fm/>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (691)320-8089 OR (691)320-2608/2644 OR WRITE TO THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, P.O. BOX PS-105, PALIKIR, POHNPEI, FSM 96941, OR EMAIL: www.fsmroc@mail.fm.

Dohsis Halbert
National REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS

Director of Finance & Operations, Micronesia Program



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking a Director of Finance & Operations (DFO) for its Micronesia Program. TNC is one of the largest, most successful conservation organizations in the world, supporting conservation in 72 countries. Founded in 1951, the mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. One of our core values is our commitment to diversity – as a global organization, we are committed to both a global and cultural workforce.

The DFO is responsible for all operations functions (including Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, Logistics, Compliance, Administration and Office Management) and oversees a small operations team in the Micronesia Program. The primary purpose of the role is to ensure compliant & timely reporting of financial data, provide financial advice, analysis, tracking of actual versus planned revenues &

expenses, ensuring compliance with donor requirements, TNC policies & procedures and local government requirements. The DFO can be based in either of TNC’s Micronesia Program Offices (Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia or Koror, Palau) and will report to the Associate Pacific Division Director.

To apply online, please visit www.nature.org/careers and apply to Job # 47712.

To apply offline, mail a cover letter with your resume and 3 professional references to “P.O. Box 216, Pohnpei FSM 96941” or email them to slebehn@tnc.org

For a full Job Description, please contact Shelly Lebehn Amor at 320-4267 or slebehn@tnc.org

Applications close 11:59PM EST on 14th June 2019

President Panuelo promises FSM-China relations to be taken to a new high, requests support for the FSM's long-term financial security via the FSM Trust Fund

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On June 4th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM, received His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in a courtesy call. Amongst the topics discussed were the tentative timeframe for President Panuelo to formally visit China, the upcoming Joint National Inauguration on July 29th, 2019, the status of forthcoming and ongoing development assistance projects within the FSM, and President Panuelo's request that China consider supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the FSM through direct contributions to the FSM Trust Fund.

"I always get excited when [we] say we want to take [FSM-China relations] to a new high...in that spirit, I hope China can look at [the FSM Trust Fund] as a



His Excellency Huang Zheng (right), Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, requests the FSM's support for Dr. Qu Dongyu to be Director-General in the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization

mechanism that moves the FSM forward in terms of financial security," said President Panuelo. "In the administration of [Vice President George] and I, we should emphasize a strong foreign policy to cultivate more relations with our strong bilateral partners... China is a strong bilateral partner."

"We value very much our relationship, and I will continue to emphasize that the FSM be guided by the One-China policy: we're not going to change that," continued President Panuelo. "We turn to you because we believe that a strong bilateral relationship like ours...can assist with shortfalls in the context of helping [the FSM Trust Fund]." President Panuelo emphasized his agreement with Ambassador Huang that the One-China policy is the "bedrock" of FSM-China relations.

"I understand your concern and will work very hard for China to give more assistance

in the form of inputs into the FSM Trust Fund," said Ambassador Huang. "I know it's very important for [the FSM's] financial security."

President Panuelo and Ambassador Huang also discussed other issues of mutual interest to the FSM and China, including China's request that the FSM support the Honorable Dr. Qu Dongyu, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, for the position of Director-General in the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO). The election for FAO's Director-General is scheduled to occur on June 24th, 2019 in Rome, capital of the Italian Republic.

"I don't see any problem with our support [for Dr. Qu Dongyu]," said President Panuelo, "...but we'll have to hear from [Her Excellency Jane Chigiyal] our Ambassador to the U.N."

The FSM is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. September 11th, 2019, marks the 30th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the FSM and China, and it is the hope of the FSM National Government that the FSM and China will be able to cooperate more closely over the next 30 years and beyond, with our strengthened relations reaching to a new high.

Yap State Government Federated States of Micronesia Office of Planning and Budget Project Management Office

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP No. RFP-DHS-2019-001)

The Yap State Office of Planning and Budget/ Project Management Office (PMO) is soliciting proposals for the supply of Furniture, Furnishings and Gym Equipment for the Dept. of Health Services-Colonia Wellness Center Project, to be received until 4:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019, YAP local time. Interested parties are requested to get in touch with the undersigned on the contact details listed below for the RFP documents - List of Furnitures and Equipment.

Arch. Samuel E. Luzano,
Project Manager- PMO
YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970
Colonia, Yap State FM 96943
Tel. Nos. (691) 350-2324/2576
E-mail: pmo@yapstategov.org

President David W. Panuelo reaffirms FSM's commitment to work closely with House Committee on Natural Resources in the U.S. Congress

FSM Information Services

Washington D.C., May 27, 2019 – On Thursday May 23rd, 2019, His Excellency President David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with the Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the Honorable Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, Vice Chairman for Insular Affairs in the House Committee on Natural Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to reaffirm strong relations between the U.S. Congress and the FSM Government on issues relating to the FSM as a designated insular area, as the House Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction over insular affairs.

President Panuelo primarily sought the U.S. Congress' support on any potential forthcoming package regarding the anticipated renewal, or extension, of the expiring provisions under the Compact of Free Association, as Amended.

President Panuelo, Chairman Grijalva, and Vice Chairman Sablan also discussed the REAL ID Act Modification for the Freely

Associated States Act, and the recent issues citizens of the FSM have been facing with regards to acquiring full-term driver's licenses.

The situation is "urgent and in need of an immediate fix by the U.S. Federal Government Agencies that have jurisdiction over the REAL ID Act," said President Panuelo, who emphasized the day-to-day impact on citizens of the FSM residing in the United States.

Both Chairman Grijalva and Vice Chairman Sablan pledged their support to help.

The meeting ended on an optimistic note, with President Panuelo, Chairman Grijalva, and Vice Chairman Sablan looking forward to future discussions on the next cooperation package between the FSM and the United States under the framework on the Compact of Free Association, as

Amended, or similar arrangements.

For more information on this meeting, please contact the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia at (202)223-4383 or visit the website at: <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/>



His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, poses with the Honorable Raúl Grijalva and the Honorable Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan

UOG heads to Chuuk to train officials in underwater artifact preservation

University of Guam

The University of Guam is heading to Chuuk to conduct a month-long training for historic preservation officials on how to document and preserve cultural artifacts that lie beneath the ocean's surface. Led by Assistant Professor of Archaeology William Jeffery of UOG's the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the June 3 to 29 maritime archaeology field school will be attended by employees, students, and specialist instructors from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands, Guam, Hong Kong, Japan, and Australia.

"Countries are now seeing that underwater cultural heritage is as important as terrestrial heritage," Jeffery said. "With traditional fish weir structures, shipwrecks, Yapese stone money, sunken cities, and sites impacted by sea-level rising, Micronesia's underwater cultural identity is highly significant in that it provides historical knowledge and examples of cultural practices that no other place in the world can provide."

The training is being funded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, more commonly known as UNESCO, in partnership with the FSM, following the FSM becoming the first country in the Pacific to ratify UNESCO's Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in April 2018. The convention seeks to protect, preserve, and interpret the cultural, historical, and archaeological remnants that are partly or wholly underwater.

"The FSM is trying to take some action to protect its underwater cultural heritage — especially the wrecks in Chuuk because they're world-known, and one of the first steps is to get some people who can implement a program of recording, interpreting, and working collaboratively with many people on these sites," Jeffery said.

The 12 field school participants will learn how to survey and create a database of different types of underwater cultural heritage sites as well as preservation techniques and how to grow community engagement in preservation efforts. The professional training will hopefully position the participating countries for more grant funding from UNESCO and other partners in the future, Jeffery said.

This is just the start of more field schools, Jeffery said, as other islands have expressed interest, including Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Yap, which has 700 to 800 fish weirs that the Yapese government wants to revitalize for sustainable fishing in working with the traditional owners. The schools will be open to UOG students interested in maritime archaeology and officials in Micronesia in addition to those from across Oceania and Asia-Pacific.

"There is great potential for running more field schools in the future because there's a need," Jeffery said. "Hopefully this training will be the first of a few steps in protecting the region's underwater cultural heritage and showcasing its significant maritime cultural identity."

Jeffery completed his doctorate in Chuuk through James Cook University in Australia.



FSM recognizes the late and honorable Fernando Scaliem through Presidential Proclamation

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On June 3rd, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), issued a Presidential Proclamation to display the flag of the FSM at half-mast for four days in honor of the late and Honorable Fernando Scaliem, Speaker of the 9th Pohnpei State Legislature. A similar proclamation was made by the Government of Pohnpei State after the formal State Funeral services conducted in the morning.

The Government of the FSM recognizes that the late and Honorable Fernando Scaliem epitomized all that is right and virtuous in public service, and that he served with honor and dignity. Fernando Scaliem's leadership in ethical and just behavior with the overarching goal for the betterment of others has shaped the norms for how Pohnpei State governs its affairs, and will he forever remembered as a paragon example of a public servant. The Government of the FSM bears heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the late and Honorable Fernando Scaliem.



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"I've stayed at L5 for quite some time now and am always impressed by the customer service and how the staff are always up to ensuring your stay is more than you would expect." - Sep 6, 2016

"My family and I have stayed here 3 times during our visits to Chuuk. The staff welcome you with gleaming smiles and are always helpful and upbeat. Our take away from this hotel is the feel of its family atmosphere." - Jan 22, 2016

"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

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ATTN: Vital-Rotary Scholarship Committee
PO BOX 1861 Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

or via e-mail, to:
rotarypohnpei@gmail.com

or via fax, to:
(691) 320-5502

Applications due by: July 1, 2019