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Mr. Ricky Carl sworn in as Senator in the Pohnpei Legislature representing Madolenihmw municipality

By Friends of Senator Ricky Carl

July 7, 2020

Pohnpei—On July 7, 2020 Madolenihmw voters went back to the polling places to elect their representative for a seat that was left vacant after the Pohnpei Legislature refused to seat the then candidate Ricky Carl who received over 1800 votes during the 2019 General Election.

Mr. Carl received an overwhelming 66% of the votes cast during the special election held on July 7, 2020.

On July 22, 2020 after the election result was certified, the Pohnpei



Legislature in a Credential Committee's report declared that Mr. Carl is qualified to be a Senator for Madolenihmw. In an unprecedented move, the Legislature decided that Mr. Carl will be sworn in the next day, July 23, 2020. Normally, swear-in occurs immediately after the adoption of the credential committee's report.

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Pohnpei medical professionals resigning over "Max Pay" issue

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 26, 2020

Pohnpei—Since May of this year, employee relations at the Pohnpei State Hospital have been tense due to changes in wage standards from previous administrations. However, other than cryptic messages on Facebook, no employee has been willing to go on the record as to what

exactly the problem was. As of today there is still no one willing to go on record by name. But the tensions have resulted in health care resignations at a time when no one in the world can afford to lose the services of any health care professional and most particularly not Pohnpei.

On June 15 we contacted Pohnpei Director of Health Services Wincener David to ask him what the issue was that had caused his employees to react so strongly. His only

response was, "We are still trying to straighten out things." He referred us to the "personnel public system regulations" but without an idea of what was happening, those regulations weren't very helpful.

We now know that a 20 year old law that limits overtime hours for public employees is at the heart of the matter. That old law apparently limits compensation for overtime hours to 30

See "Max Pay" on page 4

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IOM and USAID celebrate completion of Jelawat restoration projects in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 24, 2020

Pohnpei—The Embassy of the United States to the FSM, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) hosted a reception on Friday evening at Hideaway Restaurant to commemorate the handing over of projects associated with Tropical Storm Jelawat recovery.

In March 2018, heavy rains caused landslides and flooding across the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), damaging or destroying homes and public infrastructure.

As stipulated under the Operational Blueprint for Disaster Relief and Reconstruction in FSM and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (OBP), IOM and USAID rebuilt critical infrastructure and IOM implemented a voucher program for the beneficiaries whose homes were destroyed.

IOM, in partnership with USAID, developed the reconstruction plans for each public infrastructure project and released them for bidding to local contractors in three bundles. A total of 18 reconstruction projects, including bridges, pavement, road repairs and culverts were awarded to local contractors.

Under the supervision of IOM, local contractors purchased construction materials and undertook construction

work. All work was in compliance with IOM's policies and procedures, including environmental, occupational health and safety, branding and security. In addition, the highest quality standards were followed by the contractors, which are all in accordance with IOM's Detailed Engineering Drawings (DEDs), Technical Specifications and Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan.

IOM's engineers were involved in the implementation of all segments of the project. The team designed detailed Engineering Drawings (DEDs), regularly led site inspections and visits, continually worked with contractors to address any issues, and tested construction materials.

Beneficiaries whose homes were destroyed or damaged received vouchers based on the OBP. These vouchers are used to repair and rebuild the damaged and destroyed homes.

FSM President David Panuelo was scheduled to speak at Friday's closing event but was not present. Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver was also scheduled to speak but also was not present. Speaking on a last minute, impromptu basis, FSM DECEM Assistant Secretary Antholino Neth instead represented the FSM, and Pohnpei Director of the Department of Public Safety Patrick Carl represented Pohnpei.

IOM Chief of Mission Nathan Glancy spoke on the details of the various projects that have now all been completed, and US Ambassador Carmen Cantor also addressed the crowd.



"In 2018, Jelawat destroyed homes, roads, and sources of income in Pohnpei State," she said. "But it could not destroy hope for the people who call these beautiful islands home...Rebuilding is not easy, and it takes time. But anything that's worth rebuilding is worth rebuilding right."

"In Pohnpei, the U.S. Government has rebuilt and repaired seven homes. We have also repaired and constructed 18 road, culvert, and bridge sites. We provided materials and vouchers worth \$80,000 to nearly 880 beneficiaries whose land and tools were damaged and whose livelihoods were threatened. We also utilized local construction companies that

employed 76 people," she said. "Our event today is not just about completing construction projects. We are also celebrating how our governments, non-governmental partners, and beneficiaries now have greater capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. We celebrate the new skills and opportunities to work together on models for continued resilience," she said.

Before dinner, Glancy and Ambassador Cantor presented plaques commemorating the completion of the projects to the representatives of the FSM and Pohnpei.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

First performance audit of Pohnpei Department of Land in two decades reveals significant deficiencies

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 26, 2020

Pohnpei—Despite the central importance of Land in the lives of Pohnpeians, the recently concluded performance audit of the Department of Public Land which covered fiscal years 2017-2018 was the first to be conducted in 20 years. Auditors discovered a number of problems effecting the three divisions of the department, many of them related to budget, lack of manpower, expertise, and even the lack of governmental support.

The Department of Land consists of three divisions: the Division of Public Land, the Division of Survey and Mapping, and the Division of Historic Preservation. Each Division is headed by a Chief responsible for the duties of the various divisions, all reporting to the Director of Public Land and supported by various Boards, some of which have not been constituted in several years despite nominations for advice and consent that went without action by the Executive and Legislative Branches. All are served by various support staff members for both technical and administrative support.

The total budget in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for the Department of Land and its Divisions was \$840,444.

Division of Land

Auditors found that a weak internal control system in the administration and management of public lands had seriously hampered record keeping and also undermined sources of revenue.

They said that recording and updating of documents and records were poor. As an example it pointed to the fact that the Division had only two files for homesteading land titles, both dating back to the 1960's.

The list of public lands was not updated. The last inventory of residential and commercial leases was performed in 2016 and records concerning public lands being occupied by trespassers has not been updated.

"Monitoring and managing of the activities relating to dredging and mining were not effective," the report said. The Division did not conduct on-site inspection and monitoring of the dredging and mining sites to ensure that the affected land areas are restored back to conditions acceptable to the Board. Further, monitoring of permits issued were not performed to ensure that only authorized permittees were allowed to dredge and that they were paying the royalty fees in accordance with applicable rules and policies. As example, auditors referred

to one case in which the Division only recently discovered that a permittee has been dredging for 10 years without paying required royalty fees.

The Division relied only on the permittees' estimation and records to determine the amount owed for materials removed and also for renew of permit.

The lack of written policies and procedures to guide management has led to problems. As example, auditors pointed out that Public Law 6-116-08 that was passed into law ten years ago and allows the transfer of land titles to eligible residential lessees after three years of occupation has not been implemented.

Some land owners still do not have quitclaim deeds/titles.

The Board did not have appropriate written guidelines regarding conflict of interest in the conflict of business affairs.

The second finding showed that Pohnpei had suffered a loss of revenues due to inadequate monitoring and timely collection of commercial lease payments.

Of the possible commercial lease revenues of \$256,000 for the two-year period reviewed, the Department of Treasure and Administration (DOTA) only collected \$87,000. About \$169,000 was not collected and lessees were not notified regarding their payment defaults. During the review of the audit the auditors confirmed that the amount of the commercial leases that are in arrears had increased to approximately \$2.3 million by September 30, 2018.

The Division also was not charging the 12% interest for late payment of commercial land leases.

The third finding was that the Division has not been ensuring that lessees secured fire insurance as required by law.

Due to lack of oversight, commercial lease holders have been regularly issuing sub-leases without consent of the Division of Land as required by law. This fault could lead to significant legal issues regarding both primary and sub-lease holders.

The Division has not conducted periodic inspection of commercial lease premises leading to potential losses that could be avoided had systematic inspection been carried out.

Finding seven was that there was a lack of written consent for holding over of leases.

The records at the Division document 169 commercial leases. Of those, auditors observed that 36 of them had already expired. They found no evidence that the Board of Trustees had authorized tenants to continue to occupy the land based on hold over provisions. Further, they discovered that 31 or the 36 leases were seriously delinquent on the lease payments and that 11 of them had been expired for more than 10 years but still occupied. Auditors inspected the sites and discovered that 35 of the lessees, including the delinquent lessees were still actively engaged in commercial activities. Subsequent to the inspection, in December of 2019, the Board of Trustees approved renewal of eight of the leases, six were pending approval, and three were put up for re-advertisement.

Finding eight was that the Division failed to document minutes of meetings.

Division of Historic Preservation

Auditors found that the non-establishment of the Pohnpei Historic and Cultural Preservation Board affects operations of the Division.

According to DOL management, the Department has for the last five years submitted names of potential nominees to the Governor but until now, there has been no action taken by responsible government officials.

Auditors pointed out that no Pohnpei State Museum has yet been set up as required by law. After the museum was shut down to make way for the "Tuna Commission", artifacts were housed in a leaky room at the Division of Land and many of them have been damaged due to improper story.

One of the principal reasons is the lack of adequate resources to finance and man a

museum.

The Division failed to establish a state registry of historical properties for the purposes of preserving, protecting, and educating present and future generations about culturally important and significant historic and cultural resources that are important and meaningful in the continuation and maintenance of the traditions and heritage of the people of Pohnpei.

"The condition is due to the lack of a review board to oversee and govern the operation of the Division...Also, the Division management lacked the expertise and the will to take initiatives necessary to ensure the provisions of the law are acted upon," the report said.

Auditors also found that there was no survey report for the identification of historic properties. Though the Division has a field researcher responsible for conducting development, the Division has not conducted surveys prior to development projects. The survey is aimed to identify and protect potential historical property from harm or damage. Division staff members told auditors that when the Division employed an archaeologist or anthropologist, surveys were conducted.

Though the Division is working on it, no written history of Pohnpei has been developed, compiled and indexed specific to traditional laws and their underlying principles. As a result, there is a risk of historical and traditional information getting lost or distorted over time with the passing of knowledgeable individuals. The Division is currently in the process of collecting oral history and plans to publish a book on their research once it is completed.

See "Land Board" on page 7

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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August 12, 2020
Deadline for submission of articles
or advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:
Friday, August 7, 2020**

... “Max Pay”

Continued from front page

percent of an employee’s base salary in a biweekly period regardless of how many hours they were required to work. The current hospital administration has taken the stand that even if the hospital required an employee to work more compensable hours they are not entitled to any compensation for those hours.

“Slavery”, one employee exclaimed. That employee spoke on condition of anonymity.

Previous hospital administrators have not assumed the posture of the current administration and when overtime hours were required, over and above the 30 percent cap, employees were compensated. That ended after a May 18 internal memo from the Director of Treasury and Administration saying that it had come to her attention that the Government is not compliant with the Pohnpei Code regarding overtime payments. According to the memo, the changes in compensation would take place in the next pay period.

It did and the reaction of health professionals was immediate though they tried to deal with the administration. They have pointed out that they are not under the public service regulations but are contract workers with valid contracts. But it appears not to have made any difference so far.

“We have given them (the current administration) more than a month to come up with a compromise and what they have done is come back to us and say ‘no’ to negotiating on ‘max pay’, and try to force another contract on us

when we have already signed one,” the anonymous employee said. “For the life of me I cannot understand why they couldn’t have at least allowed us to finish our contracts and then give us another contract that will reflect this ‘max pay’ law and let us decide then.”

“The legislature has at least promised to amend this law,” the employee claimed.

“Some people in government have criticized us locals saying we should sacrifice because we are health workers,” the employee wrote. “What they don’t realize is that some of us local workers have been making sacrifices all these years by working here. Some of us are being offered way more attractive packages elsewhere (more than double than what we earn here) every year.”

The employee said that more than 50 percent of doctors and a large number of hospital support staff members are expatriates who came to Pohnpei based on a salary package that the government now says that it won’t support.

“We are heavily dependent on expats, but we are hesitant in coming up with compensation packages that will lure them here,” the employees said. “And who expects an expat to sacrifice? They will come here because they are paid more here than their home countries—simple as that!”

“What angers me most is that government thinks that it can use restrictions in flights to keep these foreign workers and leave them in a place where they think that they have no choice but to keep working and put up with a significant reduction in their compensation,” the employee said.

Recruiting doctors and expert medical health professionals is difficult in Pohnpei even at the best of times. With borders closed due to COVID-19, even if an outside medical professional was interested in serving in Pohnpei in its current wage environment, bringing them in would be impossible, and Pohnpei is in danger of losing its medical professionals during a time when it can ill afford to do so.

Pohnpei health professionals are understandably frustrated and locals have stood in solidarity with expatriate health professionals. Last week Dr. Payne Perman and Dr. Padwick Gallen resigned their positions at the hospital. Others have expressed an intention to do so.

...Ricky Carl

Continued from front page

In attendance at Mr. Carl’s swearing in ceremony were the Mwoalen Wahu Ileile en Pohnpei (Council on Traditional Leaders of Pohnpei) family, friends and over 300 of his supporters and spectators from around Pohnpei.

During his brief statement, Mr. Carl thanked the people of Madolenihmw for their support as well as the Traditional Leaders for their blessing and presence at his swearing in. He alluded to the significance of Pohnpei’s Custom and Tradition in the work of the Legislature as enshrined in the Pohnpei Constitution -“to uphold, respect and protect” the customs and traditions of Pohnpei.

As a small token of his appreciation for the people of Madolenihmw, Mr. Carl announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health related challenges for the people of Madolenihmw, he would be giving all of his initial allowance of \$2,500.00 to help citizens

of Madolenihmw who are without medical insurance. He intends to create a Madolenihmw Medical Assistance Fund that will accept funds from public and private sources in order to continue this assistance.

His Royal Highness Salvador Iriarte, the Iso Nahniken of Nett spoke on behalf of the Traditional Leaders. He thanked the Legislature for seating Mr. Carl, Luhk en Lengso. In his remarks, he reminded members of the Legislature about their roles as representatives of the people and the significance of their unity. Iso Nahniken Iriarte reminded the Legislature that their work must be founded upon respect and humility. “The Legislature is now complete, with the seating of Mr. Carl, Luhk en Lengso. I have hope that good things will come from this Legislature. Don’t forget that we are all in one canoe, paddling in one direction, to protect and preserve our custom and tradition”, Iso Nahniken Iriarte said.

The ceremony ended with light snacks and refreshments provided by the friends and family of Senator Ricky Carl.



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US State Department profiles FSM Anti-Human Trafficking efforts in 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 24, 2020

FSM—For the seventh year in a row, the United States State Department has listed the 2019 efforts of the Federated States of Micronesia against the scourge of Human Trafficking at Tier 2 on its Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) for 2020. The Tier 2 evaluation means that the Government of the FSM does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

This is the 20th annual TIP report by the US State Department which lists and grades the efforts of each country internationally based on reports from Embassies and State Department officials located in each country.

Though the FSM has spent a great deal of time educating people on what Human Trafficking is, there is still a persistent misunderstanding. Much of that misunderstanding is likely due to the use of the word “trafficking” which brings with it the idea of movement from one place to another, but human trafficking does not necessarily involve any movement at all. No borders need to be crossed. In fact some who have been convicted of the crime in the FSM committed the crime against a member of their own household. A person who “traffics” deals or trades in something illegal. The crime of human trafficking involves commercial gain from the servitude of another usually by means of coercion.

Up to 70 percent of human trafficking involves sexual servitude with a large percentage of the victims being women and children, but Human Trafficking has many forms. Every victim of human trafficking is doing what they are doing against their will as the direct result of pressure from others who are financially benefitting from whatever the criminal is making them do. It is modern slavery.

“The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period,” the US TIPP report said of the FSM. However, despite efforts including providing funding for anti-trafficking training for law enforcement officials, providing \$120,000 for victim trafficking services, and establishing an anti-human trafficking division within the FSM Department of Justice, there were still significant enough holes in the FSM Anti-Human Trafficking infrastructure to warrant the ranking of Tier 2.

The FSM government reported investigating one alleged trafficking case in 2019, compared with nine in 2018, and prosecuting eight alleged traffickers, compared with seven in 2018. Courts convicted six traffickers during the reporting period, the same number as in 2018. A sex trafficking case involving one victim and five alleged traffickers remained ongoing at the end of the reporting period. In March of this year, three of them were convicted of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of a minor. Prosecution of the other two alleged traffickers is ongoing.

The report mentioned the theory put forth by some media operators that the murder of the Acting Attorney General of the State of Yap was related to her work against human trafficking. However, the case against the two charged in that murder is still being heard and the media’s suppositions have not yet been proved.

As was the case last year, the US TIP Report mentioned that while education of law enforcement officials, judges, lawyers, health providers, and others, continues, some judges lacked specialized training. As a result, the report said that they lacked sensitivity to trafficking issues and trauma that victims experienced and that in previous years judges had applied penalties that were disproportionately low to the severity of the crimes. However, no mention was made of a high profile case in Chuuk in which the court convicted a husband and wife on charges related to Human Trafficking and sentenced them to long prison terms. The court also ordered them to pay significant money restitution to the victim. It was the most severe penalty for perpetrators of Human Trafficking ever handed down in the short time that FSM’s Human Trafficking laws have been in place.

The report did mention that a judge in Chuuk granted the implementation of special trial procedures by agreeing to close the court and providing a screen for the victim to sit behind during the victim’s testimony.

“The government did not report any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of government officials complicit in trafficking offenses,” the report said. The report did not mention that at on at least one occasion in 2019 an alleged victim implicated complicity of a government official. The alleged victim made the allegations after returning to his home outside of the FSM. He claimed that he and his fellow employees had been

required to stay in their barracks during their few non-working hours, that their passports had been confiscated, and that they could not leave until after they had “paid back” the cost of their transportation to the FSM. The government said it conducted an investigation into the allegations but that the allegations were unsupported.

“The government did not report any efforts to monitor foreign labor recruitment or preparation of Micronesian women and girls leaving to work in other countries,” the report said. “While the government reported conducting awareness campaigns focused on destigmatizing individuals in commercial sex and closing known brothels, it did not report efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex.” The report says that the government decreased efforts to prevent trafficking.

It summarized the FSM’s efforts in its “Trafficking Profile”:

“As reported over the past five years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in the FSM, and traffickers exploit victims from FSM abroad. Sex traffickers exploit Micronesian women and girls through commercial sex with the crew members of docked Asian fishing vessels, crew members on vessels in FSM territorial waters, or with foreign construction workers. Some family members exploit Micronesian girls in sex trafficking. Local authorities claim many sex trafficking cases are unreported due to social stigma and victims’ fear of possible repercussions in their home communities. Foreign and domestic employers in FSM exploit low-skilled foreign migrant workers in forced labor, including in restaurants. Foreign migrants from Southeast Asian countries report working in conditions indicative of human trafficking on Asian fishing vessels in FSM or its territorial waters. Traffickers recruit FSM women with promises of well-paying jobs in the United States and its territories; but, upon their arrival, they are subsequently forced into commercial sex or domestic servitude.”

The report made prioritized recommendations for the work of the FSM against Human Trafficking which are to:

- Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict traffickers, and sentence convicted traffickers to significant prison terms.

- Finalize, disseminate, and train officials on procedures for the proactive identification and referral of trafficking victims to rehabilitation services.
- Increase resources for protection services for trafficking victims.
- Increase and institutionalize anti-trafficking training for police, prosecutors, and judges, including on how to implement a victim-centered approach.
- Provide legal alternatives to the removal of foreign trafficking victims to countries where they may face hardship or retribution.
- Strengthen efforts to implement the national action plan (NAP) and state-level plans, including through staffing a governmental anti-trafficking secretariat.
- Monitor foreign labor recruitment for trafficking indicators, including the coercive use of debt. Strengthen efforts to conduct anti-trafficking awareness campaigns targeted to traditional leaders, health care professionals, and the public, including those citizens of FSM who might migrate for work overseas.



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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

**Prioritized Road Investment and Management Enhancements
Project (P172225)**

**Assignment Title: Road Safety Audit Expert
Reference No: FM-DOTCI-168143-CS-INDV**

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received a Project Preparation Advance (PPA) to assist in the preparation of the FSM Prioritized Road Investment and Management Enhancements Project (FSMPRIMEP). The PPA will be used to prepare the necessary technical, economic, environmental and design studies for the project, including road safety audits, to identify areas of concern for the safety of the travelling public and to inform the design and construction of the road improvement works.

The consulting services (“the Services”) will be to conduct Road Safety Audits of Selected Roads in the Federated States of Micronesia and to prepare a Field Guide for Road Safety at Road Works that includes Traffic Management Plan Templates for Safe Traffic Control at Road works. The assignment is expected to start in October, 2020 and the Consultant will be required to provide 30 days of inputs over a one year period.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest and can be found at the following website:www.tci.gov.fm.

The Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc. and the details of two references). Firms’ staff may express interest through the employing firm for the assignment and, under such situation, only the experience and qualifications of individuals shall be considered in the selection process.

The criteria for selecting the Consultant are: Mandatory Requirements

- Have a degree in civil engineering or other relevant field with 15 years of relevant work experience in road safety engineering, including the identification and treatment of black-spots;
- Have road safety monitoring and evaluation experience;
- Have undertaken at least five formal road safety audits, including at least three at design stages;
- Successfully earned a road safety audit training course certification, of at least two days duration;
- Have experience in the development and implementation of traffic and road safety engineering schemes and management systems.

Desirable Requirement

- Experience in carrying out road safety audits in Pacific Islands countries will be preferred.

The attention of interested Consultants (including firms) is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 (“the Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Friday, August 7th, 2020.

Robert Goodwin,
Program Manager
Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DoTC&I)
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Tel: (+691) 320 2080
Email: rscgoodwin@hotmail.com
Web: www.tci.gov.fm
And cc to: Ciu.tci@gov.fm

...Land Board

Continued from page 3

Due to a lack of budget, the Division currently has no professional certified technical staff to provide needed guidance and, like other divisions within the department, has no written guidelines to govern the operations and program activities of the Division.

Division of Survey and Mapping

The Division has not established a Board of Land Surveyors Examiners. As a result, the Division is functionally handicapped with the Board to certify the registered surveyor(s) and approve mapped land documents.

The Director’s response says that problem is now being resolved with the addition of a new and knowledgeable employee.

Auditors also found that the Division lacks documented information or records of importance. Auditors could find no records for the two years of the audits of requests for land survey. None of the requests for land survey was logged or recorded even if the request was made orally. The Division said that they began to log those requests in 2019.

Survey activities also were not logged or documented except for cadastral maps.

Director Peter M. Lohn agreed with the finding of the audit and also pointed out that the resolution of some of the issues will require additional funding.

“...It needs to be noted that in some areas of our operation, we will definitely require highly skilled personnel to assist the management to put together request(ed) policy and procedure frameworks, upgrade of our computer systems as well as the Technical capacities of our employees. This will require additional funding,” he wrote in his response.

“...all of these divisions have its own regulatory board which sets standards, rules, and regulations, and make decisions on issues pertaining to their respective functions. However, for the past two Administrations, these Boards were never filled or their terms were expired but still engaged in Boards affairs with holdover terms. This is an issue that has negatively impacted the Department of Land in its delivery of service to the General Public. My humble appeal to the Pohnpei State Government Leadership that it is high time we revisit this issue and address it with the focus on realities of Pohnpei today,” he wrote and in capitalized bold concluded with the question, “DO WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO HAVE ALL OF THESE BOARD(S)?”

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Colonia Wellness Center Furniture
RFP NO. 2020-003

The Yap State Office of Planning and Budget/ Project Management Office (PMO) is soliciting proposals for the supply of Furniture for the Colonia Wellness Center Project, to be received until 4:00 p.m. on August 17, 2020, local Yap time. Interested parties are requested to get in touch with the undersigned on the contact details listed below for the List of Furnitures.

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

United we stand against corruption

Youth For Change

June 26, 2020

Kolonia, Pohnpei- Youth 4 Change, Inc (Y4C) held the closing ceremony for the 1st phase of their



Anti-Corruption project at the Youth Center in Kolonia. The Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) was invited as the partner in the project. The project turned out to be a great success among the community and the youth. As POPA's role is to cooperate and unite with civil society on anti-corruption measures and also part of their Fraud Awareness and Prevention program.

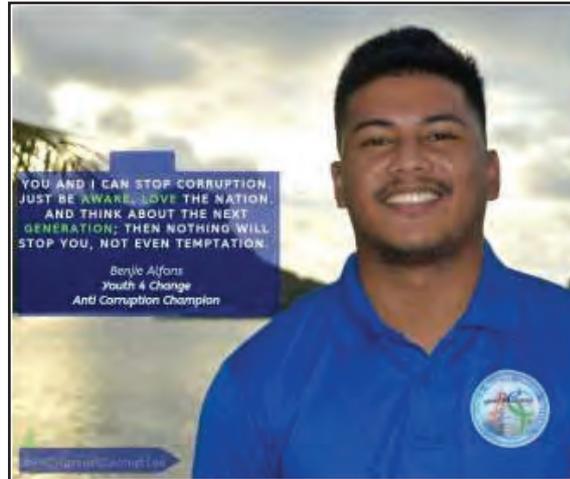
The ceremony was graced by Senator Shelten Neth, the Chairman of Health focusing on youth affairs, Tadasy Shelten, (Iso Nahlainm of Madolenihmw), Y4C Board Member, George Isom, SPC Country Focal Officer, Diaz Joseph, President of the Y4C Board, and Sophia Pretrick, POPA Investigative Advisor, along with two other POPA staff.

It started out when Y4C received their grants to implement their Anti-Corruption project. Y4C Director Sylvia Elias approached POPA's Investigative Advisor, Sophia Pretrick to assist in their project. POPA's part was mainly focusing on training and awareness activities, mentoring and advocacy work on anti-corruption. It was specifically to train them on the impacts of corruption and POPA's role in fighting and reducing corruption in government. During the 1st phase, the following are some of their joint activities:

1. Advisory work on training the trainers
2. Education against corruption- visiting all the public schools including the private schools to conduct advocacy and anti-corruption awareness. This is also part of building ethics and integrity in the next generation.
3. Team up at the FSM Government Conferences- this is part of empowering youth participation in Government
4. Joint other youth groups in commemorating the International Anti-Corruption Day, where they raised awareness through talent competitions i.e. songs, skits, video clips, etc.
5. Promotional materials- Y4C assisted POPA in updating their hotline flyer- POPA has an existing Fraud Hotline where citizens can call suspicious activities of fraud, waste and mismanagement in the Pohnpei State Government.

The world needs young leadership. The passion in their hearts to continue the fight against corruption is very evident on how they speak. Engaging youth's awareness on corruption issues create community responsibility among the young people. As stated by Sophia Pretrick, "Partnering with Y4C was a great experience working with the leaders of tomorrow. The greatest impact of the joint work was being able to observe the members implement what they learn in real life. The moral attitudes and capabilities they acquire from the program will enable them to succeed." Majority of the Anti-Corruption Champions are now pursuing higher education abroad.

The new officers presented the outcome and goals of the 2nd phase, which they will be executing moving forward. Y4C also handed over POPA's FRAUD HOTLINE bumper stickers which was sponsored by Y4C. The bumper stickers are now being distributed and posted on all Pohnpei State government own vehicles.



President Panuelo signs Public Law 21-152 which increases state incomes by exempting 20% of revenues from deposit into the FSM Trust Fund

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 20th, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo signed Public Law 21-152. The law exempts the extra twenty percent (20%) of the share of revenues collected to the FSM National Government from being deposited into the State sub-accounts of the FSM Trust Fund for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022; these funds will now be remitted to the States directly.

"I once again find myself humbled and deeply appreciative of the extraordinary leadership demonstrated by the Honorable Wesley W. Simina and the entire 21st FSM Congress," President Panuelo said in a statement. "It has been made clear in my virtual meetings with the Governors that our State Governments are desperate for additional revenue to provide essential services while our Nation tackles the COVID-19 Pandemic. The call for additional resources has been universal and the Governors have been outspoken on this topic. I am enthusiastic to share this good news with the Honorable Henry S. Falan, the Honorable Johnson S. Elimo, the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, and the Honorable Carson K. Sigrah, that the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae will benefit from additional revenue in the next two fiscal years."

"What I am particularly grateful for," the President continued, "is that since the funding is remitted directly to the States, the funding's use is at their discretion through relevant State legislation. If one State is finding that it needs more funding in the Education Sector, it can use these funds for this purpose; if another State is finding that it needs more funding in the Health Sector, it can use these funds for this purpose."

Citizens interested in reading Public Law 21-152 may find it here: https://gov.fm/files/PL_No_21-152_Exempting_Extra_20_Revenue_Shares_State_Sub-Accounts.pdf



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc., made a donation of two laptops to the Upward Bound program to assist with their remote learning issues, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rotary wants to assist education in any way possible, and Upward Bound is a worthy program.

This donation is another of the Rotary Club's community service projects.

We want to thank everyone who supports our club and its fundraising efforts.

Australia's response to COVID-19 in FSM through partnership with IOM

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia will partner with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to fund a new project that will ensure that dispensaries and health centres throughout the FSM are able to provide women and girls access to essential products and services. This project will also improve dispensaries' and health centres' water supply systems, sanitation facilities, and hygiene supplies and practices.

The overall objective of this project is to support the FSM's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as meeting the needs of local communities, especially those most vulnerable such as women and girls. FSM has recently included gender-based violence (GBV) services as one of the essential services to be decentralized to dispensaries and health centres in all four states.

Existing gender inequalities are known to worsen during a crisis, resulting in women and girls facing even higher rates of family violence and being less able to access essential health services. This project will provide psychological first aid training to dispensary staff, information packets on gender-based violence (GBV) and ways to get help, as well as dignity kits for GBV victims. The dignity kits will be prepared in the FSM containing reusable menstrual hygiene pads, soap and other products essential for women's health and hygiene. Many of the products in each dignity kit will be hand-made

locally by women in the FSM to provide entrepreneurial opportunities for women and support women's economic empowerment.

Australia is contributing USD300,000 towards this project. IOM will coordinate the project's implementation, working with a wide range of partners including the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs; State Department of Health in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM); Environment Protection Agency (EPA); World Health Organization (WHO);

and the newly established FSM Social Protection Cluster.

Australia is also pleased to have supported FSM's COVID-19 preparedness through Phase 1 of the WHO's COVID-19 response in the Pacific. This provided FSM with assistance on incident management, surveillance, risk communication, laboratory testing, infection prevention and control, as well as PPE including gloves, gowns, surgical masks, eye protection and infrared thermometers. 1,000 GeneXpert testing cartridges will also be provided to FSM under a jointly funded initiative with WHO, New Zealand, PIHOA and SPC, with a number of shipments already delivered.



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FSM & Kosrae COVID-19 Task Forces brief Governor Sigrah on simulation exercise & action-planning results; Kosrae not yet ready for the repatriation of FSM citizens

FSM Information Services

TOFOL, Kosrae—from July 13th to July 15th, 2020, the COVID-19 Task Force of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) worked in tandem with the COVID-19 Task Force of the State of Kosrae to conduct a series of readiness assessments, tabletop, and simulation exercises to determine Kosrae's current capacity and prevention measures for when FSM citizens residing in Kosrae are repatriated. On July 16th, the FSM and Kosrae COVID-19 Task Forces developed action plans complete with recommendations on how to fill the gaps identified in the exercises. This release will describe the strengths and recommendations for improving the Point of Entry, the Quarantine Site, and the Isolation Area, as well as overarching recommendations to be addressed prior to Kosrae's opening for the repatriation of FSM citizens.

Citizens only interested in knowing when Kosrae State is ready to open are advised that the simulation exercises demonstrated sufficient gaps that no date can yet be identified. "In our first day of meetings," said the Honorable Carson K. Sigrah, Governor of Kosrae State, in the debriefing on July 17th, "I mentioned that we were working on a timeline to start thinking about opening our borders to accept our stranded citizens. The timeline was next week's flights on Wednesday and Thursday. Evidently, I think we cannot meet that timeline according to the assessment that's been done."

The Kosrae State Airport is the Point of Entry for repatriating FSM citizens. Strengths include that the setup for the screening area is simple, that risk communication messages were clearly announced via megaphone, environmental decontamination was conducted thoroughly, the ambulance was well-equipped, and the structure for the screening station is an open area with natural ventilation.

"Kosrae State is very smart with its Point of Entry," said Dr. Eunyoung Ko, the FSM's Country Liaison Officer with the World Health Organization (WHO). "Kosrae's policy of not allowing check-in luggage simplifies the process significantly. The exposure time and exposure place are quite minimal. If you impose this on the passengers, it would be hard on a personal level but from a technical point of view it's positive."



Simulated passengers stand in line; notice the absence of luggage—this is intentional, as Kosrae State will prohibit checked-in baggage as a protection mechanism

Recommendations for improving Kosrae's Point of Entry include finalizing standard operating procedures (SOPs) focusing on repatriation, including the use of personal protection equipment (PPE), such as who, how, when, what, and where to don and doff. It was noted that all staff working at the Point of Entry should get trained or retrained in PPE. "I am sad to say this," Dr. Ko said, "but most of the Point of Entry workers failed in how to properly wear PPE and how to take off the PPE. I think it's probably one of the priorities in the coming weeks."

Kosrae High School is the designated Quarantine Site for repatriating citizens arriving from COVID-19 affected jurisdictions but not showing any symptoms of the coronavirus. Strengths include that the Quarantine Site is very close to the hospital and police station; that it is well contained; that facilities are wheelchair accessible; that rooms are well ventilated; that it is possible to segregate symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals by assigning them rooms on different floors; and that the rooms are structured in such a way where families can stay together. It was noted with appreciation that the Quarantine Site allows for exceptional amounts of open space and sunshine in a secured, grassy common area.

Recommendations to improve the Quarantine Site include assigning an overall Site Manager, and focal points responsible for all teams. There should be efforts to reduce crowding (such as at common areas e.g. the bathrooms and shower rooms), and SOPs in place to sanitize common areas every couple hours. It is recommended that all rooms have appropriate furnishings, and good access to WiFi/phone.

"Fourteen days of quarantine can be emotionally exhausting and, speaking frankly, very boring," said Dr. Eliaser Johnson, the FSM's National Epidemiologist. "WiFi access will go a long way to keeping quarantined citizens feeling connected to their families and their community."

The Isolation Area at the hospital has two isolation rooms ready to use, COVID-19 testing equipment setup, tested, verified, validated, and ready to use, designated staff (nurses and clinicians) identified to manage the unit, and clinical management guidelines in place. Posters and signs at the hospital's entrance and throughout are informative and highly visible. "The risk communication is good," said Margaret Baekalia-Santos, the FSM's Microbiologist. "They're putting up posters and signage to alert the general population of the [coronavirus], so that's a good form of communication.... Also, we can do contact tracing if we have multiple cases, and we can isolate patients if we have a case. These are the strengths, but there are also a lot of gaps."

Recommendations for improving the Isolation Area include ensuring better organization and management of rapid triage; training of ventilator use for doctors and nurses; continuous management and infection prevention control trainings for all healthcare workers; complete triage and isolation ward, including constructing plexiglass on the doors, designating separate areas for donning and doffing PPE, and constructing a walkway with a roof from the triage to isolation ward. It was emphasized that color coding and zoning contaminated areas from clean areas, and the risk appropriate PPE requirement thereof for the triage, isolation ward, morgue, and laboratory is highly important. "Don't

forget to color code—your red zone, your yellow zone, and your green zone," said Baekalia-Santos.

There are four overarching recommendations that the National and State Task Forces agreed must be addressed prior to the repatriation of citizens.

The first of these overarching recommendations is to improve communication flow, with clear role delineations and accountability of the Incident Command System players; this can be demonstrated through additional simulation exercises.

The second of these overarching recommendations is for Kosrae's Department of Health Services, in collaboration with the Disaster Coordination Office, to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the recommended actions from the assessment report.

The third of these overarching recommendations is for Kosrae State's COVID-19 SOPs to be endorsed by the State Task Force and shared with the National Task Force.

The fourth of these overarching recommendations is for Kosrae State, before making a decision on the when and how of repatriation, to conduct a reassessment to verify the implementation of the recommended actions from this assessment report.

"In other words," said the Honorable Livingston A. Taulung, Chair of the FSM COVID-19 Task Force, "Talk to each other; work together to fill the gaps, and once you think the gaps are filled test them by reassessing them."

At the conclusion of the debriefing, Governor Sigrah advised that it was his view that the FSM COVID-19 Task Force ought to stay in Kosrae State a few days longer, so as to assist with necessary capacity-building. This view was echoed by the Honorable Arthy G. Nena, Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae, and by the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Senator-at-large representing Kosrae in the 21st FSM Congress. His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, accepted this request and the FSM COVID-19 Task Force will extend its stay in Kosrae until Wednesday, July 22nd.

FSM & KSA COVID-19 Task Forces complete additional simulation exercises, contact tracing, & community workshops; “I think you can open soon, and it will be your decision when,” Secretary Taulung Says

FSM Information Services

TOFOL, Kosrae—From July 18th to 22nd, 2020, the Federated States of Micronesia’s (FSM’s) COVID-19 Task Force extended its stay in the State of Kosrae, per the Government’s request, to assist in additional readiness and simulation exercises to help prepare the State for the repatriation of its residents. Amongst the tasks completed included contact tracing workshops, community empowerment exercises, and several simulation exercises. This release will primarily relay the updated strengths and weaknesses discussed in the July 22nd debriefing for the State’s Point of Entry, Quarantine, and Isolation sites.

Citizens only interested in knowing when Kosrae will reopen for repatriating its residents are advised that, although the date is still unknown, significant progress has been made towards improving the State’s capacity. “I think you can open soon, and it will be your decision when,” the Honorable Livingston A. Taulung, Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs, said in the Task Force’s debriefing to the Honorable Carson K. Sigrah, Governor of the State of Kosrae. “Many of the biggest gaps identified last week have either been addressed or are actively being addressed by your team.”

The Point of Entry has seen “a lot of improvements,” said Mr. Ben Jackson Amor. “Prior to the screening, the queuing passengers would wash their hands before going to the screening area. Along with that, the signage posted in the screening area is a big plus.”

The traffic cones previously used to designate social distancing markers have been replaced with colored tape, ensuring that social distancing is maintained regardless of any troublesome weather.

Another strength at the Point of Entry was the successful use of the Incident Command Structure, which is functionally a phone-tree to ensure successful communications between the various attending parties.

Of the gaps still identified at the Point of Entry, one of them included that a passenger—a Person Under Investigation (PUI)—was in full physical contact with a police officer. The police officer was wearing a mask and gloves, but if physical contact occurs there should also be a gown and face- shield.

The Quarantine Site (Kosrae High School) demonstrated significant gains over previous exercises. “If I had to use terms to compare today with the last exercises,” said Mr. Ari Skilling, “it would be ‘Confidence’ and ‘More informed.’ Operations-wise, the Quarantine Site has a lot of the Standard Operating Procedures written on paper and used in practice. ... This time around, communication was much improved...today we had EIGHT health personnel instead of TWO... and we maximized the available rooms without compromising on space.”

Mr. Skilling noted in the debriefing to Governor Sigrah that the Quarantine Site had prepared a standardized welcome script, as well as welcome kits inclusive of documentation on the Quarantine Site’s rules and procedures, maps of where facilities were, contact information for assistance, and physical goods such as a hygiene bucket, a comfort blanket, and home touches such as Kosraean tangerines. “Ms. Patricia displayed efficient use of all of her staff—each staff was dedicated to a specific passenger where they were escorted without making contact,” Mr. Skilling said. “She later called the entire security detail to gather at a designated doffing area, where

everyone monitored each other for proper doffing procedures. Now it’s just a matter of ironing out the finer details.”

It was advised that a significant improvement was that the Quarantine Site team installed an onramp directly in front of the briefing area, greatly assisting the State’s capacity to successfully provide for repatriating residents with physical disabilities.

Regarding the Quarantine Site’s gaps, it was noted that one simulated passenger who was role- playing disorderly conduct was mistakenly treated the same as a PUI.

“A person classified as a PUI has symptoms consistent with COVID-19,” said Dr. Eliaser Johnson, the FSM’s epidemiologist. “We ought not to mix someone with disorderly conduct with a PUI, in part so that we don’t run the risk of exposure.”

Mrs. Margaret Baekalia-Santos, the FSM’s Microbiologist, described the Isolation Site’s strengths and weaknesses. Mrs. Baekalia-Santos advised that the strengths of the Isolation Site included

the successful use of the Incident Command Structure, appropriate steps for donning and doffing of personal protection equipment (PPE), identified areas to don and doff PPE, and temporary color- coded zoning of green, yellow, and red zones. The laboratory was involved in picking up samples from the Isolation Site.

The gaps identified in the Isolation Site focused primarily on the doffing of PPE, and proper disinfection of the ambulance. “There still needs to be more infection prevention control training, donning and doffing training, and handwashing training,” Baekalia-Santos said. “That said, today was much improved. I am happy, it’s actually a very big improvement.”

Other than the simulation exercises on July 18th and 22nd, the Task Force also conducted a series of community engagements with the Mayors of the Municipalities of Malem, Tafunsak, Lelu, and Utwe, as well as a series of contact tracing and PPE donning and doffing trainings, among others.



FSM presents its first Voluntary National Review on the SDGs

An assessment of progress on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through the presentation of the VNR at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

By *Alvie B. Cabañez*

Edited by *Olivier Wortel and the FSM SDG Working Group*

UN Head Quarters, New York - The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was among four Pacific countries and 47 countries globally who presented a voluntary national review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meeting of the high-level political forum (HLPF) was held from Tuesday, 7 July, to Thursday, 16 July under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. The theme was "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". The HLPF annual meeting is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

President H.E David Panuelo gave the FSM presentation via a prerecorded video statement on Tuesday July 14. This presentation was well received by UN member states in attendance, as well as the President of the ECOSOC, H.E. Mona Juul, who stated at the opening of the Ministerial segment of the HLPF, "Holding the HLPF in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed new innovations and forms of collaboration. I would like to commend all who have participated and contributed to the online discussions thus far; and to congratulate the 47 countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews this year."

"On behalf of the staff of the Permanent Mission in New York", stated FSM Ambassador to the UN, Mrs. Jane Chigiyal, "I take this opportunity to thank...the members of the (FSM SDG) Working Group for their tireless effort in completing the VNR Report and VNR pre-recorded video presentation". Ambassador Chigiyal represented FSM at the meeting and was instrumental in guiding the process.

The SDG Working Group (WG) was created in 2016 and is comprised of all national Departments and Agencies and chaired by the Department of Resources and Development. The SDG WG led the VNR process since March 2019 through a series of state and national level consultations with government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), private sector and development partners.

"As a nation, we have put in place policy measures to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" stated President Panuelo in his video address. "These measures include enshrining climate change and climate action, as well as the importance of our oceans...in all our policies, plans, and strategies as well as support for our Youth and



SDG WG Chairman Marion Henry and the SDG working Group and UN staff after participating in the virtual presentation of FSM's VNR, including Norleen Oliver, Natasha Nakasone, Stacy Yleizah, Edna Akullq, Cromwell Bacaraza, Beverly Jean and Loma Jibemai.

People with Disabilities and National and State Women's Groups to ensure that they have a voice in decision making. Our nation is also committed to the rule of law and equal opportunity for all," added His Excellency David W. Panuelo.

The Voluntary National Review included the development of a VNR report, which reviewed FSM's progress on implementation of the 17 SDGs. Although all 17 SDGs were discussed in the report, selected highlights in both the report and the video presentation focused on SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG5: Gender Equality SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 8: economic growth SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 14: Life under water. The VNR report was organized under the themes of people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships.

The VNR suggested having more support for developing social protection and preparedness and recovery, all efforts that will be needed, particularly in the areas of health, sanitation, waste management, education, gender, and critical water and food security. VNR also suggests strengthening resource mobilization for accelerating implementation of the goals and continuous stakeholder engagement at all levels.

The VNR assessment should raise awareness to the citizens that the FSM continues to undertake the process to achieve the SDGs. The FSM has made progress in many of the SDGs, but, in the words of President Panuelo "we aspire for better". The SDGs are not a government-only initiative but a holistic set of ambitions for all stakeholders to continuously work to improve people's lives, support their wellbeing, maintain and enhance environmental stability and support collaboration to achieve these.

The review was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the state and national governments, FSM Civil Society Organizations, and great support from all in-country and regional United Nations (UN) and CROP agencies, including The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). The FSM SDG WG also recognizes the effort of Micronesia Productions, Vital Energy and the State SDG Working Groups and Focal Points in supporting the development of the report and the high level video presentation to the UN.

The VNR report and video presentation can be found at the following links <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=1821&menu=3170>, and <https://www.facebook.com/MicroProduxn/> or by contacting the FSM SDG Working Group at fsm.sdg@fsmrd.fm

United States holds second round of compact consultations with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau

Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech and U.S. Department of State Ambassador Karen B. Stewart, representing the United States government, have concluded a second round of consultations with teams from both the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Palau.

The United States and both countries continue to move forward in discussions regarding certain expiring provisions of their respective Compact of Free Association agreements. The U.S. government team also held an informal consultation with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

"We are pleased that our conversations with each of the teams continue in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and mutual respect," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "Under the leadership of the Trump Administration, the special relationships with the freely associated states under the Compacts of Free Association remain strong, underscoring the United States' longstanding commitment."

"Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making progress on these important conversations. This is a testament to our strong relationships and desire to achieve the best outcomes for citizens of our countries," said Ambassador Stewart.

Due to COVID-19 the FSM Consulate in Portland is closed indefinitely; FSM citizens in the U.S. are explicitly encouraged to comply with social distancing rules & avoid public gatherings

FSM Information Services

PORTLAND, Oregon—On July 18th, 2020, the Honorable Joe Enlet, Consul General of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) based in the U.S. State of Oregon, sent a request to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Consulate Office be closed indefinitely, with essential services such as passport applications to continue on a limited basis through remote liaising. The reasons cited for the request include complications posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The FSM National Government is aware that the United States is presently undergoing significant increases of COVID-19 cases, including in States that FSM citizens predominantly reside in e.g. the State of Oregon, the State of Washington, the State of North Carolina, the State of Ohio, and the State of Texas. FSM citizens living in the U.S. are explicitly encouraged to comply with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention’s social distancing guidelines, to avoid large public gatherings, and to wear a mask when one is at work or shopping for essential goods.

For statistical purposes, FSM citizens are placed within the Pacific Islander category within U.S. Census and American Community Survey data etc. Pacific Islanders are suffering from the highest rate of COVID-19, far outnumbering other categories such as Asian, Black, White, or Hispanic residents of the United States of America. As of July 21st, 2020, the FSM National Government is aware of at least sixty-four (64) FSM citizens in the U.S. mainland who have been confirmed to have contracted a case of COVID-19. The FSM National Government is further aware of at least 11 FSM citizens in the U.S. who have passed away from the virus. The numbers the FSM National Government can confirm are likely lower than the actual total number of cases and deaths, as the cases and numbers identified within this release have been directly reported to the FSM National Government.

“I want to emphasize that these numbers are merely what is reported to the FSM Consulate and what we have been able to confirm ourselves,” Consul General Enlet wrote in a communication to the Department of Foreign Affairs. “There are over sixty (60) cases that our partners...have confirmed for the State

of Hawaii alone.”

“This is an opportune time to capitalize on the collaborative effort,” the Honorable Jackson Soram, Deputy Chief of Mission of the FSM Embassy in the U.S., said in a statement. “Through the CARES Act, there is funding available to FSM groups and communities in the U.S. to address COVID-19. So far, the only active participant in utilizing these funds is the Manelu Organization of Guam (aka the Micronesian Resource Center One Stop Shop). The Embassy and its Consulates encourage Micronesian communities to reach out to the Embassy if they wish to apply for these funds to help keep our citizens and their communities safe from the coronavirus.”

“Staff will be doing their work remotely,” Consul General Enlet said. “We will continue to advocate for FSM citizens and assist with CARES Act grant assistance. We will also process passports and other necessary documents for our citizens, but on a very limited basis.”

The FSM Consulate in Oregon has been working very closely with State and County officials to provide crucial information and services to FSM citizens regarding COVID-19. The FSM National Government appreciates the assistance provided by the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, as well as the assistance provided by the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Human Services, and the State of Washington’s Employment Security Department, among others, in ensuring FSM citizens have access to personal protection equipment (PPE), COVID-19 testing, and funding for local partner organizations such as the COFA Alliance National Network (CANN).

Citizens living in the FSM Consulate in Oregon’s jurisdiction who are seeking the Consulate’s services are advised that, since the office itself is presently closed, if they wish to contact the FSM National Government that the best means to do so is by contacting the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The FSM Embassy to the United States based in Washington, D.C. is able to address any queries from FSM citizens residing in the United States. Their phone number is 202-223-4383, and their email webform is here: <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/webform/contact-us>

“I have asked all Consulate employees to get tested for COVID-19, along with their families,” Consul General Enlet said. “Fortunately, there are free testing sites in the Portland area to which we have access. FSM citizens in the U.S. are encouraged to contact their Embassy if they need information on COVID-19 testing sites in their community.”

“My fellow Micronesians, particularly those of you abroad,” President Panuelo

said in a statement, “please comply with all social distancing guidelines provided by the U.S. CDC and your local State Government. Wear a mask at all times that you are in public, and avoid going out in public as much as you can. This isn’t the time for basketball tournaments in Texas, baseball leagues in Nebraska, or feasts in Portland. This is the time to be with your families at home. These are hard times, but the effort you make to protect yourself and your family by avoiding public gatherings and wearing a mask when you must be in public will help keep you and your communities safe.”



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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Colonia Wellness Center Gym Equipment RFP NO. 2020-002

The Yap State Office of Planning and Budget/ Project Management Office (PMO) is soliciting proposals for the supply of Gym Equipment for the Colonia Wellness Center Project, to be received until 4:00 p.m. on August 3, 2020, local Yap time. Interested parties are requested to get in touch with the undersigned on the contact details listed below for the List of Gym 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

ADB'S investment for building urban resilience in Pacific to hit \$900 million

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

17 July 2020

MANILA, PHILIPPINES— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and cofinancing partners' investment to make Pacific towns and cities more livable through improved essential services is poised to reach \$900 million by the end of 2022, according to a new report.

ADB's Pacific Urban Update 2020 details a raft of extensive investments across the region—both ongoing and upcoming—which will improve water supply, sanitation, and other municipal infrastructure and services in urban areas. The report highlights how integration and coordination, and an emphasis on building capacity to plan and manage urban development, are building urban resilience by addressing the root causes of vulnerability and fragility.

“More people moving to cities and towns risks the growth of underserved informal settlements and increased spread of disease, but it also presents an opportunity to improve lives through the sustainable delivery of accessible services,” said the Urban Division Director of ADB's Pacific Department Jingmin Huang. “By helping countries provide safe, efficient, and reliable urban services, and by better managing the growth of towns and cities, we are building strong and healthy economies to better manage their isolation

and limited resources.”

The report states significant urban planning, investment, and institutional reforms are needed to improve access to, and the quality of, urban services in Pacific cities and towns. It says to build urban resilience today, and in the future, a focus on disaster preparedness and the impacts of climate change is needed.

The report examines the case-by-case solutions ADB is developing for each Pacific country's unique situation through 17 ongoing urban development projects, estimated at more than \$320 million. Another 26 projects, estimated at almost \$580 million, are set to begin before 2022. ADB's cofinancing partners include the Governments of Australia and Ireland, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the European Union, the European Investment Bank, and the World Bank.

In Fiji, the \$405 million Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management Investment Program is building and renovating infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water and sewerage for the people of greater Suva. Along with a new, climate-resilient water intake station and an expanded wastewater treatment plant, the project is improving the Water Authority of Fiji's management and service delivery capacities. Meanwhile, the proposed Nadi Flood Alleviation Project

will deliver structural and other measures to protect Fiji's fourth-largest urban center from increasingly regular flooding.

Major water supply projects in Kiribati, and Solomon Islands are also detailed in the report. In Kiribati, following on from a \$26 million sanitation project, the \$62 million South Tarawa Water Supply Project will improve the health of the densely populated Kiribati capital's population. The project will build new climate-resilient and sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure, improve urban planning capabilities, and undertake community engagement and awareness raising on health and hygiene issues.

Meanwhile, a \$93 million project in Solomon Islands will improve access to safe water and sanitation in the capital Honiara and five other urban centers and help Solomon Water become financially sustainable and technically proficient. Residents in Honiara will also benefit from a \$10 million project to build priority infrastructure identified in the government's plan for the capital.

In Palau, the report details an urban planning project for Koror and Babeldaob Island that is working with the government to develop a strategy and action plan that integrates spatial and geographic information system maps. The project focuses on maintaining a balance between economic, cultural, and physical

environments while optimizing scarce resources to support economic growth and increased well-being.

This holistic focus is also reflected in the \$16 million Integrated Urban Resilience Sector Project in Tonga. Along with improving water supply and waste services, this project is working to build knowledge and capabilities to manage these services and develop associated policies as needs change in the future.

The report notes that improved water and sanitation through projects such as these, as well as better planning of urban areas, will reduce the risk of communicable diseases and increase local capacity to manage disease and illness, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

ADB is also working to strengthen regional coordination and integration by building urban planning, assessment, and development capacities; developing a subregional solid waste management strategy; establishing regional networks; and producing knowledge products on improving urban services in Pacific countries.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

U.S. Coast Guard responds to Search and Rescue (SAR) request in Pohnpei

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

The FSM government requested the United States Coast Guard Search and Rescue assistance in Pohnpei State for a local citizen reported missing on July 11 while fishing. The U.S. Coast Guard immediately responded on July 12, deploying a C-130 aircraft from Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii to assist in the SAR. In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam provided potential search patterns as a tool to assist the local authorities with the search.

The U.S. Coast Guard C-130 aircrew was housed overnight July 13 at Pohnpei State's Medical Monitoring Area (MMA) in Dekehtik, near the airport. The C-130 conducted full potential aerial searches on July 13; however, due to the FSM government's requirements, the C-130 conducted shorter aerial searches July 14 before flying to Guam.

The U.S. Government provided SAR assistance alongside the FSM Maritime Police, Pohnpei State Government, the Pohnpei Fishing Club, and the individual's friends and family members. Under the obligations of the Compact of Free Association between the U.S.



and the FSM, the U.S. Coast Guard responds to FSM's requests for emergency assistance, such as a search and rescue operation.

For more information and photos, please see Pohnpei State's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PohnpeiStateGov/>

President Panuelo distributes first Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program checks

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 13th, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), hosted an opening ceremony to celebrate the distribution of the first Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program checks. A result of the Enduring Partnership between the FSM and the United States of America, and codified through an agreement between the FSM Department of Finance & Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor, the PUA Program provides temporary financial benefits to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of COVID-19.

In his remarks, President Panuelo thanked the Government of the United

States for their generous funding of the PUA Program, emphasizing that in these challenging times of the COVID-19 Pandemic the FSM has been introducing a series of social protection programs. “No person should have to suffer the indignity of hunger, or an income insufficient to take care of their family,” the President said. “I thank the United States for their assistance in this program, and thank all of you for your patience and understanding as the FSM Government undertakes special procedures to partner with the U.S. for the purpose of the PUA Program.”

“There remains uncertainty to this Pandemic,” the President continued. “I urge citizens to spend and save their money wisely, as we don’t really know how long the economic downturn may last.”

Sixty-five (65) checks, with an average payout of \$4,615.00 amounting to a total of \$300,000, were distributed on July 13th to citizens across the FSM. More than 1,000 applications for the PUA Program have been received thus far. The FSM National Government projects 3,000+ total applications for the PUA Program, representing approximately 20% of the Nation’s formal labor force.

The PUA program provides temporary financial benefits to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of COVID-19. Examples of individuals who may qualify for assistance are: those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms and are seeking a medical diagnosis; individuals who reside with a household member diagnosed with COVID-19; those who are

unable to reach their place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; those who are scheduled to commence employment but do not have a job or are unable to reach their job due as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and those whose places of employment have closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As of July 14th, 2020, the FSM remains COVID-19 free.

For more information on the PUA Program, email the Office of PUA at opua@gov.fm or visit the Department of Finance & Administration’s dedicated website here: <http://www.dofa.gov.fm/pandemic-unemployment-assistance-program/>

Strengthened communication, coordination and information exchange provide the foundation for FSM’s improved approach to fisheries compliance

NORMA

The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) have strengthened their relationship and adopted an improved approach to fisheries compliance for FSM. The approach seeks to achieve optimal levels of compliance through the application of risk-based, consistent and targeted compliance activities that support national efforts to promote the conservation, management and development of FSM’s fishery resources.

In November 2019, President Panuelo had the opportunity to review a draft Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025 and asked the DoJ and NORMA to take the necessary steps to ensure its full implementation. Last week, NORMA and the DoJ took the first of these steps and met for a three-day working session facilitated by the New Zealand funded Fisheries Compliance Adviser. The working session provided a forum for the DoJ and NORMA to engage in open and honest dialogue, adopt an improved approach to fisheries compliance and finalize the Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025.

Justice Secretary Joses Gallen, Sr. expressed optimism on the “close working relationship between NORMA

and the DoJ. He highlighted the mandate of the two national offices to ensure the protection of the natural resources of the nation and strengthen the regulatory measures for their conservation”.

The development and implementation of the Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025 is an incredibly important step for FSM and will ensure the compliance activities are prioritized, risk-based and targeted. Through the Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025, NORMA and the DoJ will develop initiatives to encourage voluntary compliance and to ensure that effective deterrents to non-compliant behavior are established.

In adopting the FCS, NORMA and the DoJ commit to effective coordination and information exchange and to developing a compliance environment that is based on consistent, fair, transparent and legitimate principles. The DoJ and NORMA have recommitted to their role as stewards of FSM’s marine resources and to protect these resources for all of FSM’s people, now and into the future.

NORMA’s Executive Director, Eugene Pangelinan firmly believes “that the new Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025 will result in improved compliance by fishing vessels and greater transparency in our approach to compliance and enforcement. It is hoped that our partners will see this transformation as an invitation to invest in FSM resulting in the creation of jobs and new economic activities that will benefit both industry and the people of FSM”.

The Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025 will provide important guidance to develop and implement a range of national fisheries priorities including establishing FSM as a Competent Authority country to secure European Union market access, the improved implementation of port State measures, the implementation of the Administrative Penalties Regulations, the promotion of voluntary compliance and the implementation of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring.

Over the coming weeks, NORMA and the DoJ will work to finalize the Fisheries Compliance Strategy 2020 – 2025 and develop its implementation plan. The two agencies will also start work on a comprehensive review of FSM’s national fisheries law and on arrangements for an inclusive Fisheries Compliance Workshop planned for 2021.





Student Success is our Success

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Update from the President's Office

FSM continues to remain COVID-19 virus free due to strict guidelines and actions taken by the National and State governments. FSM 21st Congress Resolution 21-175 has extended the emergency health declaration until September 30, 2020.

Everyone needs to continue to practice health and safety:

- Practice social distancing
- Wash your hands regularly
- Stay home if you are sick or caring for someone who is sick.

Drive Thru Graduation July 29, 2020

Due to this unprecedented health (COVID-19) crisis, the college did not organize commencement exercises supposedly scheduled in May 2020 to recognize our graduates of spring 2020. However, the college has worked diligently to provide alternatives that will give our graduates the recognition they so deserve. As such, a "drive thru" commencement ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 29 July 2020, at 9:00 AM, in front of the LRC building, to honor our spring and summer 2020 graduates.

College plans for fall 2020 semester with classes starting on August 17, 2020.

Courses will be offered online, a mix of online and face-to-face and some face-to-face courses. The fall schedule is available on MyShark. Early registration begins July 20 and ends August 1. Regular registration begins August 12-14. Check the college Newsfeed How to Register Online for Fall 2020.

Services for Fall Semester:

Virtual counseling and tutoring services will be available. Currently, the department is working on procuring computers that will be distributed at each campus location to serve as terminals for students enabling them to virtually meet either our counselors or tutors, in addition to equivalent services that are currently available in-person, though with some restrictions due to our preventive measures. Once the help desk app is up and operational, we foresee

that students will use this app to contact either our counselors or tutors for virtual counseling or tutoring session. We plan to have at least two terminals at each campus, accessible to students.

Orientation for new, transfer and returning students

EMSS will be working on delivering orientation for new, transfer and returning students in an online or virtual mode, which will be in a video presentation that will be posted on the college's website and can be viewed by students at any convenient time.

Requirements for visiting any college campus

The campus remains closed to the public. Should anyone have business on campus, you must follow the requirements below:

- Starting August 3, 2020, all (faculty, staff, students and other stakeholders who will be coming on campus) must wear facial masks or facial covering when they're on campus. The college will not provide masks for free, but they are available in the campus bookstores.
- COM-FSM photo identification cards should be prominently worn on the right breast or on a lanyard from the neck while on campus — be on work schedule or visiting. IDs cannot be worn on a shirtsleeve, pants, outside of pocket, under shirt, coat jacket or at the bottom of the shirt. Visitors may acquire a visitor's ID from security stationed at the entrance. Security officer may also check temperature.



Karen Simion
Interim President & CEO

Fall 2020 Registration

Regular Registration
August 12-14, 2020

*To register in person, please contact the
Office of Admissions, Records & Retention
of your campus.*

*Email us at:
daoas@comfsm.fm*

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