

FSM President, Vice President and Speaker officially visit Pohnpei for the first time in their young administrations

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 7, 2023

Pohnpei—Excitement levels were high in Peilapalap, Pohnpei, as newly selected FSM President Wesley Simina, Vice President Aren Palik, and Speaker Esmond Moses arrived at the State government complex for the first official State visit to Pohnpei by the new administration.



Pohnpei Catholic School students lined the driveway, waving FSM flags and singing a song as the President's entourage arrived at the complex. Students from Nett Elementary School, who later performed a traditional stick dance for the dignitaries, lined the balconies, trying to get a look at the

[Click here for continuation](#)



FSM says goodbye to long serving marine surveillance vessel FSS Palikir

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 15, 2023

Pohnpei—On 15 June, Australian Ambassador Jo Cowley joined His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina and A/G Secretary of Department of Justice Leonito Bacalando Jr. to bid farewell to the FSS Palikir, the first patrol boat gifted by the Australian Government to the FSM in 1990.

President Simina delivered a keynote address in which he described the FSS Palikir as a very important sea patrol asset that had served the FSM for many

years. The President said: "We have shared many memories. I personally have shared these memories of the accomplishments of FSS Palikir. We have patrolled the seas, protected our shores, and made our Exclusive Economic Zone a safe fishing ground. Indeed, FSS Palikir is a source of pride and a symbol of our shared commitment to service."

In her remarks, Ambassador Cowley said the FSS Palikir had served the FSM faithfully for 33 years. She thanked successive FSM administrations including President Simina for their continuing commitment to the partnership.

[Click here for continuation](#)



ONPA finds FSM Office of Personnel has made significant advances in Professional Premium Program administration

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

June 19, 2023

FSM—The FSM Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) has released a follow-up performance audit to the 2019 audit on Professional Premium Benefit Administered by the Office of Personnel. The previous audit resulted in at least one prosecution of an employee who had been fraudulently receiving a professional premium after he presented falsified qualifications for it. That prosecution resulted in a plea bargain in which the employee's employment with the National Government was terminated, and he was required to pay back all of the thousands of dollars fraudulently obtained.

ONPA auditors commended the Office of Personnel for having made significant strides in fully implementing the previous recommendations on the matter, including the development of a checklist of documentation that is required before an employee is determined to be eligible for the premium. They found that though none of the recommendations had been fully implemented, most had either been partially implemented to a significant degree or no longer applicable under changed laws or for other reasons.

The Premium Program was established for public service employees in order to "recognize the circumstances of employment to labor market conditions outside the Federated States of Micronesia, and to recognize and reward the attainment of certain advanced professional status."

There are currently no recipients of the marketplace premium, while the Professional premium had nineteen recipients as of fiscal year 2022. Those 19 recipients received a total annual salary of \$639,825 in fiscal year 2022, down from \$686,320 in the previous year for 16 employees. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the annual salary amount hovered around half a million dollars for 13 and 14 employees,

respectively.

The Professional Premium benefit is given to an employee who has achieved advanced professional status in the field of law, accounting, engineering, or has earned a doctorate degree in any field. If qualified, the employee receives a premium of 90 percent in addition to the base salary for the position during employment at the National Government.

The first prior audit recommendation on the Premium implementation was that "the office of Personnel's capacity should be strengthened in its: 1.) leadership and management; 2) staffing; 3) budget; and 4) oversight responsibility for monitoring and for evaluating the organizational and individual's performance. Auditors found that the office had fully implemented the first three areas of concern but had not performed any performance evaluations even though an annual performance rating report is required in Part 9 of the FSM Public Service System Requirements (PSSR).

Management responded that based on the current salary freeze for the national government, the office saw no incentive in evaluating employees' performance as would not result in a salary increase. However, the management confirmed that the performance evaluations tool be reactivated for their office this year while they continue to negotiate with Congress to lift the current salary freeze.

Prior finding two from the previous audit was that the Office of Personnel should develop and implement appropriate internal controls to guide the administration and the effective management of the Premium Program. "It is commendable to note that a checklist for assessing applications for the professional premium has been designed by the Office of Personnel," the auditor wrote in the follow-up audit. "The template will help ensure a consistent assessment is made on all applications for the professional premium

benefit." However, auditors also found that filing of required documents for assessing eligibility was not complete for certain recipients to support the finding of eligibility. During the audit, the Office of Personnel had to ask the recipients for those documents since they were not on file.

ONPA said that the Office of Personnel has not had the resources to document internal procedures to provide guidance to staff on the requirements of public law. Also, there is no position within the office solely responsible for the premium program. Therefore, all staff of the office assists with the administration matters of the program. Auditors said that fact poses the risk of inconsistent assessments and filing of records.

Another recommendation from the previous audit was that effective oversight over the Director's duties and responsibilities should be done by what was then the "Administrator's" immediate supervisor in order to appropriately monitor, evaluate and take appropriate actions to reward good performance or otherwise discipline if there was poor performance. Auditors noted that recommendation was no longer applicable after Congress passed a law in June 2021 to remove the Division of Personnel from the Office of the President and created a separate Office of Personnel. Therefore, no oversight from the Director is required.

Auditors also found that their recommendation of prior finding three was no longer applicable. At that time, ONPA had recommended that the Office of Personnel should provide effective oversight to ensure that the recipients of the professional premium program provide training to local staff. However, there is no legal mandate or policy in place that requires expatriates to provide training to local staff. There is, however, a condition in the individual contracts for expatriates which requires them to

provide training to local staff. Further, the Office of Personnel did not agree that training of local staff is relevant now as the recipients of the premium program now include more locals than in the past.

The management provided assurance that they would collaborate with the department heads to discuss ways on how they can work together to ensure that the value from the professional premium program is realized.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:**

July 05, 2023

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end
of working hours on:**

Monday, July 03, 2023

Ehmes sworn in as newest member of the Pohnpei Board of Education

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

June 1, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—Congratulations to Mrs. Delihna Ehmes, who was sworn in today by Governor Oliver as the newest member of the Pohnpei State Board of Education.

Lieutenant Governor Ioanis delivered congratulatory remarks on behalf of Governor Oliver, highlighting the importance of Education to the future of Pohnpei State. He encouraged Mrs. Ehmes to do her best and fulfill the duties she is now entrusted to perform as a member of the Board of Education. He also noted that with the recent signing of the amended compact, the Education Sector will realize an increase in funding, and it is important for the Board of Education, Director of Education and the Education Subcommittee at Legislature to work together to plan and implement policies that will move the Education of Pohnpei youth forward.

Vice Chairman of the Education Subcommittee at the 10th Pohnpei

Legislature, Senator Mitaro Simina presented Mrs. Ehmes with a certification of appointment after being sworn in by Governor Oliver.

Mrs. Ehmes expressed her sincere gratitude and commitment to the work before her. She thanked the Governor, Lt. Governor and Legislature for their support. She thanked her family for their love and support and asked for prayers as she takes up her new responsibilities on the Pohnpei State Board of Education.

Mrs. Ehmes is currently the Vice President for Instructional Affairs at the College of Micronesia - FSM, national campus. She is married to Mr. Dennis Ehmes.



FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs informs United airlines of changed vaccination requirements for entry to the FSM

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

June 17, 2023

Palikir, Pohnpei—Acting Secretary for the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs Moses Pretrick today issued a letter to United Airlines General Manager Easter Shirai-Mathew defining exactly what vaccination requirements now exist for entry to the FSM aboard the airline under the amended Health Border Protection Act. The letter serves as guidance to the airline as they assist in enforcing the FSM's vaccination requirements.

“The global situation on COVID-19 has changed,” he wrote, “—WHO (World Health Organization) has declared the COVID-19 Pandemic over, the US and other countries (including FSM) have lifted their COVID-19 public health emergency declarations, the US CDC (Center for Disease Control) has amended its definition of fully vaccinated to mean one single dose of the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for all eligible age groups.”

The FSM stopped short of entirely lifting a vaccination requirement. Instead, like the CDC the FSM amended its definition of what it means by “fully vaccinated” in its remaining requirement that travelers to the FSM be fully vaccinated.

According to Moses’ letter, “Fully vaccinated” in the FSM now means:

- (a) one dose of the Comirnaty (Pfizer), Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, or other bivalent COVID-19 primary vaccines as designated by the Secretary under section V(a)(2) of the Regulation (which was attached to the letter to United); or
- (b) 14 days after completion of a non-bivalent COVID-19 primary vaccination series.

“To elaborate more on the vaccination requirement for entry,” he wrote, “(1) for any person not currently vaccinated—receiving 1 dose of COVID-19 bivalent vaccine meets the requirement; (2) for any person partially vaccinated—receiving 1 dose of the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine meets the requirement; (3) for any person fully vaccinated with

a non-bivalent COVID-19 primary series before the amended definition, meets the requirement; and (4) for any person traveling from a country or area which does not have Pfizer, Moderna or other bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, will require 14 days after completion of a non-bivalent COVID-19 primary vaccination series.”

He wrote that for interstate travel between the FSM States, a person is permitted to transit on Guam if the transit period is less than 24 hours. If the transit period is more than 24 hours, the traveler is required to be fully vaccinated prior to re-entry to the FSM after a longer than 24-hour transit period in Guam.

Vital 13th Annual Fishing Tournament

July 1, 2023

Registration. June 30, Mangrove Bay 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Big cash prizes, fuel and t-shirts to all registered boats at the weigh in.

...State Visit

Continued from front page

new leaders.

Inside the Governor’s conference room, Pohnpei Public Affairs Officer Peteriko Hairens served as the Master of Ceremonies for the speeches that followed.

“Our union today speaks volumes,” said Pohnpei Lt. Governor Francisco Ioanis who was first to the dais. He said that it speaks of “our mission for our people, reinforcement for our continued hope and vision for leadership of our people, one common goal, to be better, stronger, unified, transparent and accountable for peace.”

“I frankly believe that all of us working closely together can achieve what we once thought to be impossible,” said Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Marvin Yamaguchi. “We are eagerly looking forward to working hand in hand with the new National administration and Congress and the leadership of the other three States so we can all share the success that will come for the greater good of our people.”

“It’s been a while since we had a State visit from the President of the FSM, and it’s about time we did,” said FSM Congress Speaker Esmond Moses. It had indeed been a long time since an FSM President had a State visit to Pohnpei. Part of the difficulty had been the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is no question that the administrations of the State and National governments did not have a particularly cordial relationship for the past four years. “The country is going to be facing a lot of changes that are to come, hopefully most of them will be good, but there will need to be better collaboration between National Government and the State and local governments.”

Moses said that though it seemed like a long time, the time period of the first Compact as amended went by very quickly and that the FSM was not able to fully utilize or take advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves when we signed the Compact. “Hopefully this time, we will be able to work together to move forward.”

This visit “is a moment of great significance for our nation and a source of pride for the people of Pohnpei, the host of the FSM National Government,” said Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver. “Your visit reflects a strong and enduring bond that has existed between the State and National governments since the creation of this nation. It provides an opportunity to further strengthen the ties that bind us.”

“Let us remember the power of unity and the strength that is within our collective efforts. Together we can overcome any obstacles, build resilient communities, and create a better future for generations to come,” the Governor said.

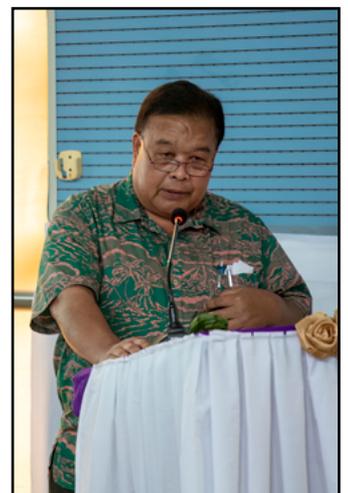
“This visit comes from our hearts,” said FSM President Wesley Simina, “and that is why we wanted to be sure that this visit happens as soon as possible in our administration.” He said that he and Vice President Palik decided early on in their administration that if they were to have any success in leading the country, paying a visit to each of the States must be a priority. “We put a high premium on getting to know our leaders and high State officials... We are committed to do our best, but we can’t do it alone.” He said that collaboration and consultation among all of the governments are essential to addressing any challenges, saying also that is why he feels that the upcoming State and National Leadership Conference is so vital.

“The Simina-Palik administration will endeavor to spearhead a robust domestic policy that focuses first and foremost on the priorities and needs and concerns of our people, our States, and our nation as a whole,” he said.

“We must know first our needs and requirements before we turn to our benevolent development partners and friends for support and assistance.”

Vice President Palik was not asked to speak at the occasion for a reason that was not stated.

After the conclusion of the formal ceremony, Governor Oliver and Lt. Governor Ioanis presented gifts to the First and Second Ladies of the FSM. A traditional sakau ceremony was held, and approximately 70 Nett Elementary School students performed traditional stick dance performances, a cultural highlight of the visit.





Location:

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Ad Title:

Family Protection Adviser - Federated States of Micronesia

Duration:

Full time, 2-year contract, starting August 2023 or soon as possible

Program Background

Pacific Women Lead (PWL) is a new Pacific regional development program funded by the Australian Government, which commenced in 2021 for an initial period of five years. With a budget of \$170m drawn from the Australian Government's aid budget, it is focused on supporting Pacific women and girls, in all their diversity, to be safe and equitably share in resources, opportunities and decision-making with men and boys.

Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES), managed by DT Global, provides support to the Pacific Community (SPC) and DFAT to implement PWL. Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) provides a range of support functions to the program. This will include program-wide monitoring, evaluation and learning functions, partnership brokering and an independent Quality and Technical Assurance Group (QTAG).

DT Global, as the successful contractor for the PWLES, will support the continuation of key investments in the current Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program, in particular the Balance of Power program.

About DT Global

DT Global is driven by a fundamental commitment to one goal: to work in partnership with communities, governments, and the private sector to deliver innovative, data-driven solutions that transform lives beyond expectations. DT Global—launched in 2019—is built on legacy companies AECOM International Development's Services Sector, Development Transformations, IMC Worldwide, and Cardno International Development. To fulfill its profit-for-purpose mission, DT Global is a key donor to the DT Institute, an independent not-for-profit organization, in support of DTI's efforts to test new ideas or expand on donor partner priorities with the aim to improve as many lives as possible.

Our global team of almost 2,500 staff and experts work in over 100 countries. We aim to maximize sustainable development impact across a wide range of practice areas, including Conflict Prevention, Stabilization & Transition; Economic Growth; Environment & Infrastructure; Governance; and Human Development. We meet communities where they are on the development spectrum and help them move to where they want to be. Together, we bring over 60 years of experience, relationships, and technical excellence to improve lives around the world on behalf of our partners, clients, and stakeholders.

The Role

The Adviser will provide technical support, training and capacity development to FSM Government family protection service providers to provide safe and quality essential services to survivors of sexual and family violence. This includes working with key government and non-government stakeholders to strengthen services, collaboration and referrals between services providers. It involves supporting them to develop and implement minimum service standards, standard operating procedures, and referral pathways.

The Adviser will also work with and build the capacity of civil society organisations and community-based advocates to develop and implement community awareness and violence prevention activities.

Contextual information about prevalence of violence against women and responses in FSM can be found in the [Pacific Women FSM Country Plan Summary](#) and about counselling services in the [Review of Counselling Services in the Pacific](#). Pacific Women's approach to ending violence against women can be found in the [Ending Violence against Women Synthesis Roadmap Report](#). A review of family protection services available in FSM can be found here – [Review of FSM EAVW Services](#).

Click on the link or copy paste it to access the full Terms of Reference for this position: <https://bit.ly/3qz8QdT>

About You

- Experience working in government, or with government and across sectors.

- Work experience involving both statutory and non-statutory agencies.
- Work experience in North Pacific Island countries.
- A knowledge of FSM custom, culture, and/or language/s.
- Fluency in English.
- At least seven years' experience working in the field of gender-based violence, domestic violence, gender and child protection issues.

Skills

- Demonstrated credible cultural knowledge and expertise— this may be indigenous; heritage; community; and/or professional.
- Relevant tertiary qualification in gender-based violence, domestic violence, law, women's studies, social welfare, international development, gender, social work, psychology or a related field.
- Experience in designing and advising on family violence programs and applying global principles, standards and the latest best practice.
- Demonstrated ability to provide family protection technical and policy advice to a wide range of stakeholders. Experience working to develop services and referral mechanisms for survivors of family violence.
- Track-record of supporting gender-based violence prevention and response systems-strengthening, with a proven ability to transfer knowledge and skills and build national institutional capacity.
- Experience building institutional capacity in key aspects of organisational management that may include: governance; leadership; program design; implementation; monitoring and evaluation; report writing; and inter-agency collaboration.
- Superior communication skills, interpersonal skills and tact in working with a range of government and civil society stakeholders with the ability to work in a multicultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.
- Patience, tolerance and flexibility and the ability to work in cultural isolation and a standard of living that may be different.

Remuneration

Competitive remuneration commensurate with qualifications, skills and experience

Why join Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services

The Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services is focused on supporting Pacific women and girls, in all their diversity, to be safe and equitably share in resources, opportunities and decision-making with men and boys. Building on the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) initiative, it aims to bring new emphasis to strengthening regional action and architecture in support of gender equality.

By joining the Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services , you will be part of an environment where you can collaborate with leading experts from diverse backgrounds, access development programs to achieve your career goals, and be challenged to take a global outlook.

HOW TO APPLY

Click the 'Apply Now' button. (DT Global careers page – Job code 2085)

We welcome your interest in joining the Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services team. Please apply by sending your CV together with a covering letter addressing the selection criteria to recruitment@pwles.org

Contact: For any questions about this role, please contact recruitment@pwles.org quoting 'Family Protection Adviser-FSM' in the email subject line.

Please submit

- 1) Your CV
- 2) A cover letter addressing the selection criteria as per the terms of reference

Note: full vaccination for COVID-19 is pre-requisite for working with DT Global.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE Wednesday 28 June at 11.59pm Fiji time

Should this role be of interest, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Kindly note only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

DT Global is committed to child protection and safeguarding the welfare of children in the delivery of our international development programs. We are committed to Safety and the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), and bribery prevention. DT Global is an equal opportunity employer and we encourage women, men, people with diverse backgrounds and people living with disabilities to apply. This program is funded by the Australian Government and Managed by DT Global.

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, Transform SR Brands, LLC, a company organized and existing under the laws of United States of America and with a principal place of business at 3333 Beverly Road Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179 United States, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark in Micronesia:

KENMORE

Which is used in connection with the following:

Class	Goods
11	Grills

Please take notice that Transform SR Brands, LLC, a company organized and existing under the laws of United States of America and with a principal place of business at 3333 Beverly Road Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179 United States, attaches singular importance to its above referenced trademark and will immediately take the strongest legal actions to protect its intellectual property rights against any person(s) or business(es) found to be infringing those rights in Micronesia. Note that any infringing or unauthorized use of this mark will be met with civil and criminal action including injunctions, orders to seize, audits, full damages and costs.

Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for Transform SR Brands, LLC as follows:

Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
230 Commerce Drive, Suite 185
Irvine, California 92602
United States of America
Telephone: (714) 283-1155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

...FSS Palikir

Continued from front page

“Palikir along with FSS Micronesia and FSS Independence represent decades of partnership between Australia and the Federated States of Micronesia. They have deepened the friendship and trust between our governments and peoples.”

The President and Ambassador Cowley also thanked Palikir crews and families, and the Royal Australian Navy personnel – including current Maritime Security Adviser LCDR Nigel Williams and Technical Advisor CPO Daniel Ryan - who have worked with the FSM over the last 33 years.

The FSM has already received a new Guardian Class patrol boat, the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama, and will receive a second boat later this year.

Australia is committed to working with the FSM and the region to maintain a peaceful, prosperous, and resilient #BluePacific.

(Editors Note: Australia coverage of this event was the only coverage we could find of the departure of the FSS Palikir. Unfortunately, neither the FSM nor the Australian government informed The Kaselehlie Press of the event for coverage opportunity until hours after it had concluded.)



TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ST 1 IP Sàrl of Avenue Reverdil 14, 1260 Nyon, Switzerland, is the sole owner and proprietor in the Federated States of Micronesia and elsewhere of the trade mark below:

STOLI

which is used in connection with the following goods:

Class 32: Beers; non-alcoholic beverages.

Class 33: Alcoholic beverages (except beers); vodka; vodka-based drinks.

ST 1 IP Sàrl claims all rights in respect to the above trademark and will take all necessary legal steps against any person, firm or corporation counterfeiting, imitating, violating or otherwise infringing its rights in the Federated States of Micronesia.

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College of Micronesia-FSM

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College Accreditation "Reaffirmed"

Palikir, Pohnpei (June 19, 2023) - The eagerly anticipated outcome of the College of Micronesia-FSM's Accreditation status has been revealed, with the College receiving the esteemed designation of 'Reaffirmed'. The confirmation and comprehensive details of the decision were conveyed to Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, the President of the College, through an [official letter](#) from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on June 15, 2023. The letter explicitly stated that the Commission has taken action to Reaffirm the College's Accreditation for a period of seven years.

In a communication addressed to the College Community, Dr. Koroivulaono expressed her gratitude, stating, "On behalf of the COM-FSM Board of Regents and the Senior Leadership Team, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment and diligent efforts towards fulfilling our COM-FSM mission, with the primary focus on our students' accomplishments. This dedication is evident in our online engagements, classroom interactions, fieldwork endeavors, technical workshops, laboratory activities, and all other educational experiences meticulously designed to optimize student success."



The Accreditation Visiting Team led by Chairwoman Dr. Rosevonne Pato.

The College had submitted its [Institutional Self-Evaluation Report \(ISER\)](#) to the ACCJC in June 2022, outlining its thorough assessment. The visiting team's findings are also available here at the [Peer Review Team's Report](#).

The Accreditation Visiting Team led by Chairwoman Dr. Rosevonne Pato, conducted its site visit to the College last March 13-16, 2023.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Specialist III (Recruitment and Repatriation)

Reporting to the HR Director, the Administrative Specialist will carry out the major following functional responsibilities and additional necessary duties to meet HRO needs and programs.

Student Services Specialist I

Under the direction of the college's Registrar, the Student Services Specialist I-Records Specialist acts as the resource person for technical and complex inquiries and information requests relating to the college's records and/or documents management services. The staff is expected to function independently in accordance with college and applicable external statutory requirements, subject only to minimal general direction and review.

The College of Micronesia - FSM is an equal opportunity employer. FSM Citizens are encouraged to apply

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 179, 180, 181
VISIT US AT:
<http://www.comfsm.fm>
<http://www.comfsm.fm/?q=hr-jobs>

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Non-Profit Kitti Koupweliki Association attracts 31 boats to its first ever Kitti Fishing Tournament

409-pound marlin caught during tournament so big it had to be weighed sideways

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 15, 2023

Kitti, Pohnpei—On June 3, the Koupweliki Association of Kitti held its first-ever fishing tournament. The Koupweliki Association, a non-profit organization, consists of 17 Kitti residents who “share the similar vision of seeking ways to promote, enhance and improve livelihoods of farmers and fishermen on the island,” said Pernes Samuel, spokesperson for the group. Samuel said that the group had received a grant of \$5,000 from the Micronesian Conservation Trust and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei for a collaborative project.

In addition to a small fund set aside for a “small” fishing tournament, the group decided that the fund would be used to purchase crop seeds for cultivation and harvest by late this year or early next year. The project is to benefit health and food security needs.

The group had limited funds for the fishing tournament, and cash prizes for big fish were not particularly large. The registration fee was \$20 for participants, and only Kitti residents were eligible to participate. Further, participants had to pledge to donate half of their caught fish to the Pohnpei Hospital, Corrections and Rehabilitation, or to Nanpei Memorial High School. Organizers collected those donations during the weigh-in and handled distribution to the institutions. With potential monetary winnings being so low with the top prize of only \$125, and the requirement of donation, organizers were not certain that it would attract many anglers. However, an astounding 31 boats paid the registration fee and the price of fuel for a day of fishing to participate in the tournament.

Certainly, there was something more to the tournament to drive the large numbers of participants than simple possible small monetary gain, perhaps the satisfaction of participating in a community event with an entity trying to do good tipped the scales in their favor. Some huge fish were caught during the tournament, including a 409-pound marlin landed by Taylor Paul on one vessel and a 202-pound marlin caught on another by Phillip Ioanis. Those two fish scored the biggest fish of all fish caught top prizes. The first place Marlin was so huge it had to be weighed sideways because the scale was hanging from a tree branch that was too low to accommodate the fish’s length. Reportedly, it took eight strong men to get the fish to the scale.

Yellow Fin winners were Mauricio Joseph in first place for a 59.2-pound fish. Sidney Felix caught the second largest Yellow Fin at 25.4 pounds. The third prize went to Guyer Torres with a 14.4-pound example of the species for good sashimi.



There were four winners in the Skip Jack category, with the two third-place winners catching twin seven-pound Skip Jacks caught by RS Ioanis and Guyer Torres. Ricky David caught a slightly bigger fish at 7.2 pounds for second place. Ricky Martin had the biggest Skip Jack at 8.2 pounds.

The acrobatic Mahi Mahi were also running on the day of the tournament. Maricio Joseph caught the biggest at 24.2 pounds. Second place went to Ring Hadley for a 6.4-pound Mahi Mahi. Frederick Albert’s fish of 4.8 pounds scored the third-place prize.

The indomitable, young Marvey Spencer caught the only Wahoos of the tournament for both first and second prizes. The first-place fish was 16 pounds. A Wahoo at less than half the weight earned the second-place prize at seven pounds.

Three Barracudas placed in the tournament. Melvin Elias caught the third-place winning fish of 13.5 pounds. Garvy Spencer’s 15.2-pound Barracuda scored

second place. Juliano Manuel caught a very respectable 38-pound Barracuda for first place in the category.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club (PFC) gladly stepped up to help the fledgling Kitti tournament organizers. “Our goal as the Pohnpei Fishing Club is to broaden safety awareness and assist where we can in promoting safe practices and assisting all boats to get the necessary safety equipment,” wrote Steve Finnen, Secretary of PFC. Pursuant to that goal, PFC allowed the Koupweliki Association to use its EPIRBS for the tournament. They also provided a sound system and the scale that the organizers used. They also assisted with the organization for the tournament.

“The Pohnpei Fishing Club fully supports local fishermen, and we are encouraging individual tournaments in addition to the ones we have sponsored. The more fishermen involved, the better,” Finnen wrote.

Two donors donated EPIRBS that were

raffled off at the weigh-in for the tournament. Garvi Spenser won the EPIRB donated by the Pohnpei Surf Club, and Enson David won the EPIRB provided by NORMA.

In addition to the small amount of seed money set aside from the proceeds of the grant to organize the fishing tournament, several donors also contributed: Micronesian Conservation Trust, Congress Election District #2, MRA, Pohnpei Fishing Club, Fish & Wildlife, NORMA, NCD Unit, FSM Health, Kolonia Town Councilman Hon. Wendolin Welly, PSL Hon. Vice-Speaker Hon. McGarry Miguel, PSL Senator Hon. Dahker D. Daniel, PSL Senator Hon. Alfredson Ladore, Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

The Kitti Koupweliki Association spokesperson says that it hopes to have more tournaments in the future, perhaps with bigger prizes.

SOON TO RISE

Saladak Cell-Tower



Predicted Coverage for Saladak Tower is based on two sectorized antenna. Sector 1 (yellow) pointing NorthEast to cover Diadi to Nan U. Sector 2 (blue) pointing South-East to cover part of Nankoapwormen to part of Kinakapw and part of Areu Powe.

Micronesian Ocean Leaders Advocate for Marine Protection and Stewardship

By: *Blue Prosperity Micronesia*

June 17, 2023

FSM—In honor of World Ocean Month, we are celebrating our deep cultural connection to the ocean and the need to protect it. Blue Prosperity Micronesia interviewed ocean leaders across all four states, who are stepping forward as advocates for marine protection and stewardship, in a video that premiered on World Ocean Day.

Dr. Nicole Yamase, Blue Prosperity Micronesia Science Advisor, made history when she became the first Pacific Islander to reach the deepest point in the ocean, the Challenger Deep. “As a Pacific Islander, as a Micronesian, our identity is tied to the ocean. We have a lot of cultural and traditional practices around the ocean. If we don’t take care of our ocean, if we lose our biodiversity, our fish, our coral reef, we are not able to practice these traditional activities.”

Inheriting this great ocean comes with great responsibility— one that Micronesia Conservation Trust Executive Director William Kostka has dedicated his life’s work to protecting. He highlights the ocean’s pivotal role in influencing Micronesian history and way of life. “The ocean is what shapes our culture. The islands are small but the ocean is vast. We are basically ocean people - people who have traveled, voyaged here. If you look at the history of the Federated States of Micronesia, the ocean has driven what our culture is.”

Blue Prosperity Micronesia Program Coordinator Yolanda Joab Mori views the ocean as a solution to the nation’s challenges, particularly in the face of climate change. “Blue Prosperity Micronesia recognizes that we have a chance to be leaders in climate action because ocean action is climate action. We need to start stepping up to that responsibility in order to leave something for future generations that’s worth leaving behind.”

Blue Prosperity Micronesia is a government program to support the sustainable growth of marine resources in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for a better and brighter future. Through the BPM program, FSM is developing a comprehensive zoning

plan for FSM’s waters, which will provide national and state policymakers with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed decisions on marine resource management.

Anthony Yalon, Division Chief of Yap Department of Resources and Development Marine Resources Division, emphasizes the importance of blending modern science with traditional knowledge for effective ocean management. He asserts that “when it comes to protecting oceans, managing oceans, managing the resources and managing the people, science needs to merge with how things were done in the past. That’s where traditional knowledge comes in.”

Blue Prosperity Micronesia adopts a holistic approach based on best available science and stakeholder participation to build a healthier marine environment that will benefit future generations. Since launching in July 2019, BPM has made significant strides towards better management of FSM’s ocean for increased ocean health, food security, economic opportunity and climate change resilience.

Enjoy Rain, Chuuk Department of Marine Resources Division Chief, urges fellow Micronesians to practice good stewardship, stating “We need to be good stewards to our resources. We cannot just fish and fish and take whatever.”

Youth involvement is also crucial for effective ocean planning. Bradley Phillip, Acting Executive Director of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority, encourages the younger generation to join the efforts for a better ocean future. He emphasizes the need for active youth engagement, “we need young inspiring leaders from Micronesia to continue this work.”

Together, we can forge a future for FSM that preserves our ocean, enriches our culture, and sustains the communities that rely on it. Bruno D. Ned, Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs Division of Fisheries and Marine Resources Administrator, shares his hope for a better and brighter future. “My vision for the future of FSM is that fishers will continue to flourish, ecosystems remain intact for future generations, and the marine environment is buffered from the impacts of climate change.”

Want to learn more about Blue Prosperity Micronesia? Visit www.blueprosperitymicronesia.org or follow @blueprosperitymicronesia on Facebook and Instagram.



Australian Ambassador pays courtesy call on new FSM Congress Speaker

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 12, 2023

Palikir--Ambassador Cowley paid a call on the new Speaker of the FSM Congress, the Hon Esmond Moses, to convey Australia’s congratulations and best wishes.

Ambassador Cowley briefed Speaker Moses on current Australian programs in the FSM which responded to the FSM’s priorities.

Speaker Moses and Ambassador Cowley paused for a photograph with a painting gifted to the people and government of Australia during the Australian bipartisan parliamentary visit to Pohnpei in December 2022.



The artwork is by Barry Maitie of Boigu Island in Australia’s Torres Strait Islands. It is called Malu Aydel and depicts the importance of seafood in his culture.

Work underway on East Micronesia Cable project for Kosrae fiber optic line

Australian Embassy to the FSM

June 8, 2023

Palikir--Our deep thanks to the President, H.E Wesley W. Simina and the Vice-President, the Hon Aren B. Palik, for the FSM's continuing partnership on the East Micronesia Cable (EMC) as we mark a new milestone on this transformational project.

Work to manufacture and lay the EMC is now officially underway, with the signing of the undersea cable contract with NEC Corporation.

Funded by Australia, Japan and the US, the project will deliver an undersea cable connecting Kosrae, Tarawa in Kiribati, and Nauru to the existing HANTRU-1 cable landing point located in Pohnpei. The cable will be 1,400 miles long.

Once built, the East Micronesia Cable will provide faster, higher quality and

more reliable internet to more than 100,000 people across Kosrae, Tarawa and Nauru.

We are excited to be working with the FSM and Kosraean governments to deliver critical infrastructure and bringing the Micronesian region closer together.

The undersea cable contract is a key component of the estimated USD95 million EMC project. Next steps involve final survey and design of the route and manufacturing of the cable, which will be no wider than a garden hose

Once built, the cable will be laid across the ocean floor and connected to landing infrastructure that will also be constructed in each country.

An East Micronesia Cable website (<https://www.eastmicronesiacable.com>) has also been launched, providing information on the project in English and Kosraean, as well as Gilbertese and Nauruan.



Australian Ambassador Cowley, President Simina, Vice-President Palik, Japanese Charge d'Affaires Mizuuchi, US DCM Seely



IOM and partners host Disaster Preparedness Simulation exercise in Chuuk State

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

June 6, 2023

Chuuk – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM) launched a three-day disaster simulation exercise in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, to prepare first-line responders for rapid mobilization during events of natural hazards.

Supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded RESILIENCE project, the simulation exercises bring together first-line responders from various sectors, including agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and public safety, as well as representatives from the State Disaster Coordination Office (DCO) and non-governmental organizations.

In his opening statement, Mekioshy William, Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State, underlined the importance of the simulation exercise to ensure first-line responders understand their responsibilities and are able to carry out their duties effectively.

“This tabletop exercise is critical, as our islands are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Let’s continue to work together and collaborate, so our efforts can establish a strong emergency response when needed and as called for. Our collaboration can save lives, enhance disaster response preparedness and build resilient communities.”

The simulation exercise will present a disaster scenario to participants, such as a typhoon, and test the attendees’ capacities of emergency deployment, social



Emergency response clusters detail emergency response actions during simulation exercise, Chuuk, FSM. IOM 2023. Haimanot Abebe 2 (1)

support, livelihoods, and infrastructure clusters to respond to an emergency situation. It also aims to shed light upon existing gaps in coordination and communication channels and provide a platform to review and update the Chuuk State Disaster Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedures.

“The increasing risk of disaster events related to the impact of climate change underlines the urgent need to fortify preparedness and response mechanisms and minimize, to the extent possible, damage to infrastructures, agricultural crops, livelihoods, and, most importantly, to protect lives,” said Salvatore Sortino, IOM Micronesia Chief of Mission.

To achieve this, Sortino stressed the importance of a concerted effort. “IOM is grateful for DECEM and DCO and partner agencies for coordinating these drills and for their commitment to ensuring the right systems and capacities are in place before disasters occur.”

After the exercise, IOM, in coordination with DECEM, DCO and relevant line departments participating in the



Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State Mekioshy William delivers opening remarks at simulation exercise, Chuuk, FSM. Photo IOM 2023. Haimanot Abebe (1)



RESILIENCE project Deputy Chief of Party, Ahmadi Gul facilitates simulation exercise, Chuuk, FSM. Photo IOM 2023. Haimanot Abebe (1)

simulation, will identify challenges and opportunities in coordination, local-level capacity-building, logistics and other critical areas, followed by recommendations for actionable improvements to strengthen disaster preparedness and response in Chuuk State.

For more information, please contact at IOM Micronesia: Haimanot Abebe, Email: haabebe@iom.int SDGs: 11, 13, 17

Micronesia Legal Fellows Program: Strengthening Environmental Law and Capacity Building

Our Micronesia

June 5, 2023

Pohnpei State, Micronesia—In a significant step towards enhancing legal expertise and reinforcing environmental law enforcement, Mrs. Belsipa Mikel-Isom, the esteemed Pohnpei State Attorney General, convened a meeting on June 2, 2023. Joining her were Mr. Lenburg Ligohr, Administrative Officer; Mr. William Kostka, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT); and Ms. Keana Segal, Legal Fellow. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the arrangements for the pioneering Micronesia Legal Fellows Program specifically designed for the

State of Pohnpei.

Generously funded by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through a collaborative effort with the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), this program seeks to nurture the talents of young legal professionals while addressing the overwhelming caseload faced by local and national agencies, particularly in the environmental sector. Ms. Segal, an accomplished Pohnpei-Kosraen graduate from the University of the South Pacific's Law School in Vanuatu, is one of the program's promising participants. In addition, two other distinguished fellows, Ms. Atina Schutz from the RMI AG's Office and

Ms. Mika Obrecht from the Palau AG's Office, have been selected for this unique opportunity.

“The overarching goal of this program is to re-engage our exceptional young minds and provide invaluable support to our local and national agencies, which often grapple with a multitude of cases, particularly in the realm of environmental matters,” stated Mr. Kostka. “Furthermore, this initiative serves as a platform for these budding legal professionals to refine their knowledge and skills under the guidance of esteemed legal luminaries in Micronesia. It is a concerted effort to combat the brain



drain predicament prevalent in our region.”

Continued on next page

IOM, UNDP Study Outlines the Limits to Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region

International Organization for Migration

Majuro – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have released an in-depth report on the limits and barriers to adaptation in the face of climate security threats to Pacific Island nations.

The new report, entitled *The Limits to Adaptation in the Context of Climate Security in the Pacific*, explores limits and barriers to climate change adaptation that contribute to climate security risks caused by more frequent and intense disasters in the region.

The report defines “barriers,” as restrictions or constraints that hinder adaptation but can nevertheless be overcome such as knowledge, awareness, and access to finance. “Limits,” in contrast, refers to thresholds beyond which adaptation is implausible and can include ecological, economic, technological, and social factors.

The study offers several recommendations including identifying the context-specific barriers and limitations of Pacific Island Countries (PICS); shifting from small-scale,

incremental adaptation efforts to large-scale, transformational adaptation strategies; and increasing access to financial schemes including to finance “urgent research on innovative economic opportunities for supporting the implementation of large-scale transformational adaptation strategies.” “As Pacific Island Countries such as the Marshall Islands grapple with enormous challenges to safeguard atoll communities from the evident impacts of climate change, strengthening adaptation mechanisms is critical to tackling the climate emergency. This report draws attention to the urgent need for concerted efforts to ensure large-scale, comprehensive policies and strategies are in place to avoid irreversible risks,” said Salvatore Sortino, IOM Chief of Mission in Micronesia.

Kevin Petrini, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for the North Pacific added, “Atoll nations of the Pacific are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Understanding the difference between limits and barriers and promoting a shift from incremental to transformational approaches to adaptation is very relevant in guiding high level decision making and informed planning for a truly sustainable

development.”

According to a study by Adelphi (2022), in the three atoll nations of the Pacific, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Tuvalu, and Kiribati, extreme weather events such as typhoons, droughts and flooding exacerbate climate security risks as they affect livelihoods, land and food availability, pose pressures on mobility, and hinder habitability of the PICS.

The study finds that although ecological limits, such as coral bleaching caused by rising ocean temperatures or acidification, threaten the climate security of low-lying atoll nations in the region, lack of robust and scaled-up institutional, governance, political, and economic mechanisms are likely to serve as barriers for adaptation amidst rapid changes brought about by climate. The 2018 Boe Declaration, within which climate security has been identified as the greatest existential threat to atoll states, highlights the multidimensional nature and intersection of environmental, political, developmental, social,



Aerial view of Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Photo. Carrol Debrum.IOM 2023

security and humanitarian domains. This study contributes to the available knowledge and understanding regarding the ecological limits and how they may result in the need for a range of mobility strategies to address habitability options. This can include a focus on resilience, while planning for relocation and migration as adaptation pathways.

The study was supported by the joint IOM-UNDP Climate Security in the Pacific project implemented in RMI, Tuvalu, and Kiribati and in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and funded through the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

For more information, please contact: IOM Micronesia: Haimanot Abebe, haabebe@iom.int, +691 320 8735

...Legal Fellows

Continued from previous page

The comprehensive Micronesia Legal Fellows Program, fully funded and inclusive of all expenses, primarily aims to fortify environmental law and enhance the enforcement of existing and forthcoming legislation in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Specifically, the program endeavors to develop novel resource regulations, assess and revise existing regulations, and collaborate with biologists, managers, academic partners, enforcement personnel, Offices of the Attorney General (AG), as well as members of the judicial and legislative branches. These joint efforts seek to bolster the management of marine and coastal resources, augment

resilience to climate change, and effectively combat pressing challenges such as rising sea levels, floods, extreme events, and human security concerns.

The secondary objective of the program focuses on enhancing the prosecution of resource violation cases by offering training opportunities for enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors. Additionally, the initiative aims to foster collaboration with the judicial and legislative branches to explore the feasibility of establishing specialized environmental courts or dedicated dockets. By engaging all branches of government in the enforcement chain, these courts would facilitate the formulation of more effective policies, bring due attention to natural resource infringements, and strengthen the necessary actions required for island resilience and security.

Drawing inspiration from the successful model implemented by the

State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, which currently houses eight Environmental Law Fellows, this program seeks to replicate and adapt their accomplishments in the context of Micronesia. The University of Hawai'i's William S. Richardson's Environmental Law Program has been instrumental in supporting Hawaii's legal fellows and the Hawaii Environmental Court. Notably, they have expressed their interest in extending their support to Micronesia by means of partnerships, technical assistance, and knowledge exchanges. Furthermore, the program aims to foster sharing of best practices and lessons learned through knowledge exchanges and technical assistance among Micronesia-based Fellows, Hawaii-based Fellows, faculty, staff from William S. Richardson's Environmental Law Program, and partner organizations such as the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), in collaboration with the AG's Offices across Micronesia and their partnership with NOAA, is actively engaged in expanding and improving the program. Fellows and AG's offices will collaborate across jurisdictions to exchange experiences and learn from one another. An initial learning exchange for the three fellows has been scheduled for July 2023 in Palau, setting the stage for a promising future of knowledge sharing and collaboration.

This innovative program represents a significant stride towards reinforcing environmental law and nurturing legal talent in Micronesia. With a keen focus on capacity building, legal expertise development, and inter-jurisdictional cooperation, the Micronesia Legal Fellows Program aims to create a brighter, more resilient future for the region's marine and coastal resources in the face of climate change challenges.

Senator Figir responds to Governor Chieng's concerns on COVID-19 vaccine requirements for entry into the FSM

Yap Media

June 7, 2023

Colonia, Yap - Senator Isaac V. Figir has issued a comprehensive response letter to Governor Charles S. Chieng, addressing the concerns raised by the Governor regarding the economic recovery and development obstacles caused by the nation's COVID-19 vaccine requirements for entry into the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), specifically in the State of Yap.

In his letter, Senator Figir emphasizes the importance of a balanced approach that prioritizes the health and economic prosperity of both the FSM and the State of Yap. Acknowledging the Governor's concerns, the Senator highlights the necessity of collaborative decision-making to protect citizens' health while promoting sustainable economic growth.

Furthermore, Senator Figir underscores the critical role of scientific evidence and expert advice from organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in shaping effective public health policies. He explains, "Based on the COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations from the WHO and CDC, I voted in favor of CB No. 22-303."

CB No. 22-303, which did not pass in the 22nd FSM Congress, aimed to amend the FSM Healthy Border Protection Act of 2022 by removing the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all persons entering the FSM. Additionally, it would have authorized the FSM Department of Health to reinstate the vaccination entry requirements through regulations in the event of an outbreak.

Senator Figir also addresses concerns about the limited health workforce

capacity of state health departments and their ability to respond to public health emergencies. "State health departments' capacities are limited, and states were dependent upon the national government to provide funding during the COVID-19 pandemic," the Senator shared in his letter to the Governor. He encourages further collaboration to ensure the health safety of the people.

In response to the developments since CB No. 22-303 failed to pass in early May during the last congress, Senator Figir highlights the following key updates:

1. On May 15, 2023, President Wesley W. Simina submitted a similar bill to Congress, aiming to amend the FSM Healthy Border Protection Act of 2022. The bill is seeking to remove the COVID-19 vaccine requirement for entry into the FSM, and to authorize the FSM Department of Health to reinstitute

the requirement by regulation. The bill, known as CB No. 23-06, is now before the newly organized 23rd FSM Congress for consideration.

2. On May 17, 2023, the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs published a proposed regulation for public comments. This regulation aims to redefine "fully vaccinated" for the purpose of entering the FSM to include individuals who receive one dose of the bivalent Pfizer or bivalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, two doses are required to be considered "fully vaccinated". The proposed amended regulation aligns with the most current guidelines from the WHO and CDC. It is scheduled to take effect on June 17, 2023.

In conclusion, Senator Figir reiterates the need for open dialogue, unity, and an unwavering commitment to prioritizing the welfare and health of the citizens.

The Kingdom of Denmark and the Pacific Community sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support Pacific Island countries in addressing Loss and Damage caused by climate change

Pacific Community

June 8, 2023

08 June 2023

Suva, Fiji – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Pacific Community (SPC) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formalising their cooperation in addressing and responding to economic and non-economic Loss and Damage from climate-induced impacts in Pacific Small Island Countries States (PSIDS). As part of this collaboration, €2,7 million has been pledged to support initiatives to address the effects of climate change in the region.

Recognising the urgency of reducing risk, building resilience, and supporting recovery from climate shocks that are compatible with the need for sustainable development, economic growth, and the fight against poverty, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark, and the Pacific Community (SPC) join forces to support climate action.

Within the framework of SPC's Climate Change Flagship Programme - which seeks to enhance climate change services and capability and leverage climate finance in a holistic, strategic, and cohesive way across the region and the organisation - the allocated € 2,7 million will help to generate high-quality data, information, and analysis on climate-related risks, as well as to provide technical and financial support to community-led projects.

During the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27), establishing a Loss and Damage Fund was the highlight of the conference and the culmination of over a decade of negotiations from vulnerable developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). In the Pacific, unlocking access to Loss



and Damage funds is still challenging in part due to the need for more data and information and the ability to document the unique manifestations of Loss and Damage attributable to climate impacts. To overcome this regional challenge, international support is necessary as is the ability to articulate what Loss and Damage look like and propose solutions to address this.

"This MOU marks a welcome step in progressing from promises to delivery in a significant area for our region. For

many years now, Pacific SIDS have experienced extreme and slow onset events that are causing losses to territory, important resources, critical infrastructure, cultures, and heritage – with serious economic and non-economic impacts – and these are only predicted to grow. We look forward to seeing more partnerships focused on Loss and Damage in the coming years, and we warmly thank Denmark for helping SPC intensify regional cooperation to support PSIDS."

Explains Coral Pasisi, Director of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability at SPC.

The MoU will not only facilitate the implementation of necessary actions, but it will also contribute to the combined efforts of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP). Since 1988, CROP has been working collaboratively towards a shared goal of promoting sustainable development throughout the Pacific region and SPC is proud to be part of this great mission.

Immigration and Border Management Project Launched by IOM and Government of Japan in the FSM

International Organization for Migration

Pohnpei – A new immigration and border management project was launched in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Thursday (June 15) aimed at strengthening control of infectious diseases at Points of Entry (POEs).

The project implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the National and State Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and funded by the Government of Japan, will upgrade technology and equipment at sea and land POEs and strengthen Infection, Prevention and Control capacities of border control officials.

During the launch ceremony, Ken Mizuuchi, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in the FSM said “Pacific Countries have made a huge effort to contain COVID-19 including closing their borders. The Government of Japan has also contributed vaccines and medical equipment as well as vehicles for delivery to remote islands. However, it is still a big challenge to establish

effective border control measures against the threat of public health risks such as COVID-19 and we should work together to strengthen capacity of border control for the health and hygiene of the people on the islands.”

Moses Pretrick, Acting Secretary, FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs on his part said, “This project on strengthening capacity for border control will directly support implementation of our obligation under the International Health Regulations through strengthened border management, infrastructure, technology, knowledge and skills.”

“I trust this project will also assist in keeping our borders open and sustain travel and free movement of people during future disease pandemics & public health emergencies,” he added.

The launch in Pohnpei follows the kick-off of similar projects in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Samoa earlier this year. The border management projects are part of a larger USD 6.9 million intervention funded by the Government of Japan which will be implemented in seven countries across

the Pacific including Papua New Guinea, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

“As this project is regional in nature, it offers us an opportunity to exchange lessons learned but it is also very important to ensure assistance is tailored to the specific needs of each country. It is my hope that starting from today we are able to work together to start identifying these needs and for this cooperation to continue throughout the project,” stated Salvatore Sortino, IOM Micronesia Chief of Mission.

During the launch event attended by National and State representatives as well as air and sea port authorities from all four States in FSM, urgent border control needs were identified including isolation and quarantine centers, screening areas and thermal equipment. Representative also stated the importance of strengthening capacity POE staff in preventing the spread of infectious



diseases through trainings.

Over the next 24 months, IOM will establish multi-agency committees and implement the project in close collaboration with regional bodies such as the Pacific Immigration Development Community and the Departments of Immigration across the Pacific to ensure enhanced inter-regional coordination and border management.

For more information, please contact at IOM Micronesia: Haimanot Abebe, Email: haabebe@iom.int, +691 320 8735

SDGs: 3, 10, 17



PIF SG Puna welcomes official opening of the Pacific Fusion Centre

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Fiji
June 6, 2023—The Forum Secretary General Henry Puna has welcomed the formal opening in Port Vila today of the permanent offices housing the Pacific Fusion Centre.

The Centre is an outcome of regional security priorities identified by Forum Leaders in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security and operates under a Charter endorsed by the Pacific

Islands Forum Officials Committee, or FOC. This arrangement ensures their work is aligned with the Pacific Islands Forum security architecture through the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security.

Through governance arrangements from the Forum Membership the work of the Centre meets the needs of Pacific governments and informs decisions that strengthen regional security.

Today’s launch reflected the ownership and relevance of the Fusion centre to Pacific nations, said SG Puna. The Forum was represented at the Centre opening by PIF Regional Security Advisor, Michael Crowe. The Vanuatu-based program has been under development since 2020 and formally announced FSM national James Movick as its inaugural Director-General in 2022, along with Ms Anna Naupa, of Vanuatu, as the Associate Director for Outreach.

“I wish Director James Movick and his team all the best in taking the Centre forward,” said SG Puna. “We’re at a timely juncture for this work especially in terms of the Blue Pacific Strategy to 2050 and securing our Pacific future. The Forum Secretariat looks forward to ongoing opportunities for the Centre to enhance information sharing, cooperation and analysis of security issues across our Blue Pacific Continent.”

An analysis of all proposed Constitutional amendments

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 20, 2023

FSM—A variety of public information tools exist that are designed to help FSM voters to make informed decisions when

they go to the polls on July 4 to vote on proposed Constitutional amendments. We felt it to be important in this last newspaper before ballots open to lay them out in comprehensive form in one place.

What follows has been on the FSM Office of the President's website for several months and is that office's analysis of the proposed amendments. The Kaselehlie Press expresses no opinion regarding the validity or importance of any of

the proposed amendments and as such, this re-publication of those analyses is designed to inform voters and no other purpose.

They follow.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Dual Citizenship

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution—eight (8) by the 4th FSM Constitutional Convention and one by initiative of the 22nd FSM Congress.

The proposed amendment on Dual Citizenship allows a person to be an FSM citizen as well as the citizen of another country.

The proposed amendment does not change how a person becomes an FSM citizen. FSM citizenship can be obtained in two ways:

1. A person who was a citizen of the Trust Territory on May 9th, 1979, prior to the ratification of the Constitution on May 10th, 1979, and lived in Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, or Kosrae, is an FSM citizen.
2. A person who, at the time of birth, has at least one parent who is a citizen of the FSM is also an FSM citizen.

Regardless of whether or not this amendment is passed, only FSM citizens are allowed to own land in the FSM, and only FSM citizens are allowed to vote.

The proposed amendment provides that an FSM citizen who has renounced their FSM citizenship may only regain their FSM citizenship if Congress passes a law that allows them to do so. Congress is not required to provide a

path to regaining FSM citizenship, but would be empowered to create such a path for persons who have purposefully renounced their FSM citizenship to regain it. (However, those persons would remain FSM nationals i.e. they would continue to have the irrevocable right to live, work or engage in gainful employment in the FSM but, by not being citizens, would still be unable to vote or own land).

The proposed amendment is retroactive, which means that FSM citizens who lost their citizenship because they could not, or did not, renounce their citizenship of another country before they turned 21 will automatically regain their FSM citizenship.

The immediate effect if the proposed amendment is passed is that all FSM citizens living abroad under the age of 21 will retain their FSM citizenship forevermore; and that FSM citizens who lost their citizenship by failing to renounce their other citizenship will regain it automatically. Former FSM citizens who purposefully renounced their citizenship will be able to enter a path towards regaining citizenship if Congress passes a law to allow this to occur.

Dual Citizenship: (Article III, Sections 1-6)

Current Language

Section 1. A person who is a citizen of the Trust Territory immediately prior to the effective date of this Constitution and a domiciliary of a District ratifying

this Constitution is a citizen and national of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Section 2. A person born of parents one or both of whom are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia is a citizen and national of the Federated States by birth.

Section 3. A citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia who is recognized as a citizen of another nation shall, within 3 years of his 18th birthday, or within 3 years of the effective date of this Constitution, whichever is later, register his intent to remain a citizen of the Federated States and renounce his citizenship of another nation. If he fails to comply with this Section, he becomes a national of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Section 4. A citizen of the Trust Territory who becomes a national of the United States of America under the terms of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may become a citizen and national of the Federated States of Micronesia by applying to a court of competent jurisdiction in the Federated States within 6 months of the date he became a United States national.

Section 5. A domiciliary of a District not ratifying this Constitution who was a citizen of the Trust Territory immediately prior to the effective date of this Constitution, may become a citizen and national of the Federated States of Micronesia by applying to a court of competent jurisdiction in the

Federated States within 6 months after the effective date of this Constitution or within 6 months after his 18th birthday, whichever is later.

Section 6. This Article may be applied retroactively.

Proposed Amended Language

Section 1. A person who is a citizen of the Trust Territory immediately prior to the effective date of this Constitution and a domiciliary of a District ratifying this Constitution is a citizen and national of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Section 2. A person born of parents one or both of whom are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia is a citizen and national of the Federated States by birth.

Section 3. Citizenship of another country shall not affect a person's Federated States of Micronesia citizenship, as provided under Section 2.

Section 4. A person who has knowingly renounced his citizenship of the Federated States of Micronesia shall remain a national of the Federated States of Micronesia, except as may be provided by law. A national of the Federated States of Micronesia may regain his citizenship of the Federated States of Micronesia in accordance with the residency requirement and other conditions as may be prescribed by law.

Section 5. This Article shall be applied retroactively.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Revenue Sharing of Fishing Fees

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Although the largest total source of income into the FSM is money received from the Compact of Free Association, the second largest revenue stream is received from the sale of fishing licenses for vessels to fish within the

FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone. This figure is approximately \$70,000,000 per annum, though subject to change.

Currently, all of the money received from fishing fees is deposited into the FSM Treasury; how the money is

spent is determined by the President and Congress. Under current laws and policies, 20% of the total income generated goes directly into the FSM Trust Fund, and the remaining 80% is

Continued on next page

...Fishing Fees

Continued from previous page

used to fund the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch (Congress), and the Judicial Branch (the Supreme Court), including any and all monies that are used on public projects within the FSM's States.

Under the proposed amendment, the money received from fishing fees would be shared with the States. The FSM National Government would receive 50% or half of the total money accrued, and the States would receive the other half.

The distribution formula for the states would be divided 70% by population and 30% equally amongst the states, the rationale in part being that the States receive some basic minimum amount of money for budgetary line items that population does not impact (e.g. maintenance of an airport), as well as ensuring that States with a larger population are better able to meet the needs of their residents.

The immediate effect if this proposed amendment is passed is that individual FSM States will have more resources to determine the use of directly, and by extension that the FSM National Government will have less financial power in the development and implementation of projects within FSM States that are sourced through

domestically generated revenue from fishing fees.

Revenue Sharing from Fishing Fees: ARTICLE IX SECTION 2(M)

CURRENT LANGUAGE

Section 2. The following powers are expressly delegated to Congress: (m) to regulate the ownership, exploration, and exploitation of natural resources within the marine space of the Federated States of Micronesia beyond 12 miles from island baselines;

Proposed Amended Language

Section 2. The following powers are expressly delegated to Congress: (m) to regulate the ownership, exploration, and exploitation of natural resources within the marine space of the

Federated States of Micronesia beyond 12 miles from island baselines; provided that

- i. Not less than fifty percent (50%) of all revenue collected from all forms of fishing fees are shared with the State governments;
- ii. Seventy percent (70%) of the revenue shared with the State governments pursuant to paragraph (i) shall be shared among the State governments based on population as determined by the most recent census, and thirty percent (30%) of the revenue shared with the State government pursuant to paragraph (i) shall be share equally among the State governments; and
- iii. All funds shared pursuant to paragraphs (i) and (ii) shall be paid into the State treasuries;

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Veto Override

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Under the FSM Constitution, the Congress has the power to create laws, including the power to decide how money will be spent. Congress creates laws by passing bills. A bill passed by Congress must be approved by the President before it becomes a law (or become law without the President's signature after thirty days). If the President believes that Congress has passed a bill that is not in the FSM's national interest, the President has the power to stop the bill from becoming a law by vetoing the bill. If Congress

believes the President's decision to veto is wrong, the Congress can pass the bill by a veto override.

Currently, for the Congress to pass a bill, the bill must pass First Reading by a 2/3 vote of all Senators. The Congress presently has 14 Senators and, thus, to pass First Reading 10 out of the 14 Senators pass vote in agreement. A bill that has been passed on First Reading must then be passed on Second Reading by 2/3 vote of the state delegations, with each state casting one vote. As the FSM only has four States, the practical effect is that 3 out of 4 Senators must vote for the bill in order for it to pass Second Reading.

If the President vetoes a returned bill to Congress, Congress can currently pass the bill by Veto Override using

the same number of votes as needed to pass on second reading. The practical effect is that the Presidential Veto, while symbolic, carries little power.

Under the proposed amendment, the Presidential Veto Override would now require two steps. The first would be for 2/3 of the Senators representing Election Districts (i.e. 7 out of 10 Senators) to override the veto. The second step would be for 3/4 of the At-Large Senators to vote in favor of the bill and override the veto.

The immediate effect of the passage of this proposed amendment is that it increases the number of Senators who must support a bill after the President vetoes it, and so the balance of power between the Executive and Legislative Branches will be more equal than before,

with the Executive Branch gaining more power than it previously had.

Presidential Veto Override: ARTICLE IX SECTION 2(q)

Current Language

Section 2. The following powers are expressly delegated to Congress: (q) to override a Presidential veto by not less than a 3/4 vote of all the state delegation, each delegation casting one vote; and

Proposed Amended Language

Section 2. The following powers are expressly delegated to Congress: (q) to override a Presidential veto by not less than a 2/3 vote of all the members elected from congressional districts in each state followed by a 3/4 vote of all members elected at large; and

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Revenue Sharing of Seabed & Subsoil Resources

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Presently, the FSM has not allowed any mining or removal of seabed and subsoil minerals within the FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone; thus, there

has not been any revenue generated from these activities. If the FSM were to engage in seabed mining, the current revenue-sharing formula requires that the net revenue derived is equally shared between the national government and the appropriate state government or governments.

The proposed amendment does not apply to fish or other living marine resources. It applies to the exploitation

of mineral deposits or other resources such as oil or natural gas. The proposed amendment provides a formula for how to divide revenue that is shared with the states when more than one state has a claim to the money (i.e. the revenue would be shared equally among those states).

Additionally, the proposed amendment would require Congress to enact a law that gives effect to this revenue sharing

provision.

There would be no immediate effect if this proposed amendment is passed until such a time that the FSM begins to mine minerals, or extract oil or gas from the ocean floor. If the FSM were to engage in any of those activities, the effect if this proposed amendment is passed would be that two or more FSM States with a

...Seabed & Subsoil

Continued from previous page

competing claim would equally share revenue generated from the exploitation of those mined minerals, oil, or gas.

Net Revenue Sharing from Minerals and Non-Living Resources from Seabeds and Subsoil beyond 12 Miles Baselines: ARTICLE IX SECTION 6

Current Language

Section 6. Net revenue derived from ocean floor mineral resources exploited under Section 2(m) shall be divided equally between the national government and the appropriate state government.

Proposed Amended Language

Section 6. Net revenue derived from seabed and subsoil minerals and other non-living resources exploited –from the jurisdiction of the Federated States of Micronesia beyond 12 miles from island baselines shall be divided equally between the national government and the appropriate state government or state governments. Where two or more state governments are entitled to such net revenue, such state governments shall be entitled to fifty percent (50%), divided equally among them. Congress shall give effect to this provision by statute in a manner consistent with international treaty obligations of the Federated States of Micronesia.

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Under the FSM Constitution in its current form, the trial division of the FSM Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in cases affecting officials of foreign governments, disputes between states, admiralty or maritime cases, and cases in which the National Government is a party except where an interest in land is at issue. Additionally, the national courts, including the trial division of the Supreme Court, have concurrent original jurisdiction in cases arising under the Constitution; national law or treaties; and in disputes between a state and a citizen of another state, between citizens of different states, and between a state or a citizen thereof, and a foreign state, citizen, or subject.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Eligibility to Run for Congress

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Under the FSM Constitution in its current form, a person is only eligible to become a Senator in the Congress if he or she is at least 30 years old on the day of the national election; has been a citizen of the FSM for at least 15 years; and has been a resident of the state to which he or she is elected for at least 5 years. A person who is convicted of a felony by a state or national government court is ineligible to be a member of Congress. Additionally, Congress may modify the provision or prescribe additional qualifications, noting that knowledge of English may not be a qualification.

The proposed amendment's change is that only persons who are FSM citizens by birth are eligible to become a Senator in Congress. Persons must still be at

least 30 years old on the day of the national election; be a resident of the state to which he or she is elected for at least five years; and, if convicted of a felony in a state or national court, is ineligible to become a Senator in Congress. The Congress would retain the power to modify this provision or prescribe additional qualifications, and knowledge of English may not be a qualification.

The practical effect of this amendment being passed is that the eligibility requirements to run for Congress in the FSM, and to become the President or Vice President of the FSM, would be the same.

Eligibility Requirements to run for Congress: ARTICLE IX SECTION 9

Current Language

Section 9. A person is ineligible to be a member of Congress unless he is at least 30 years of age on the day of election and has been a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia for at least 15

years, and a resident of the state from which he is elected for at least 5 years. A person convicted of a felony by a state or national government court is ineligible to be a member of Congress. The Congress may modify this provision or prescribe additional qualifications; knowledge of the English language may not be a qualification.

Proposed Amended Language

Section 9. A person is ineligible to be a member of Congress unless he is at least 30 years of age on the day of election a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia by birth, a domiciliary of the State from which he is elected, and has been residing in the Federated States of Micronesia for at least 5 years. A person convicted of a felony by a state or national government court is ineligible to be a member of Congress. The Congress may modify this provision or prescribe additional qualifications; knowledge of the English language may not be a qualification.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on State Court Jurisdiction on Cases Involving Land

SECTION 6

Current Language

Section 6.

- a) The trial division of the Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in cases affecting official of foreign governments, disputes between states, admiralty or maritime cases, and in cases in which the national government is a party except where an interest in land is at issue.
- b) The national courts, including the trial division of the Supreme Court, have concurrent original jurisdiction in cases arising under this Constitution; national law or treaties; and in disputes between a state and a citizen of another state, between citizens of different states, and between a state or a citizen thereof, and a foreign state, citizen, or subject.
- c) When jurisdiction is concurrent, the proper court may be prescribed by statute.

The proposed amendment requires that cases where an interest in land is at issue will need to be filed in the state court where the land is located. State courts will have exclusive jurisdiction over cases where an interest in land is at issue, and cases where an interest in land is at issue can no longer be heard by the Trial Division of the FSM Supreme Court. An "interest in land" includes land ownership, lease or other use rights, and easement, with other rights including permission to farm, access to water, right to collect fruit or other living things, etc.

The immediate effect if the proposal is passed is that state courts, which are arguably more familiar with customs and land issues in their jurisdiction (particularly as the customs and land issues in Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae are all different from each other), will be the exclusive jurisdiction over cases involving land.

Land Case Jurisdiction: ARTICLE XI

Proposed Amended Language

Section 6.

- a) The trial division of the Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in cases affecting official of foreign governments, disputes between states, admiralty or maritime cases, and in cases in which the national government is a party except where an interest in land is at issue.
- b) The national courts, including the trial division of the Supreme Court, have concurrent original jurisdiction in cases arising under this Constitution; national law or treaties; and in disputes between a state and a citizen of another state, between citizens of different states, and between a state or a citizen thereof, and a foreign state, citizen, or subject; except that the competent state courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction in cases where an interest in land is at issue.
- c) When jurisdiction is concurrent, the proper court may be prescribed by statute.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the Office of the Independent Prosecutor

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The proposed Office of the Independent Prosecutor is broadly similar to the Office of the Public Auditor, with a key distinction. At present, the Office of the Public Auditor investigates, and releases reports, on the misuse of public funds. The Office of the Independent Prosecutor would prosecute the misuse of funds as identified by the Public Auditor.

The proposed amendment includes provisions that would make the Independent Prosecutor to operate with autonomy, and thus not subject to the control of the President, Congress, or other government officials. The Independent Prosecutor would be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of two-thirds of Congress, to serve for a term of six (6) years. The Independent Prosecutor shall not be reappointed to a consecutive term.

The powers given to the Independent Prosecutor are focused on the misuse of government funds and the public corruption of high-level government officials. The prosecution of all other crimes remains with the Department

of Justice.

The immediate effect if the proposed amendment is passed is that the President will appoint the first Independent Prosecutor within 180 days of the effective date of the amendment and, if failing to do so, the Chief Justice shall immediately appoint an Acting Independent Prosecutor to serve until a successor is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress.

**To Establish a New Office of Independent Prosecutor:
ARTICLE XII SECTION 4;
(NEW SECTION PROPOSED LANGUAGE)**

Section 4.

- a) The Office of the Independent Prosecutor is hereby established.
- b) The President shall appoint an Independent Prosecutor, with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the members of Congress, to serve for a term of six (6) years and until a successor is appointed and confirmed. The Independent Prosecutor shall not be reappointed to a consecutive term. The President shall appoint the first Independent Prosecutor within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this section.
- c) If the President does not appoint the Independent Prosecutor

within the one hundred eighty (180) days, the Chief Justice shall immediately appoint an acting Independent Prosecutor to serve until a successor is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress.

- d) The Independent Prosecutor has the exclusive authority to:
 - i. investigate and prosecute any person or entity, whether private or public, or any official of the national, state, or local government for the commission of any national offense relating to national funds;
 - ii. investigate and prosecute any official of the national government for the commission of any national offense involving public corruption; and
 - iii. investigate and prosecute any person for any offense of obstruction or perjury committed in connection with an investigation or prosecution by the Independent Prosecutor.

In the event of a conflict of interest inhibiting the investigation or prosecutorial capability of the Independent Prosecutor or the office, the Chief Justice shall appoint special counsel to investigate and prosecute the specific cases that are affected by such conflict of interest.

- e) The Independent Prosecutor may compel witness testimony

and production of documents by subpoena, effect lawful search and seizure, and exercise such other powers as may be necessary to the investigation or prosecution. The powers and qualifications of the Independent Prosecutor may be prescribed by statute.

- f) The Office of the Independent Prosecutor shall be independent of administrative control. The Office shall be adequately funded by Congress. o statute, regulation, or directive shall be enacted or enforced which has the effect of reducing or eliminating the independence, power, or capability of that Office. The compensation of the Independent Prosecutor and staff shall not be reduced during the term in office. The Independent Prosecutor shall report at least once a year to the President and Congress.
- g) The Independent Prosecutor may be removed from office for good cause by the President with a 2/3 vote of the members of Congress. Upon removal of the Independent Prosecutor or vacancy in the position, the Chief Justice shall immediately appoint an acting Independent Prosecutor to serve wtil a successor is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the members of Congress.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the Voting Threshold to Amend the Constitution

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 4, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Currently, for a proposed amendment to become part of the FSM Constitution, the amendment must receive 3/4 or 75% of the votes cast in 3/4 or 75% of the States. This is based on the total number of votes cast (as opposed to the total number of eligible voters).

Under the proposed amendment,

the number of votes needed for an amendment to become part of the FSM Constitution will decrease from 3/4 or 75% or votes cast in 3/4 or 75% of the States to 2/3 or 66.67% of the votes cast in 3/4 or 75% of the States. A proposed amendment will still require supermajority support to pass, and no one state can dictate whether an amendment passes or fails.

The immediate effect if the amendment is passed is that future Constitutional Conventions and Referendums on proposed amendments will be able to pass with a lower threshold.

Threshold: ARTICLE XIV SECTION 1

Current Language

Section 1. An amendment to this Constitution maybe proposed by a constitutional convention, popular initiative, or Congress in a manner provided by law. A proposed amendment shall become a part of the Constitution when approved by ¾ of the votes cast on that amendment in each of ¾ of the states. If conflicting constitutional amendments submitted to the voters at the same election are approved, the amendment receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

Proposed Amended Language

Section 1. An amendment to this Constitution maybe proposed by a constitutional convention, popular initiative, or Congress in a manner provided by law. A proposed amendment shall become a part of the Constitution when approved by 2/3 of the votes cast on that amendment in each of ¾ of the states. If conflicting constitutional amendments submitted to the voters at the same election are approved, the amendment receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

An Analysis of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the Right to a Healthy Environment

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—This July, 2023, the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will vote on nine proposed amendments to the Constitution. This release is the ninth and final installment in a series about these proposals, and focuses on the proposed amendment to amend Article XIII by inserting a new Section 8 on the topic of the Right to a Healthy Environment. It is worth noting that this proposed amendment will be on the ballot in July 2023 as a result of Public Law 22-172, whereas the other proposed amendments are the result of the work of the 4th FSM Constitutional Convention itself.

The proposed Section 8 reads in full: "The National Government of the

[FSM] recognizes the right of the people to a healthy environment and shall take steps reasonable and necessary to respect, protect, and promote this right."

The proposed amendment, then, codifies that the FSM recognizes that the people have the right to a healthy environment and that the Government is obligated to take actions in protecting that right. The proposed amendment does not define what a healthy environment is nor what actions the Government will be obligated to take. If passed, it is plausible that the amendment will give birth to numerous philosophical and legal conversations in the coming years, as the Government will be mandated to protect the environment, but what actions are considered reasonable and necessary in doing so (and what actions are considered unreasonable and

unnecessary) will encounter scrutiny at all levels of society.

The text of the proposed amendment follows:

TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS
OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA
SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2022 C.B.
NO. 22-255

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To propose an amendment to Article XIII of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, by inserting a new Section 8 thereof, to provide that the national government recognizes the right of the people to a healthy environment, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS

OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

Section 1. It is hereby proposed that Article XIII of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia be amended by inserting a new Section 8 thereof, to read as follows:

"Section 8. The national government of the Federated States of Micronesia recognizes the right of the people to a healthy environment and shall take steps reasonable and necessary to respect, protect, and promote this right."

Section 2. This act shall become law upon approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: 11/28/22

Governor Oliver attends China Pilot Farm Opening Day in Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

June 5, 2023

Pohnlangas, Pohnpei: May 27, 2023 - Governor Oliver joined Chinese Embassy Charge' d'affaires Zhang Weitao for the China Pilot Farm Opening Day in Pohnplangas, Madolenihmw.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Weitao noted that China has provided support to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) since 1989, and the pilot farm has increased the skill and capacity of local farmers. Consultant and former FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Khandi Elieisar spoke on behalf of the President of the FSM. He noted that it would not be appropriate to call the farm a pilot project, since it has now matured and is in its 12th iteration. He spoke of the marvelous job done by the technicians yielding productive plants not usually grown in Micronesia. Mr. Elieisar also shared that in addition to the crops, biofuel from the piggery helps to sustain the farm and that nothing is wasted at the farm. He hoped that other states will also benefit from technology and skills shared in Pohnpei by the farm. He closed with congratulations to the staff and technicians of the farm for the 12th phase of the project.

Pohnpei State Director of Resources and Development (R&D), Mr. Hubert Yamada, spoke on behalf of Governor Oliver, noting that Pohnpei State has been the prime beneficiary of the China Aid Agro technical cooperation project, in its 12th phase now. Mr. Yamada also noted perhaps this is no longer a pilot project, because so much has already been accomplished since 1998. He noted that the farm promotes sustainable agriculture practices and that the Department of R&D and the pilot farm did a mini demonstration farm at the College of Micronesia with success. Director Yamada shared that there are plans for a min-farm in Kolonia, along with more greenhouses and that the farm has shown us that we can grow a variety of crops and



vegetables in Pohnpei.

A local farmer, Mr Rensper Johnny, represented local farmers to thank the China farm for their support and valuable guidance. He noted that they were assisted with seedlings, maintenance of plants and planting/harvesting times.

A cooking demonstration of local produce at the farm was held, before lunch and closing remarks by the Chinese Embassy.

IFAD reaffirms commitment to help Pacific Islands cope with climate change impacts and boost rural livelihoods

IFAD

Suva, Fiji

June 12, 2023—An International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) delegation to Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga, led by Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President of the Programme Management Department, and Reehana Raza, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, met royalty, key government officials, farmers’ organizations and other partners to discuss investments to promote inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth in Pacific Island countries. Through the development of community-driven productive and sustainable food systems, these investments support post-COVID recovery strategies and build long-term resilience, helping island communities withstand future crises.

“Tropical paradises are pretty tough places to live in reality,” noted Donal Brown while visiting Betio in Southern Tarawa and the outer island of Abemama in Kiribati, where IFAD is working to boost local food systems and access to clean water. “Climate change is very real and producing food locally is very challenging. Our investments - even simple, small-scale interventions at times - make a big difference to vulnerable communities.”

In a strong sign of the organization’s commitment to the region, the IFAD delegation inaugurated the IFAD Pacific Islands Country Office in Suva, Fiji on 5 June, in the presence of Fiji’s Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad. Brown acknowledged the Government of Fiji’s historic partnership with IFAD and its

support toward the opening of the office. The office will improve IFAD’s ability to address challenges in Fiji and 12 other Pacific Island countries. The acting prime minister expressed his gratitude to IFAD for its contribution and support toward Fiji and the Pacific.

The delegation also visited several project areas in Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga to see first-hand the results of climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices promoted by IFAD. These initiatives aim to strengthen food security and improve nutrition, increase engagement with women and youth, facilitate linkages and improved access to markets, and develop institutional capacities to boost the impact of rural development strategies and programmes.

In Kiribati, the Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (PIRAS), in partnership with the Government of Australia, addressed the food security challenges created by trade disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. It organized extended family groups (Kainga) and introduced advanced agricultural technologies, such as grow boxes, rainwater harvesting and composting to help them start vegetable gardens. Project participants have increased daily intake of vegetables from only once to three times a week, leading to better nutrition. Gardening has also provided much needed income, with Kainga selling up to 50-60 per cent of their vegetable production, which is in high demand. The Kiribati Outer Islands Food & Water Project, with support from the Korean Government, has introduced alternative rural livelihood options, including through improved technologies, and implementation of integrated organic/ethical trade initiatives.

In Fiji, the delegation visited project sites supported through PIRAS and Farmers' Organization for Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific in coordination with Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network and partners. At South Seas Orchid, the group learned about an out-grower programme supply chain initiative that is nurturing a floriculture industry by linking growers to markets. The initiative empowers women to operate



their own businesses, thus creating income-generating opportunities.

After the January 2022 eruption of an underwater volcano that caused devastating ashfall and triggered a tsunami in Tonga, IFAD has focused on enabling communities to recover and restore sustainable livelihoods. The disaster directly affected 84 per cent of Tonga’s population, destroying entire coastal villages and badly impacting water sources, food production and infrastructure.

“With the support of our partners, the MORDI Tonga Trust and Australian Aid, IFAD has focused its efforts on food security and rainwater harvesting to tackle the urgent needs emerging after the volcanic eruption and tsunami,” said Reehana Raza. While visiting the ‘Atata and Ha’atafu resettlement communities, Raza saw how IFAD has supported those displaced from their homes. Farmers were given agricultural inputs and working capital for land preparation, nurseries were established for vegetable seedlings and tree saplings, and women home gardening groups were provided with technical training. “Although there is still lots to be done, it is satisfying to have worked side-by-side with these communities since day one, and to help them recover and rebuild,” she said.

Total investment by IFAD in the Pacific region amounts to US\$417.7 million, of which US\$130.5 million is financed through the Fund’s programme of loans and grants. For every US\$1 invested by IFAD, more than US\$2 has been leveraged, 33 per cent of which is domestically financed.

Maphrick Gafolmow S Rueday named Yap Youth of the Year

Yap Media

June 16, 2023

Yap, Micronesia - Maphrick Gafolmow S. Rueday has been awarded the 2023 Youth of the Year. This award is a first in Yap and was initiated by the Director of the Department of Youth and Civic Affairs, and it recognizes Maphrick's outstanding achievements and leadership abilities.

A panel, consisting of representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Division of Youth Services at the Department of Youth and Civic Affairs, Yap High School Principal, teachers, and fellow classmates, unanimously selected Maphrick for his exceptional contributions in academics, sports, and community service.

His remarkable dedication and accomplishments make him a true inspiration for the youth of Yap.

All in favor of Bill no. 11-3; passed by 11th YSL to raise minimum wage

Yap Media

June 8, 2023

Yap—On June 5, 2023 the 11th Yap State Legislature passed a bill on second reading to bring the minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$3.24 for the State Government. This bill will go through its natural process to give the other branches a chance

for review and exercise their veto power thus if none shall be signed by the Governor to become Law.

This Bill when it becomes law gives the Chief of Personnel a year to review and reclassify all government employees that need to meet this new requirement.

Remarks of Acting SG Manoni on World Ocean Day

Pacific Islands Forum

June 8, 2023

Albert Park, Fiji--His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Katonivere
President of the Republic of Fiji
Honorable Ministers
Members of the Diplomatic Corp
Distinguished guests
Members of the Pacific Ocean Alliance,
your partners, friends--
And most of all, to our dear children of the ocean
Iakwe, bula vinaka and welcome to today's celebration.

Allow me to begin by thanking His Excellency Ratu Wiliame for taking time out today to commemorate World Ocean Day. Thank you very much Excellency. We are indeed honoured to join with you today not only in your role as President of the Republic of Fiji – but also as the paramount chief of the Macuata Province. We thank you for your commitment and sacrifice towards ocean work over the years.

Today, we are here as part of a global wave of celebrations for the ocean. The theme of this day is Planet Ocean: the tides are changing. It has now become an annual celebration, and so it should be.

Because for us here in the Pacific, the ocean is everything. If it were up to us, this celebration would be on a daily basis. As that is how much it matters to us. We are inextricably linked to the oceans. For many of us, we only have the ocean and each other, it is all we have. It is indeed the exclusive source of vitality and livelihood it is basis of our existence, our livelihoods, our cultures, our identity aspirations, and of course, our future.

The Pacific Ocean is no doubt the single greatest natural endowment to us – it is home to an incredible amount of marine life. It should be our generations investment to guarantee that inter-generational equity and the legacy we want to hand over to our children and their children.

Ensuring effective stewardship of this biodiversity, in the face of a multitude of challenges is our responsibility today. We have to understand better the climate oceans nexus. We cannot ignore the pressing challenges of pollution, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, warming and acidification and the erosion of marine biodiversity. These issues are no longer distant threats. They are real, they are here, they are immediate and they demand our undivided attention.

The issue is further exacerbated by the challenge now presented by Japan's decision to discharge radioactive waste water into the Pacific. It is unconscionable that while we are still struggling to address the outstanding nuclear testing legacy issues and to get those responsible to own up to their legal and perhaps appeal to their moral underpinnings to clean up their mess—we are now looking most likely to another wave of challenges with nuclear waste. The potential impacts of such a discharge are still unknown. But we are hopeful that the undertaking by the Prime Minister of Japan in February this year that there will not be any discharge until it is safe to do so is hold true. We also appeal to the responsible parties to do clean up the Runit Dome in the Marshall Islands.

This is why Forum Leaders have envisioned for our region the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

A vision by 2050 that we can maintain a healthy ocean, abundant in resources and supporting a healthy planet for prosperity. In effect the Ocean underpins the 2050 Strategy.

As the Forum Leaders are deciding on this process, we should expect later this year an implementation plan for the strategy outlining some of the region wide collective steps to achieve that vision for transformative change. We are here today to celebrate this one blue ocean on this one blue planet- and for that we do it the Pacific way, in our voices, and with everything we have and every shade of ocean colour possible.

Ladies and gentlemen and children, especially for those of you who marched all the way from Suva Flea Market to here at Albert Park, you have demonstrated the passion you have for our ocean and how much it means for us. Kimmol tata, vinaka vakalevu.

A big thank you and congratulations to all of you school children who are here today- sacrificing a few hours of your learning time to be part of this celebration. This day is not only of national importance, but of regional significance and now a global movement.

In recognizing all you great children of the Blue Pacific, we are announcing a regional art competition for all the children of the region starting from age 4 to 18. This drawing and poster competition will run from today until the last week of July. And we will announce the winners in August. We look forward to receiving your drawings. Be creative. Make the most of your hidden talents.



To our children and our young generations who will be future leaders there is an ocean of opportunities for you out there especially in this ocean space. From marine scientists to explorers, to ocean artists and communicators, you can be anything you want in this ocean space.

That is why for 2023, the different actors in this ocean space under the Pacific Ocean Alliance banner came together and decided that for our region we have to elevate the celebration not only today but for the whole week. It started with an ocean vigil on Monday.

To the members of the Pacific Ocean Alliance, thank you for all these activities organized for this week and for all the work you do for the ocean every day. You are our ocean champions. You've demonstrated that everyone can work together in this vast ocean space. I leave you all with these timeless words from the great Epeli Hauofa, our Ocean philosopher who made Fiji his home.

As Epeli tells us, "No people on earth are more suited to be the guardians of the world's largest ocean than those for whom it has been home for generations" Kimmol tata, vinaka vakalevu, I thank you

National and State Immunization Coordinators review progress and actions to improve Immunization in the FSM

FSM DOHSA

June 10, 2023

Kosrae—On June 5-9, Kosrae Directorate of Health Services, under the leadership of Dr. Tholman Alik, the Director, hosted Immunization Coordinators from all four FSM states – Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae to discuss and review the EPI program performance and develop strategies to

strengthening Routine Immunization (RI). The 5-day meeting was led by the FSM National Immunization Program represented by the Manager, Mr. Carter Apaisam, with technical support from UNICEF, also represented by Dr. Zahra Seid, Immunization Specialist, and Pius Attandoh, Social & Behavior Change Specialist.

The meeting provided an opportunity

for health workers to recognize and appreciate the use of immunization data to improve immunization service delivery and the impact of communication and community engagement to increase and sustain immunization coverage.

The participants presented annual Immunization work plans (AWP) based on data shared while pledging to implement and track the activities.



Pacific organic farmers meet to break down gender barriers



Pacific Community

June 7, 2023

Suva, Fiji--A meeting in Nadi, Fiji this week has brought together organic farmers from across the Pacific to identify gender barriers within organic agriculture and find solutions to best address them.

The meeting included approximately 30 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga focussing on gender knowledge and tools via the newly launched POETCom Gender and Value Chain Analysis Toolkit. The meeting supports the development of a strategic plan for the POETCom Women's Chapter, which was formed by POETCom in 2021.

The event Keynote Speaker, Honourable Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Sashi Kiran discussed efforts by the Fiji Government to incorporate gender into all policies and programmes, stating, "The 2022-2027 Policy for Gender in Agriculture represented an important milestone for the adoption of a gender-responsive approach towards agriculture plans and programmes. The policy seeks to increase women's access to productive resources, improve their participation in decision-making processes, promote their leadership in agriculture, and ensure effective mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all programmes through strengthened capacities,

resources and commitment in the agriculture ministries."

Ms Erika Oord, the Acting Counsellor for the Human Development Team at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade shared in her opening remarks Australia's acknowledgement of the good work that the Pacific Community SPC (through POETCom) is doing in the region empowering women farmers and strengthening their capacity at both policy and technical levels, mentioning SPC's assistance in facilitating discussions for the recently completed Palau National Organic Policy. "The Australian Government is here to listen and learn how we can work with you to enhance support for women to contribute to Pacific food and nutritional security," she stated.

Through this workshop, POETCom is strengthening its commitment to promoting the growth of the organic movement and equitable trade practices in the Pacific.

POETCom's Gender and Value Chains Advisor, Flavia Ciribello said, "It's great to see how this workshop is bringing together organic stakeholders from across the region and POETCom's unique governance body, the Women's Chapter, now has an opportunity for organizational introspection and a transformative process for elevating the important roles and contributions of women to the sector for greater equality and social advancement."

WASH Club Reflection Day

Pohnpei State Department of Education

On June 15, 2023, the Australian Embassy in Micronesia, Pohnpei Department of Education, College of Micronesia and UNICEF gathered at Island Palms Hotel Conference Room to discuss the strengths and accomplishments of the FSM WASH in Schools programme. Teachers and principals shared the most significant change that they've observed among the students through the WASH Club.

"With the presence of the WASH club, we saw many changes such as the importance of access to clean

water. Being part of the water testing that our children participated in was very eye-opening for us," said one of the school principals.

"Australia has been so pleased to support this. It's one of the most interesting and impactful programs that we have done in a while," said Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, H.E. Jo Cowley



UNICEF thanks Australia for providing the pathway for students to become agents of change who will ensure that the community lives in a clean, green, healthy, and sustainable world.



The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) is committed to supporting the development of a fair and inclusive organic movement in the Pacific. This has been made possible with the support of the Australian Government through the Pacific Women Lead (PWL) project of SPC.

The workshop is supported by the Australian Government through Pacific Women Lead (PWL) at SPC programme, in close collaboration

with the Building Prosperity For Women Producers, Processors And Women-Owned Business Through Organic Value Chains (BPWP) Project; The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and SPC Partnership; Kiwa Initiative Pacific Organic Learning Farms Network (POLFN) Project- funded by the European Union, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management and partners conducted a disaster preparedness simulation exercise in Chuuk State

FSM Information Services

Chuuk State – The FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM) and International Organization for Migration launched a three-day simulation exercise in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, from June 6-9, 2023 to prepare first line responders on rapid mobilization during disaster situations.

Initiated by DECEM and supported by the United States Agency for International Development funded Resilience Project, the simulation exercises are to mobilize first responders from various sectors including agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and public safety as well as representatives from the State Disaster Coordination Office (DCO), local municipalities, and non-governmental organizations.

In his opening statement, Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State the Honorable Mekiosy William underlined the

importance of the simulation exercise to ensure first line responders understand their responsibilities and are able to carry them out effectively. “This tabletop exercise is critical as our islands are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Let’s continue to work together and collaborate, so our efforts can establish a strong emergency response when needed and as called for. Our collaboration can save lives, enhance disaster preparedness, response and build resilient communities.”

The Table Top Exercise presented participants with a simulation exercise and disaster scenario, such as a typhoon, and tested the capacities of emergency deployment, social support, livelihoods, and infrastructure clusters in an emergency situation. It also illustrated gaps in coordination and communication channels and provided a platform in which the working groups reviewed and updated the Chuuk State Disaster Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedures.



The increasing risk of disaster events related to the impact of climate change underline the urgent need to strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms and minimize, to the extent possible, damage to infrastructures, agricultural crops, livelihoods, and more importantly protect lives.

Following the exercise, DECEM, in coordination with IOM, State DCO and relevant line departments participating in the exercise will identify challenges

and opportunities in coordination, local level capacity building, logistics and other critical areas and recommend actionable improvements to strengthen disaster preparedness and response in Chuuk State. The Table Top Exercise is an ongoing activity coordinated by DECEM. The next Table Top Exercise is schedule for Yap State in July 2023.

For more information, please contact DECEM/Morthy Solomon, Email: morthy.solomon@decem.gov.fm

Governor Oliver farewells PUC linemen assisting Guam Power Authority after Typhoon Mawar

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

June 10, 2023

Pohnpei International Airport—Governor Oliver and First Lady Estle G. Oliver bid farewell to Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) Linemen who will be heading to Guam to assist in the recovery efforts after the devastating Typhoon Mawar. Another four linemen will be leaving tonight. The first team of eight linemen will be in Guam for 4 weeks.



Pohnpei's Linemen will be working alongside Guam Power Authority (GPA) to restore power and bring back hope to our brothers and sisters in Guam.

PUC's commitment to service is truly commendable and we are immensely proud of their dedication and selflessness. We wish the Pohnpei Linemen a safe journey and successful endeavors in Guam. Thank you to the Governor of Guam, Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero for accepting and assisting PUC.

Yap State Legislature confirms Joses Gallen as new Attorney General

Yap Media

June 7, 2023

Colonia, Yap—Yap State's 11th Legislature has officially confirmed Joses Gallen as the new Attorney General for the state on June 6, 2023. Governor Chieng had nominated Mr. Gallen for the position on April 25, 2023. The

confirmation took place yesterday with a voting result of 7 in favor, 2 against, and 1 excused

Governor Chieng expressed strong confidence in Mr. Gallen as legal expertise and emphasized his ability to collaborate effectively with the administration



US Embassy honors FSM veterans killed in action



US Embassy to the FSM

May 30, 2023

In honor of Memorial Day, Chargé Alissa Bibb visited the graves of SGT Skipper Soram, PFC Henry Paul, and SGT Youvert Loney for a wreath laying ceremony. These three fallen heroes were killed in action while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Acting Defense Attaché Kyle Papish, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs Kandhi Eliesar, Deputy Chief of Mission Jack Soram, the Pohnpei

Veterans Association, and a contingent of U.S. Military personnel joined Chargé Bibb to pay tribute to these service members. We honor all the men and women of the FSM who have made this extraordinary sacrifice, and pay our respects to their friends and families on this day of remembrance.



El Nino climate pattern now underway, NOAA reports

VOA News

June 15, 2023

Pacific—El Nino has officially returned and is likely to yield extreme weather later this year, from tropical cyclones spinning toward vulnerable Pacific islands to heavy rainfall in South America to drought in Australia.

After three years of the La Nina climate pattern, which often lowers global temperatures slightly, the hotter El Nino is back in action, according to an advisory issued

on Thursday by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

NOAA said there is a 56% chance that when this El Nino peaks in strength — normally during the Northern Hemisphere winter — it will be a strong event, meaning that Eastern Pacific sea surface temperatures are at least 1.5C higher than normal.

Those with their warmest waters near the west coast of South America are deemed Eastern Pacific events, such as the strong 1997-98 El Nino. The other arises in the Central Pacific, near the equator around Hawaii, as was the case in the most recent 2015-16 event. Weather anomalies can be more extreme depending on where waters are warmest, making things drier or wetter in certain regions.

USVPA members pay courtesy call on Pohnpei Governor Oliver



Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

June 7, 2023

Peilapalap, Pohnpei—The U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei Association (USVPA) paid a courtesy call on Governor Oliver, to introduce their new leadership and share Veteran issues.

Herman Semes Jr., President of the organization was joined by the Vice President, Mr. Winfred Mudong and two members: Mr. Vincent Kallop and the Hon. Betrigo Jacob, Mayor of Kolonia Town.

Among the issues discussed was the construction of a monument in honor of Veterans/Fallen Servicemembers. The Veterans sought the advice of Governor Oliver for available sites for this monument. Another issue brought up was the allocation of a room dedicated to Veterans at Pohnpei House in Honolulu, HI while they are undertaking required medical appointments. The Hon. Betrigo Jacob noted that young Pohnpeians were recently sworn in to join the U.S. Armed Forces and as more Pohnpei residents join and return, the need for

Veterans services will increase.

Pohnpei House is run by the Department of Health and Social Services, and houses patients referred from Pohnpei State to health care facilities in Honolulu, HI.

Governor Oliver welcomed the Veterans, conveying appreciation and support for their organization. Governor Oliver told President Semes and the members that he supports the construction of a monument. He asked Mr. Kallop who is leading the project, to provide more details so that a proper request can be made. Governor Oliver also welcomed the assistance of providing a room at Pohnpei House for Veterans who are forced to travel to Hawaii for medical checkups to continue receiving Veterans benefits. He advised the Veterans that he will engage the Department of Health to look into the allocation of a room at Pohnpei House for Pohnpei Veterans who are in Honolulu for their medical appointments.

Thank you for your continuing service, USVPA.

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Adventure and Cultural tourism will deliver bigger returns for the Pacific: World Bank

World Bank

Suva, Fiji

June 14, 2023—The Pacific region has a unique opportunity to redefine its tourism industry and foster more inclusive and sustainable growth, according to a new report by the World Bank. With the unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on developing higher value tourism markets, such as adventure and cultural tourism, can provide Pacific governments and their private sectors with more environmentally and economically sustainable sources of growth.

By 2019, international arrivals in the Pacific had doubled over the two preceding decades, with the region attracting 1.8 million tourists, generating annual revenue of US\$2.4 billion. Over that time this industry provided jobs for more than 71,000 people across the region, while contributing to reduced

poverty and increased employment opportunities for women. In 2020 however, revenue dropped by 81 percent following region-wide border closures.

The Future of Pacific Tourism report, launched today, examines tourism trends and future opportunities in eleven Pacific Island countries – including the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu – before and after the pandemic. By examining these trends, the report offers new insights into the economic impacts of the tourism sector.

The report provide insights on how Pacific governments can realize their goals of increasing sustainability and value in the tourism sector by targeting high-value tourism segments, such as adventure; cultural and luxury tourism segments;

amongst others.

The report not only provides strategies that could possibly bolster revenue but also important recommendations for developing a greener, more resilient, inclusive, and competitive Pacific tourism sector in the context of increased arrivals. This includes, for example, increased investment in clean energy and water; better waste management; and means of promoting the conservation of natural resources.

“The World Bank is committed to supporting Pacific governments in the region with their ongoing economic recovery; and for many this means improving diversification of tourism segments,” said Stephen Ndegwa, World Bank Country Director for Papua New Guinea & the Pacific Islands. “By implementing policies that foster the development of high value tourism, Pacific Island countries have the potential to generate higher quality

growth that can create jobs, reduce poverty, and generate new public revenues,” he said.

The report further underscores the importance of public support in nurturing the development of higher-value tourism markets that requires a whole-of-government approach to tourism sector management and development. That means, strengthening the collection of quality tourism data; development of human capital to meet the demands of this service intensive industry; and investments in climate-resilient infrastructure by both public and private sectors.

As the Pacific Island countries continue to welcome tourists back, this timely report provides governments with a clear framework for shaping the future of tourism in the region.

Download The Future of Pacific Tourism report.

Theatrical photo shoot and island flavor photos for the casting of the movie Moana

Yap Media

June 19, 2023

Yap, FSM – On Wednesday, June 14, 2023, young potential and talented girls attended the Moana Casting meeting for the movie Moana, at the Governor’s Office. During that meeting, a photo shoot for the candidates was scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

This past Sunday the same girls who attended the first meeting along with a few others showed up to the Sports Complex for the photo shoot.

The Director of DY&CA, Mr. Alex Gilfiley, alongside with media staffs were on site and were prepared for the day’s work.

Theatrical photos and Island flavor photos were taken of each of the candidates.

By the end of the photo shoot, Director Gilfiley had a debrief with all the participants as well as their parents/guardians on the next process of the casting and had informed them of the next meeting to take place regarding the next phase of the project.

ONPA releases its Performance Audit Report on the recommendations of prior audit - report NO. 2021-02

Office of the National Public Auditor

June 12, 2023

This is to announce the issuance of our performance audit report on the recommendation of prior audit – Report No. 2021-02, issued on December 02, 2020.

Our objective was to determine whether the management of the Department of Finance and Administration’s Division of Investment and International Finance and Office of Personnel in Palikir have taken actions to address the audit findings and recommendations disclosed in our prior Report No. 2021-02, titled ‘The FSM Trust Fund: Actions are required to effectively & efficiently achieve the goals of the FSM Trust Fund’.

There were twenty-one (21) recommendations for the nine (9) findings highlighted in the prior Report No. 2021-02, we found that only one (1) recommendation was partially implemented while twenty (20) recommendations were not implemented.

We concluded that there was no progress towards the implementation of most of the audit findings and recommendations of the prior audit report (No. 2021-02). A digital copy of our report is available on our official website or you can read the report by clicking [HERE](#)

For more information contact: Email: info@fsmopa.fm; Phone: (691)320-2862/3; Facebook: @fsmpublicauditor