

Civil Action filed over Chuuk Lagoon oil spill alleges decades of negligence, four deaths

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

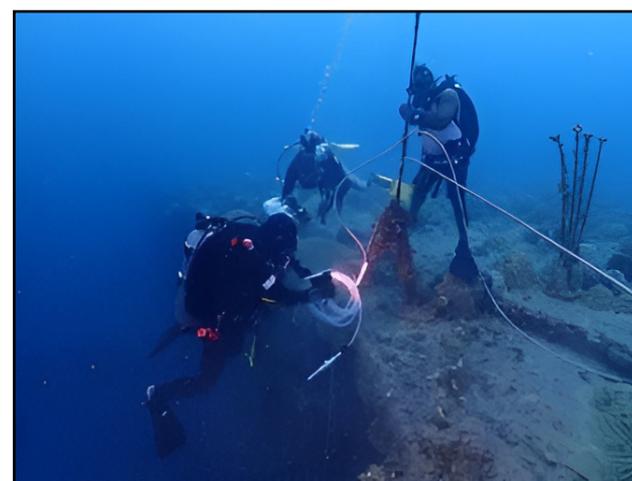
November 26, 2025

Weno, Chuuk— A lawsuit filed in the FSM Supreme Court’s Chuuk Trial Division seeks to assign responsibility for the September 2025 oil spill from the Rio de Janeiro Maru, a World War II shipwreck long known to pose environmental risks in Chuuk Lagoon. The case, FSM Civil Action 2025-1012, names as defendants the governments of Japan, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the United States, along with the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) and Odyssey International Inc., the company behind the Odyssey dive ship operating out of the Blue Lagoon Resort.

In addition to the collective plaintiff group “The People of Southern Namoneas and Chuuk Lagoon,” an individual plaintiff, Wangiou Otto, is also named. Otto is described as a fisherman who encountered oil surfacing near Uman Island during the period of the spill.

The Plaintiffs’ Claims

The amended complaint alleges that the Rio de Janeiro Maru—a large Japanese wartime vessel sunk in 1944—released significant quantities of brownish-orange oil between September 8–10, 2025, contaminating mudflats, mangrove environments, shallow waters, and nearshore fishing grounds along Uman Island’s eastern coastline. Photographs referenced in the filing depict oil washing ashore, clinging to mangrove roots, and discoloring tidal pools. The FSM Government issued an emergency declaration after the



Divers from the Japan Mine Action Service remove oil from a sunken Japanese transport vessel in Chuuk lagoon. Photo courtesy of the Japan Mine Action Service

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PTA Board votes to suspend Commissioner; Governor seeks legal opinion on next steps

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 1, 2025

Pohnpei - The Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA) Board of Directors has passed a resolution recommending the removal of Commissioner Welsin Helgenberger, citing a series of alleged unauthorized commitments, contract actions, and failures to comply with PTA policies and state financial regulations. The resolution, dated October 28, 2025, was formally

transmitted to Commissioner Helgenberger by Governor Stevenson A. Joseph on October 30, 2025.

In his letter, Governor Joseph informed the Commissioner that the Board’s Resolution No. 10-25-01 recommends his “immediate removal” from the appointed post. The Governor directed Helgenberger to take a paid leave of absence effective November 3, 2025, and to refrain from entering PTA premises or using PTA property while the matter is under review.

The Board’s resolution lists multiple allegations, asserting that Commissioner Helgenberger undertook actions requiring Board approval or Governor’s consent without obtaining either. These include:

- Entering into or making commitments involving contracts without securing Board authorization, contrary to PTA policy requiring Board approval prior to any contract signing.
- Committing PTA resources to external entities, including the FSM Election Commission Office for leased office space, without Board or Governor approval.
- Making commitments and signing agreements with a subcontractor, Pohnpei Whitesand/VCS, related to asphalt works without the required

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Appellees ask Supreme Court to dismiss Mailo–Enlet Election Appeal, citing lack of jurisdiction

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 25, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — Attorney Salomon Saimon has filed a motion on behalf of Chuuk State Election Commission Chairman Alexander Narruhn and Commissioner Mekioshy William asking the FSM Supreme Court Appellate Division to dismiss the election appeal brought by Mark Mailo and Joe Enlet, arguing that the Court lacks the legal authority to hear the case.

The 20-page motion, dated November 19, 2025, contends that under the FSM Constitution and Chuuk State election law, neither the FSM Supreme Court nor its appellate division has jurisdiction to review the Chuuk State Election Commission's handling of the March 2025 gubernatorial election. Instead, Saimon asserts, the law places such disputes solely within the jurisdiction of Chuuk's administrative and State court processes—including strict filing and verification requirements that he argues the appellants did not meet.

The motion says that the FSM Constitution gives the national courts only limited authority to hear cases arising under State law, and that State election disputes are not among the areas the

Constitution permits the FSM Supreme Court to review.

Saimon cites Article XI, Section 6(b), which grants concurrent national-State jurisdiction only in specific categories such as disputes between States or between a State and a foreign citizen. Election appeals are not included.

The filing also claims that the FSM Judiciary Act of 1979 and Section 138 of CSL 3-95-26 allow appeals to the FSM Supreme Court only from the highest State appellate courts—Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap, and Chuuk—but only when those State courts had jurisdiction to begin with. Since, Saimon argues, the Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division lacked jurisdiction over the Mailo–Enlet complaint, the FSM Supreme Court cannot acquire it on appeal.

A central argument in the motion is that the appellants did not satisfy the statutory requirements for filing an election contest under Chuuk law.

1. Failure to File a Verified Complaint

Chuuk's election statute requires a “verified” complaint—meaning the contestants themselves must sign under oath—within five days of the official declaration of results.

According to the motion, Mailo and Enlet filed an 18-page complaint that included a Statement saying the “Election Complaint is Verified,” but the document ended without their signatures or those of their counsel. This omission, the motion says, is a fatal jurisdictional defect under Section 127 of CSL 3-95-26.

Citing multiple Chuuk appellate decisions—Doone, Rayphand, Iron, and in re Mid-Mortlocks Interim Election—Saimon argues that the five-day filing deadline and verification requirement are strictly enforced and that missing either deprives the Election Commission and any reviewing court of jurisdiction.

2. Complaint Filed Too Early to Fix Errors

The motion also says the appellants filed the complaint prematurely—March 18, 2025, before the full five-day period expired on March 19—thereby cutting short the period during which they could have corrected deficiencies. Because no amended, verified complaint was filed within the permitted time, Saimon argues, the case cannot proceed.

Saimon further asserts that the complaint was misdirected. The Chuuk State Appellate Court's April 2025 opinion held that Mailo and Enlet had filed the election challenge with the wrong entity—submitting it to the unconfirmed Election Commission instead of the body that actually canvassed the March 2025 general election results.

Because jurisdiction in Chuuk election matters depends on proper filing with the correct administrative body, the motion claims this error independently justifies dismissal.

The appellants have argued elsewhere that they were not properly served with a “certification” of election results, which they claim should trigger the five-day contest window.

Saimon counters that Chuuk's appellate courts have long ruled that a “declaration” of results—issued by the canvassing body—is sufficient to start the clock. He quotes prior decisions warning that allowing contestants to wait for formal certification would undermine timely election administration and encourage strategic delays.

The motion concludes The Chuuk State Election Commission and Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division lacked jurisdiction because the appellants' complaint did not meet statutory requirements.

- The FSM Supreme Court Appellate Division likewise lacks jurisdiction and must dismiss the Mailo–Enlet appeal.
- Prior precedents demonstrate consistent enforcement of the five-day deadline, proper filing requirements, and strict verification rules.

Saimon formally served the motion on the Chuuk Attorney General's Office and private counsel for Mailo and Enlet on November 19 and 20, 2025.

The FSM Supreme Court has not yet issued a decision on the motion.



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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United States donates equipment to strengthen FSM airport capabilities

Embassy of the United States to the FSM

November 28, 2025

Pohnpei - On November 28, the U.S. Government donated over \$1 million worth of critical material and equipment to Pohnpei Port Authority. The donation will strengthen the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) ability to maintain and repair its airport infrastructure.

This donation underscores the United States' ongoing commitment to supporting FSM's infrastructure development, which includes

enhancement of aviation safety and operational capacity. The equipment includes an airport runway damage repair kit, forklift, cement mixer, and Bobcat equipment loader with various runway repair attachments, shovels, drill bits, and other handheld tools.

This repair system better enables the Pohnpei airport to maintain safe and efficient operations.

During the handover ceremony, U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson stated, "This donation reflects our enduring

friendship and shared commitment to the prosperity and security of the people of FSM. The United States will continue supporting FSM to strengthen critical infrastructure and promote safe, reliable air travel."



Pohnpei Port Authority General Manager Grilly Jack, along with Mason Albert, Chairman, Board of Pohnpei Port Authority and the Board of Directors, and Sean Michael Frank from the Department of Foreign Affairs, received the donation on behalf of the FSM Government, and expressed gratitude for the continued support.

Federated States of Micronesia cohosts historic LDC/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop

FSM Information Services

November 23, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei - The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) proudly co-hosted the 2025 LDC/SIDS Trust Fund Regional Workshop for the Pacific, held from November 17-20, 2025, at the KAMORALE National Convention Center in Palikir.

The opening ceremony featured distinguished leaders and representatives, including:

- H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of the FSM
- H.E. Jurg Lauber, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
- Ms. Heike Alefsen, Regional Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR) for the Pacific

- Ms. Hui Lu, Secretary of the Human Rights Council
- Mr. Patterson Shed, Chief of Staff of the Pohnpei State Government

This occasion marks the first time the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop has been held in the Micronesian region, underscoring FSM's vital role in advancing regional development and human rights capacity building.

The workshop convened participants from more than 71 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) united in assessing the value of the Trust Fund's activities in training and capacity building, and in identifying achievements and areas for improvement.

His Excellency, President Simina,

expressed his honor in hosting the event and highlighted the alignment of the workshop's principles with FSM's constitutional commitments to human rights and dignity for all citizens.

"FSM is honored to co-host this year's LDC/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop, the first ever in the Micronesian Region, particularly in FSM... This opportunity is particularly important to us small island countries in the Pacific Region, as the principles guiding this workshop align fundamentally with the FSM Constitution, which that guarantees and protects human rights and dignity for all citizens." President Simina said.

President Simina concluded "Climate change is intrinsically linked to all the challenges in our public health, food and water security, migration, peace, and security. In my view, it is a moral issue and an issue of social justice, human rights, and fundamental ethics. We have a profound responsibility as leaders to lead by doing something to address the challenges facing all of us."

The workshop served as a vital platform for dialogue and regional collaboration on shared challenges related to climate change, sustainable development, and human rights. FSM's active engagement in international forums such as the United Nations Human Rights Council further reaffirms its commitment to advancing human rights, sustainable development goals, and global cooperation.

The successful hosting of this workshop reinforces FSM's dedication to fostering regional partnerships and represents a milestone in elevating Pacific voices and priorities on the global stage.



... PTA

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- authorization.
- Committing to receive waste oil from fishing vessels in exchange for arbitrated fees, also without proper authorization.
- Violating PTA Board of Directors By-Laws, which require Board approval for all major activities involving state road infrastructure.
- Failure to participate in Board meetings, reportedly missing

... Oil Suit

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oil spill which was announced during the President Wesley Simina's address to the United Nations.

One of the most serious allegations is that the spill was followed by four deaths in nearby communities—those of Happy Refit, Mandy Ruben, Rusy Nicholas, and Kinme Sios—who, according to the complaint, suffered nausea, vomiting, and fever linked to the spill. The plaintiffs seek wrongful-death damages on behalf of their families.

The complaint asserts that these harms were foreseeable and should have been prevented. It outlines a history of SPREP warnings dating back over two decades describing Chuuk Lagoon's WWII wrecks as deteriorating environmental hazards, and argues that the governments of Japan, the FSM, and the United States failed to take adequate mitigation measures.

Allegations Involving the Odyssey Dive Ship

The complaint also alleges that the Odyssey dive ship played a direct role in triggering or worsening the leak. According to plaintiffs:

- The Odyssey was present at the wreck from September 8–10 and was observed exclusively visiting the Rio de Janeiro Maru during this period.
- Its divers allegedly entered or disturbed areas of the wreck where

more than three consecutive monthly meetings.

- Violations cited in Audit Report 006-25, which the Board states include at least five qualifying findings involving the PTA and falling under the Pohnpei Financial Management Regulation.

The Board concluded that the Commissioner had “not satisfactorily fulfilled his obligation” under PTA policy and state financial rules. It certified that its resolution is in full force and effect.

Under Pohnpei law, the position

oil-containing compartments had deteriorated.

- Afterward, oil was reportedly seen trailing near the ship as it moved along Uman's shoreline.

These claims form part of a *res ipsa loquitur* (the principle that the mere occurrence of some types of accident is sufficient to imply negligence) count, arguing that the type and timing of the leak are consistent with disturbances caused by the vessel's dive activity.

The plaintiffs seek:

- Declaratory judgments assigning responsibility to all named defendants,
- Damages, including for wrongful death,
- Creation of a trust fund to rehabilitate marine habitats,
- Specific performance requiring implementation of oil-removal or containment measures, and
- Attorney fees and court costs.

JMAS, the company contracted to remove oil from sunken WWII vessels, filed an amended answer denying most allegations for lack of sufficient information. It acknowledges working in Chuuk since 2021 under contracts with Japan and the FSM but denies that it failed in its responsibilities.

Regarding the plaintiffs' allegation of four deaths, JMAS denies the claims, stating that it lacks sufficient knowledge and that community familiarity with oil risks from wrecks has existed for decades.

JMAS raises numerous affirmative defenses—including intervening cause

of PTA Commissioner is an appointment that requires the Advice and Consent of the Pohnpei State Legislature. While the Board resolution recommends removal, questions remain about the legal process required to effectuate such a removal.

For that reason, Governor Joseph transmitted the Board resolution to the Legislature “for their information,” but has not taken final action pending legal guidance. The Governor has formally requested an opinion from the Pohnpei State Attorney General regarding the appropriate next steps. As of press

time, the legal opinion had not yet been issued.

While awaiting clarification, the Governor has placed Commissioner Helgenberger on paid administrative leave. He also instructed the Commissioner to relinquish all PTA property in his possession and avoid PTA facilities during the leave period.

The resolution has been forwarded to the Governor, the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor, and the Office of the State Attorney General for further consideration.

by the Odyssey, limited contractual scope, governmental immunity, failure to state a claim, preemption, lack of standing, and statute of limitations—and asks the court to dismiss the case with prejudice.

Odyssey denies having divers, tourists, or operations anywhere near the Rio de Janeiro Maru on September 8–9 and disputes being present at the wreck during the spill. It asserts that any oil release resulted from natural deterioration of the WWII wreck.

Odyssey requests dismissal of the amended complaint.

Plaintiffs have issued interrogatories and requests for production to Odyssey, seeking dive logs, crew lists, business documents, and other records associated with its activities in Chuuk between August and November 2025. These were mailed on November 19.

Government Responses Still Pending

According to the documents provided

by the Chuuk branch of the FSM Supreme Court, none of the three government defendants—FSM, Japan, or the United States—has filed a response as of the latest filings.

The plaintiffs' Certificate of Service states that all three governments were served by mail at their respective offices or embassies.

However, FSM's Department of Justice told us it has not yet received the complaint, despite being informed that it had been mailed.

The U.S. Embassy was unable to confirm today whether service was properly received.

The Embassy of Japan could not comment pending return of its authorized spokesperson.

These details explain why no governmental responses are yet on file; they do not indicate any formal challenge to service.



FSM Health Department and UNICEF support Kosrae State health workers to strengthen communication skills for immunization

FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs

November 26, 2025

Kosrae - Public Health workers in Kosrae State have strengthened their skills to communicate more effectively with families about the importance of routine immunization, following a two-day workshop on Effective Interpersonal Communication (IPC) to Improve Immunization held from November 12-13, 2025, in Kosrae.



The training brought together 20 participants from the Kosrae State Department of Health Services and the FSM National Department of Health and Social Affairs (DoHSA), including nurses, outreach teams and frontline immunization staff. The workshop was jointly organized by DoHSA with technical support from UNICEF.

The hands-on sessions focused on

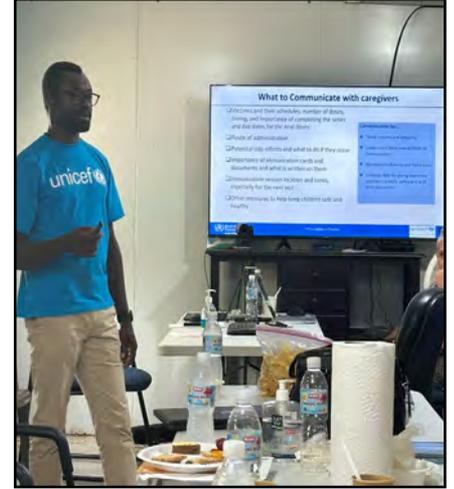
listening to caregivers' concerns, using simple and respectful language, addressing fears about side-effects, and building trust in immunization services. Participants practiced real-life counseling scenarios through role-plays, and group discussions.

Workshop assessments showed a clear improvement in participants' knowledge and confidence. Many participants who initially had only

partial understanding of IPC concepts demonstrated strong mastery after the workshop, and all reported feeling better equipped to support caregivers, respond to misinformation and encourage timely vaccination.

Participants also expressed very high satisfaction with the workshop facilitation. One participant, Mary Ann, shared how the workshop shifted her own perspective, "I used to really not understand why babies receive multiple vaccine shots. Why do they have to get so many? But through the practical demonstrations and role plays, I now understand that children need several shots so they can be fully protected," she said.

By the end of the workshop, health workers committed to applying empathy, active listening, and clear communication in all interactions with families - ensuring caregivers



feel respected and informed, and that children in Kosrae are fully protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

This IPC workshop is part of broader efforts supported by UNICEF to strengthen routine immunization, reduce dropout rates and missed opportunities and ensure that every child in the FSM grows up healthy and safe.

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Japan hands over a medical container lab

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 18, 2025

Pohnpei - On November 18, Ambassador Kagomiya attended the handover ceremony of the medical container lab held at Pohnpei State. The Government of Japan provided container labs that meet the necessary biosafety levels for handling COVID-19 and other viruses to the three states of the Federated State of Micronesia (FSM): Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Kosrae through grant aid. The handover ceremony was held with online connections to Chuuk and Kosrae states.



been built between Japan and the FSM, and it is expected to improve the quality of medical care, strengthen disaster response capabilities, contribute to community resilience and build a foundation for sustainable development.

In his speech, Ambassador Kagomiya stated that this project provides an opportunity to reaffirm the enduring friendship and cooperation that have

The handover ceremony was attended by officials from the FSM National Department of Health and Social Affairs and the health departments



of the three states, who expressed gratitude for Japan's cooperation, stating that the project contributes to the sustaining and strengthening

the community and enhancing the relationship between the FSM and Japan.

Advancing Human Rights in the FSM

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 19, 2025

Pohnpei - Australian Chargé d' Affaires Sarah McCarthy and Second Secretary Josh Critchley-Evans were honoured to attend the UN Human Right's Council Regional Workshop for the Pacific at the FSM National Convention Center.

"Human Rights is not about geography but about the people, with an importance to focus on dialogue, inclusiveness and respect to avoid future disagreements," said his Excellency Jurg Lauber, President of the UN Human Rights council.

The workshop brought together

government agencies, community organisations, and partners to assess the value of existing activities in fulfilling training and capacity-building mandates in strengthening human rights, and improving coordination across the country.

In his remarks, His Excellency Wesley Simina President of the FSM stated, " This workshop symbolizes our unity and shared vision and reinforces our commitment to improve coordination."

Australia remains committed to supporting efforts that safeguard dignity, safety, and the rights of all

individuals in the FSM and more broadly throughout the Pacific region.



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ONPA releases first National Assessment of FSM's climate governance, policy, and finance

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 25, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) at the end of last month released the FSM's first comprehensive assessment of government performance on climate governance, public policy, and climate finance—an evaluation carried out using the international ClimateScanner methodology. The report, transmitted to President Wesley W. Simina, Members of the 24th Congress, and the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management (DECCEM), offers the clearest picture to date of where the country stands as it confronts escalating climate threats.

The ClimateScanner initiative is a global project of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), currently chaired by Brazil's Supreme Audit Institution. Through this program, national audit offices independently examine how well their governments are meeting climate commitments, implementing policies, and managing climate finance. FSM was invited to participate as part of the broader international review.

Overall performance: “intermediate” progress, with strengths and structural gaps

Across the 19 components assessed, the FSM Government scored at the advanced level in eight areas, intermediate in eight, early in two, and no implementation in one. ONPA concluded that overall implementation is at the intermediate level—61% in governance, 61% in

public policies, and 36% in climate finance.

The audit emphasizes that FSM is making measurable progress but remains in the early stages of building strong, well-coordinated systems for climate action. The nation's geography and extreme vulnerability as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) make these improvements urgent.

Governance: Strong policies, but coordination and monitoring lag behind

The report finds FSM performing strongly in several governance-related areas, including:

- Institutional legal and regulatory frameworks
- Government structure for climate action
- Long-term climate strategies
- Risk management systems
- Inclusiveness and climate litigation oversight

These areas were rated at the advanced level.

However, the country scored only at the intermediate level for:

- Horizontal and vertical coordination
- Monitoring mechanisms
- Transparency and accountability systems

These gaps reflect longstanding challenges in aligning national and state-level climate actions—a theme the report points out repeatedly.

Public Policies: Strong international

confirmed if the Senate has at least ten working days to act before adjournment sine die and does not reject it. They noted that the Governor had called a special session—authorized to last up to 15 working days—for the purpose of considering the nominations.

But the court rejected this interpretation.

According to the order, although a special session may last up to 15 working days, it is not required to do so. In this case, the Senate convened on February 3, 2025 and adjourned sine die after only eight working days, on February 11. Since this fell short of the ten-day threshold, the constitutional “deemed confirmed” provision did not apply.

As a result, the four nominees remained unconfirmed when the special session ended.

Two weeks after the March 4 general election, the Senate reconvened and on March 14, 2025 formally rejected all four nominations. The court held that this rejection was lawful and binding since none of the nominees had been previously confirmed—either explicitly or implicitly.

commitments, but national planning still incomplete

FSM earned an advanced score for meeting its international climate obligations, including the formal submission of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC in 2022. The NDC outlines the national goal of reducing CO₂ emissions from electricity generation by more than 65% below 2000 levels.

While policies exist in key mitigation and adaptation sectors, the audit says that several national policies are outdated or not yet approved, and the country still lacks a National Adaptation Plan (NAP)—a key instrument for coordinated, long-term climate resilience planning.

Climate Finance: FSM scores lowest, reflecting heavy reliance on donors

The weakest area of performance is climate finance, where the government scored just 36%. ONPA reports that FSM:

- Has no domestic climate finance allocation.
- Depends almost entirely on international donors for climate-related projects.
- Lacks a finalized climate finance strategy, though one is currently being developed under an ongoing Green Climate Fund (GCF) project.

Such a strategy, ONPA reported, is vital for improving access to climate funds, ensuring proper tracking and reporting, and strengthening accountability for the use of climate resources.

Key Challenges Identified

The assessment outlines several systemic obstacles that hinder effective climate action:

- Limited technical and institutional capacity
- Weak coordination between national and state governments
- Inconsistent access to climate financing
- Insufficient data and monitoring systems

These challenges affect progress in both mitigation and adaptation, including critical sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and water security, the assessment says.

National Public Auditor Haser H. Hainrick calls the assessment an important baseline for strengthening FSM's climate response. The ONPA emphasizes that the report evaluates the existence of climate systems—not whether current policies are effective in meeting climate targets.

“As an institution responsible for promoting good governance and transparency, ONPA believes this assessment will help FSM identify where it is progressing and where improvements are urgently needed,” the report says. It further says that participation in ClimateScanner helps ONPA build the capacity to conduct future climate-related audits.

The full assessment is publicly available through the ONPA website at www.fsmopa.fm.

Court rules four nominees were never confirmed to Chuuk Election Commission

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 21, 2025

Weno, Chuuk — The Chuuk State Supreme Court has ruled that four individuals nominated earlier this year to the Chuuk Election Commission were never legally confirmed and therefore had no authority to act as board members after March 14, 2025. The decision came in an order issued November 20, 2025, in CSSC Civil Action No. 034-2025, in which the Legislature challenged the nominees' claims to office.

The dispute centered on Governor Alexander Narruhn's January 27, 2025 nominations of Maimichy Yos, Akampo Nakashima, Miaichy Assito, and Mayleen Dungawin to fill four vacant seats on the five-member Chuuk Election Commission. All previous members except one had either died or seen their terms expire without replacements being confirmed.

The nominees argued that they were automatically confirmed under Article VI, Section 3 of the Chuuk Constitution, which states that an appointment is deemed

confirmed if the Senate has at least ten working days to act before adjournment sine die and does not reject it. They noted that the Governor had called a special session—authorized to last up to 15 working days—for the purpose of considering the nominations.

But the court rejected this interpretation.

According to the order, although a special session may last up to 15 working days, it is not required to do so. In this case, the Senate convened on February 3, 2025 and adjourned sine die after only eight working days, on February 11. Since this fell short of the ten-day threshold, the constitutional “deemed confirmed” provision did not apply.

As a result, the four nominees remained unconfirmed when the special session ended.

Two weeks after the March 4 general election, the Senate reconvened and on March 14, 2025 formally rejected all four nominations. The court held that this rejection was lawful and binding since none of the nominees had been previously confirmed—either explicitly or implicitly.

The ruling further emphasized that under the Constitution, a person whose nomination has been rejected cannot be reappointed to the same office during the term of the Governor who nominated them. This means the four individuals are now ineligible for reappointment until after Governor Narruhn's term ends.

While granting summary judgment on the confirmation issue, the court left unresolved two significant questions:

Whether the nominees had lawful authority to act between January 27, 2025 (their nomination date) and March 14, 2025 (the Senate's rejection), and

Whether “holdover” principles—recognized in a prior 2010 case involving the Chuuk State Board of Education—apply to the Election Commission, which the Constitution establishes as an independent body outside the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

The court said that current briefing and evidence were insufficient to decide those

matters and ordered additional submissions from the parties by December 19, 2025, with amicus briefs due December 29 and optional responses by January 6, 2026. Further hearings may be scheduled if needed.

In its final order, the court held:

- The four nominees were never deemed confirmed.
- They had no authority to act as Election Commission members after March 14, 2025.
- They are barred from reappointment during the current governor's term.

The decision leaves the composition of the Election Commission unresolved heading into further constitutional and procedural analysis, even as the court continues reviewing related matters concerning holdover members and the scope of authority during nomination periods. Unresolved also is the question of whether or not the Commission had legal authority to conduct the gubernatorial election which ended in the seating of Narruhn and



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

Achiro Papa	Murilo, Sopotiw village	Weno	CHK
Aderyne Aizawa	P.O. Box 1315	Weno	CHK
Aidan F Yoruw	P.O. Box 1202	Colonia	YAP
Albino May	P.O. Box 589	Weno	CHK
Bancer Komer	Losap Island	Weno	CHK
Caroline Adams	P.O. Box 1527	Kolonia	PNI
Clarence N Likiak	P.O.Box 871	Tofol	KOS
Crystallynn Shirano	PO BOX 741	Kolonia	PNI
Dae Young Kang	P. O. Box 151	Tofol	KOS
FLORANTE E. YGANA	P.O. BOX 879	Weno	CHK
Fono Sub-Parish Church Renovation	P.O. Box 610	Weno	CHK
Frank S Semens	P.O. Box 1786	Kolonia	PNI
FSM Society of Human Resource Management	P.O. Box 2470	Kolonia	PNI
Harper Epifanio	Satawan Island	Weno	CHK
Hong Nga Thi Pham	P.O.Box 1124	Kolonia	PNI
Infita Inos	Fanipw Village, Fefan Island	Weno	CHK
Jianhua Qian	P.O. Box 1833	Kolonia	PNI
Joan C Sonsy	P.O. BOX 872	Weno	CHK
Joseph Lubumad	P.O. Box 746	Colonia	YAP
Josepha Y Sohlith or John S.	P.O. Box 532	Colonia	YAP
Judith Bokuku	P.O. Box 133	Weno	CHK
Julie William	P.O Box 573	Weno	CHK
Kalisto Patis or Scolastica Patis	Leinaku Village	Weno	CHK
Karson Billy	P.O Box 70	Weno	CHK
Karson Billy	P.O Box 70	Weno	CHK
Kaslin K Kasimiro	P.O. BOX 1905	Weno	CHK
Ke-Ahi Charley	P.O.Box 1676	Kolonia	PNI
Kenio K Raymond	P.O. Box 898	WENO	CHK
Kirispino Raphael	P.O Box 1093	Weno	CHK
Kition Soda	P.O. Box 311	Weno	CHK
Konsita Mony	P.o Box 1025	Weno	CHK
Korea Trading & Industries Co.	P.O. Box 1829	Kolonia	PNI
Lorian Hafilairam	P.O. Box 418	Kolonia	PNI
Machuo Ramanis	Iras Village	Eot	CHK
Marihse C. Ohry	PO Box 1020	Kolonia	PNI
Masauo Mornis	P. O. Box 1045	Weno	CHK
Matthew C Rott	3685 Buckeye Ct.	Boulder	CO
Mitieli Beranadoi	P.O.Box 1793	Kolonia	PNI
Peter Rungunalkan Ayin	P.O. Box 813	Colonia	YAP
Pieter Bakker	P.O. Box 2202	Kolonia	PNI
Renson Ramsin	P.O.Box PS37	Kolonia	PNI
Richard Reed Oliver II	P.O.Box K2948	Kolonia	PNI
Rodney Roby	291 Chalan Paluman Sinisia	Yigio	GU
Ruth F Joseph	Sapore Village, Fefan Island	Weno	CHK
Samuel E Luzano	P.O.Box 38	Colonia	YAP
Shrue Jonathan	P. O. Box 935	Tofol	KOS
Sirosy Paul	Sopotiw village	Weno	CHK
STEPHEN ANGIUSI	PO BOX 340	Kolonia	PNI
Stephen Richmond B.	30 Kiele Place	Hilo	HI
Virginia Mier Edpalin	P.O. Box 957	Colonia	YAP
Yostata John	P.O. Box 451	Moen	CHK

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2026. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2025.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfeh itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2026. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2025.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2026, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2025 Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2026, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2025.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2026. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasawada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2025 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

MEMBER FDIC

Yap State completes dengue early warning system outbreak readiness and response training

PIHOA

November 25, 2025

Colonia, Yap - Responding to a request from the Yap State Department of Health Services (DHS), the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) Secretariat conducted a Dengue Early Warning System (EWS) Outbreak and Readiness and Response Workshop in Colonia, Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on October 15-21, 2025.

Fourteen participants from Yap State DHS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received training from the PIHOA Secretariat's vector management team, Dr. Limb Hapairai, Regional Medical Entomologist, and Technical Consultants, Ms. Cynthia King, Ms. Jacquelyn Lefagoyal, and Ms. Rosanna Yoon Rabago.

- The EWS Workshop objectives were to:
1. Strengthen Yap State's data for decision making for vector management operations;
 2. Update Yap DHS' vector

management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Environmental Health and Safety (EHS); and
3. Train participants on pesticide application for outbreak readiness and response.

Participants learned about dengue transmission and symptoms and the importance of having a dengue EWS that can forecast potential dengue outbreaks based on Yap's weather, mosquito habitats and abundance, and human health and distribution data. To break the transmission cycle of dengue early, epidemiological and entomological thresholds were established to facilitate early action by the EHS team.

To foster collective action on source reduction, community/partner engagements and risk communication were streamlined. As a result of a cooperative effort, a total of 14 SOPs were updated based on best management practices, thereby ensuring consistency, quality, and safety across Yap State's vector management program.

Peter Malmai, Public Health Division Chief, of Yap DHS said, "I now feel confident that our staff and their stakeholder partners will be able to carry out their roles effectively and confidently, following the established SOPs. Without such guidance, managing dengue outbreaks and other infectious disease outbreaks in the future would be much more challenging. I would also like to extend our deep appreciation for all the equipment repairs Dr. Limb attended to, which prevented the non-functional equipment from being out of service. This opportunity truly exemplifies the strong relationship and commitment between him as a PIHOA representative and our department."

Field activities were also conducted with participants actively learning about conducting household inspections for mosquito breeding sites, larval surveys, mosquito surveillance using BG and oviposit traps, and pesticide control applications for indoor and outdoor targeted residual sprays.



Maxshelton Talimeliy, Coordinator of EHS, Yap DHS stated, "We have long waited for this training. This will make sure that we are better prepared for any future mosquito disease outbreak like dengue, that may affect our communities or islands. I knew the training will be helpful and am grateful for the opportunities for us as we serve the people or the islands of Yap state."

The PIHOA Secretariat will continue to work closely with the Yap DHS leadership, staff, and local partners to improve outbreak readiness by strengthening capacity through the implementation of Yap's Dengue EWS.

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Micronesia expands sustainable fishing through community-led FAD networks

The Nature Conservancy

November 19, 2025

Micronesia - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Micronesia and Polynesia, together with local fishing communities and fisheries management agencies, has expanded the use of coastal Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) across Micronesia. Over the past year, more than 10 new FADs were installed in Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Pohnpei, helping communities to catch more pelagic fish, like tuna, while reducing pressure on already stressed coral reef fisheries.



Micronesian communities depend heavily on reef fish for food and income, but increasing demand on nearshore resources has led to declining stocks. By attracting pelagic fish closer to shore, the FADs shorten fishing trips, cut costs, and help safeguard vulnerable reef ecosystems.

Each FAD that is deployed as part of this program is equipped with advanced echosounder buoys that provide real-time information on fish presence and FAD locations. Fishers can access this information through an online platform to plan safer and more efficient trips. Moreover, fisheries managers can monitor FAD conditions remotely and recover lost or damaged units.



In collaboration with the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, the Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), the Palau Bureau of Fisheries, and SPC, TNC is introducing a new approach by involving local fishers in every stage of FAD deployment: selecting sites, building the FADs, and putting them in the water. This hands-on process builds community capacity and reinforces local ownership and stewardship of the program.



Alongside FAD deployments, TNC continues to deliver training in mid-water fishing techniques, including a three-day practical workshop with Pohnpei fishers held in collaboration with the Pohnpei State Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture and SPC in September 2024. These sessions equip communities with the knowledge and skills to fish safely, efficiently, and sustainably around the new FAD network.

“By working hand-in-hand with local fishers to deploy and manage these FADs, we’re not only improving access to pelagic fish—we’re also laying the groundwork for community-led stewardship,” says Dr. Alex Filous, Director of Sustainable Fisheries at TNC Micronesia and Polynesia. “Our hope is that this initiative ignites regional momentum toward a more sustainable and resilient future—for both the people of Micronesia and the marine ecosystems they depend on.”



Vice President Palik convenes National Task Force on Tax Reform Meeting

FSM Information Services

November 14, 2025 Palikir, Pohnpei — Vice President Aren B. Palik convened the fourth meeting of the National Task Force on Tax Reform



to review progress on key initiatives and strengthen collaboration toward coordinated, transparent, and evidence-based tax reforms across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The meeting highlighted the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Bill, currently before Congress, which proposes adjustments to import duties on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary beverages while reducing duties on essential goods. Vice President Palik underscored the measure’s dual purpose of improving public health and creating a more stable revenue framework.

The Task Force also revisited the Value-

Added Tax (VAT) proposal, engaging in constructive dialogue on constitutional and policy considerations across the States. Members agreed to explore legal and practical solutions that could make its implementation constitutional, feasible, and equitable. As a percentage of GDP, the FSM has one of the lowest tax rates in the Pacific, but the impact of any tax increases should be carefully analyzed before they are implemented.

Participants reaffirmed that meaningful nationwide reform requires active engagement from all four States. Public education and consultation were identified as essential steps to

build understanding and support for reforms.

Vice President Palik thanked the Task Force for its continued collaboration and reiterated that consultation with State Governments is essential before advancing major reforms. He emphasized that public engagement and clear communication are key to ensuring reforms are well understood and responsibly implemented.

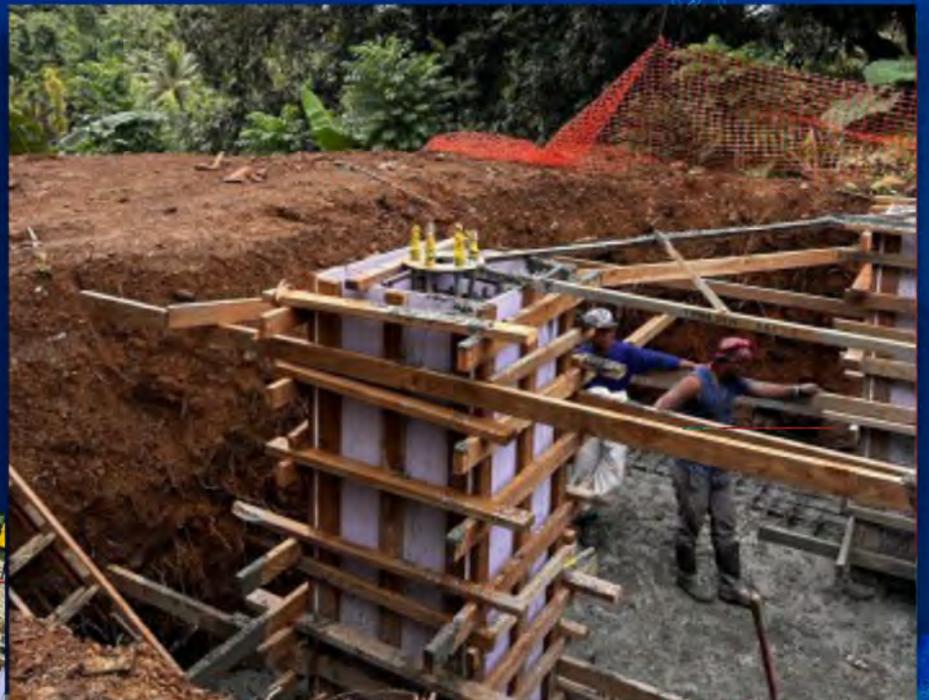
The Task Force will continue reviewing tax proposals and coordinating upcoming consultations with State



leaders as part of its roadmap toward a more effective and equitable tax system for the FSM.

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FSM National Tax Reform Task Force conducts stakeholder consultation in Kosrae

FSM Information Services

November 26, 2025

Kosrae – As part of the ongoing national effort to advance tax reform and modernization, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Task Force on Tax Reform (NTFTR), led by Vice President and Chair the Honorable Aren B. Palik, conducted a series of official engagements with the Kosrae State leadership on November 21, 2025.

The delegation began with a courtesy visit to Governor Tulensa W. Palik and Lt. Governor Arthy G. Nena. During the meeting, the Vice President outlined the purpose of the visit and provided a brief overview of the Task Force’s goals, progress made, and areas still pending review. The delegation engaged in meaningful dialogue with Governor Palik and Lt. Governor Nena, underscoring the importance of strengthened collaboration between the National

and State Governments to ensure shared understanding and the successful implementation of future tax reforms.

The Vice President and the delegation also held a courtesy meeting with Speaker Semeon J. Phillip and members of the Kosrae State Legislature. Discussions underscored the importance of sustained partnership between branches and levels of government, as well as the need for broad and informed awareness as tax reform initiatives move forward. The meeting further provided an opportunity to address inquiries from the Legislature and reaffirm the National Government’s commitment to open dialogue, cooperation, and shared responsibility in advancing these reforms.

Following the courtesy calls, the Vice President chaired a stakeholder engagement session with leadership from the Executive, Judiciary,



Legislature, and private sector. The consultation served as an opportunity to update Kosrae stakeholders on the national tax reform agenda and gather feedback on priority issues.

The delegation presented the status of major reform initiatives, including the National Consumption Duty Bill, ongoing revenue enhancement efforts, and the proposed transition from the Gross Revenue Tax to a Net Profits Tax. The introduction of a Value Added Tax and a proposed increase to the wage and salary tax threshold were also discussed. Brief updates were provided on tax administration modernization, including digital systems aimed at improving efficiency and compliance. Speaking

on behalf of the Kosrae leadership and all participating members, Speaker Phillip expressed sincere appreciation for the delegation’s visit and reaffirmed the State’s commitment to working collaboratively with the National Government in advancing these important reforms.

Vice President Palik expressed his appreciation to the Kosrae State leadership, Legislature, and stakeholders for their constructive engagement and valuable input. He reaffirmed that the National Government remains committed to working closely with all states to promote a fair, modern, and sustainable tax system for the Nation.



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Fisheries Development Division Coordinator	Fisheries Development Division	Band 10	5 December 2025
Financial Accountant	Corporate Services Division	Band 11	4 December 2025
Management Accountant	Corporate Services Division	Band 11	4 December 2025
Human Resource Performance Analyst	Corporate Services Division	Band 10	6 December 2025

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These positions will be based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, but may be expected to travel extensively in the region.

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- Band 10 – Base Salary starts at US\$45,228.00 (with basic allowances)

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The Office of The President allocates \$200,000 for emergency relief in Chuuk

FSM Information Services

November 20, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei – His Excellency, Wesley W. Simina, has announced swift and coordinated action to address the state of emergency in Uman, Chuuk State, following an oil leak from the World War II vessel Rio de Janeiro.

To safeguard public health and support affected communities, the President has authorized the allocation of \$200,000 from the Disaster Relief Fund to the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM). These funds will support

the implementation of an emergency feeding program, providing essential supplies—including rice, clean water, and canned goods—to 520 households, representing approximately 2,554 residents.

DECEM will work in close partnership with Chuuk State authorities and Uman municipal leaders to ensure timely, fair, and effective distribution of relief assistance.

Additional information and updates will be issued as the emergency response progresses.

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2025, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM® are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2026, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2026, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

Esinesin faniten Account ese chiwen suuk ika ese tufich aa

Kese mochen chemeni pun June 30, 2025 ekewe SAVINGS me CHECKING ACCOUNTS mei wor moni mei tónóng ngeni ach we BANK OF GUAM rese chiwen suk me ekewe ar kei account iter mei maketiw repwe kékéri ach we BANK OF GUAM. Nupwen rese kéké iwe masowaan non kei accounts epwene nó ngeni achwe Ofesin Secretary of Finance non ewe maram January 2026 ngeni 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 me ,non ewe procedures set forth non ewe 17 FSMC §102. Kose mochen chechemeni nge mwirin January 2026,meinisín kapas eis faniten ekei ika ei account epwe nó ngeni ach we ofesin Secretary of Finance.

Kahpese duen pwuhk en nekinek me sohlar doadoak de Notice of Inactive Accounts

Komwi en mwangi me sang ni June 30, 2025, pwuhk en nekinek oh sek ong nekinek ni pangk en Kuam me solahr doadoak oh mwaren aramas me pato pohn pwuhk o pahn ahnahné wehwe ieng pangk wet, mah soh ah wen sens me pato nan nekinek wet pahn patohla ren Kaun en Kempahn Apwali Sens nan sounpwohng en January 2026, pwehn idawen koasondi en 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 oh wiepe kan me pil sansal nan 17 FSMC §102. Komw menlau taman me mwurin Senweri, keinemwe koaros ong duen nekinek me sansal pah pahn patohla ren Kaun en Kempahn Apwali Sens.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

CHUUK BRANCH

NETIA AITEN
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CHUUK FM 96942

RENSITA ANNEY
SR DELGADILLO
PO BOX 190
CHUUK FM 96942

EDLYN ASSITO
PO BOX 1570
CHUUK FM 96942-1570

RITENA BERDON
MARIETA BERDON
PO BOX 495
CHUUK FM 96942

KARLEEN BY BILLY
PO BOX 752
CHUUK FM 96942

PASIENTE BISARAM
PO BOX 553
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

ASAUO K BOB
PO BOX 834
TRUK FM 96942

CARE WE ERIA
P O BOX 1127
WENO FM 96942

MARYANN FRITZ
P O BOX 841
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

CARL P GRIDLEY
PO BOX 1813
CHUUK FM 96942-1813

VICTOR HARTMAN
PO BOX 1124
CHUUK FM 96942

CHARLIE HARUO
SASAUO HARUO
PO BX 447
TRUK FM 96942

YOLANDA Y HERRY
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CHUUK FM 96942-1908

HERMES IGNACIO
MOEN
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MAURINA IPWAN
PO BOX 504401
SAIPAN MP 96950

KESPEN KANATER
MISTE KANATER
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PO BOX 637
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MOEN ISLANDS
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FRANCIS LONDON
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P O BOX 661
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

MICRONESIA RED CROSS
SOCIETY
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POHNPEI FM 96941-2405

SILA MOUFA
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CHUUK FM 96942-0411

BENDER R MULL
CINDY JUDA
PO BOX 1971
CHUUK FM 96942-1971

MWICHEFEL MUNIEN
PO BOX 1244
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PO BOX 405
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NORENA N TERRY
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PO BOX 1847
CHUUK FM 96942-1847

KETSEN WILLIAM
PO BOX 694
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PO BOX 511
POHNPEI FM 96941

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RAMIGIUS REIMERS
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NATHAN HADLEY
PO BOX 302
POHNPEI FM 96941-0302

FLORYNNA HALBERT
HERDOS AMINIS
PO BOX 1302
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

NEILA HEDMOND
PO BOX 541
POHNPEI FM 96941

SIMION HEDSON
LEHNA HEDSON
PO BOX 746
POHNPEI FM 96941

HTM CLUB COM FSM
PO BOX 614
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

AINRIS IHPA
PO BOX 741
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KERSON JOHN
PO BOX 670
POHNPEI FM 96941-0670

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BENTER H POLL
EDERINA VICENTE
PO BOX 92
POHNPEI FM 96941-0092

HERBERT PRIMO
ANGKEL EDWIN
LESTER LADORE
PO BOX 636
POHNPEI FM 96941-0636

STEVE RENSE
RAMIGIUS REIMERS
PO BOX 873
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941



Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2025, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM® are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2026, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (6) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2026, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

Mwe Akkalwemye Ke Bank Account Ma Tiac Mokleyuk

In akkalwemye lak ke June 30, 2025, SAVINGS ac CHECKING ACCOUNTS ten inge ikakla yurin BANK OF GUAM ac tia mokleyuk pwanang mwet la account sihmlac ten inge enenu in pangon BANK OF GUAM Branch Lalos an, kom fin tia pang, mani lom ke account an ac transfer kuh utukyuk nu yurin Secretary of Finance ke malem January 2026, oana ke oakwuki ke 29 FSMC §106 (6) ac 29 FSMC §602 ac oayapa fwakak ke 17 FSMC §102. Lela n kalem lah tukun January 2026, siyuk nukewa ma kupasr nuke account inge enenu in lolngok yurin Secretary of Finance.

Murung' Agen E Tin Baaray E Account Ni Be Par Ndariy Ban'en Ni Uibe Rin' Ngay

Yibe yog ngom ni ngam nang ni ka nap'an e rofen ni June 30, 2025, ma pi SAVINGS nge CHECKING ACCOUNTS ni baaray ni bay u BANK OF GUAM e ke n'uw nap'an ndariy ban'en ni yibe rin' ngay. Piin bay reb e pi account ney rorad e ba t'uf ni ngar nonad ko BANK OF GUAM ko gin yad ma par riy u payngin nrayog. Ya faanra danga', ma salpiy ni bay u lan e pi account ney e yira pi' nge yan ko en ir e Secretary of Finance u lan e pul ni January 2026, nrogon nib puluw ko fapi motochiyel ni 29 FSMC §106 (6), 29 FSMC §602, nge 17 FSMC §102. Yibe yog ngom ni ngkum nang nra tomuren e pul ni January 2026, ma faanra bay e deer rom ara ban'en ni ga baadag ni ngam nang u murung'agen reb e pi account ney ma aram e thingar mu non ngak e en ir e Secretary of Finance.

Pohnpei Branch Savings Accounts continued . . .

EDSON RINGLEN
KATARINA RINGLEN
PO BOX 926
POHNPEI FM 96941

LUCIANO SAHM
ANDERSON SAHM
PO BOX 1512
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

JENSON SANTOS
PO BOX 1466
POHNPEI FM 96941

AMBROS SENDA
PO BOX 722
POHNPEI FM 96941

SOKEHS PAH GREEN REVOLUTION
PO BOX 535
POHNPEI FM 96941

MARY DAKANNO
RANDALL HARRY
PO BOX 92789
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

DELLY THOMAS
PO BOX 1048
POHNPEI FM 96941

MASAYOSHI TORIYAMA
PO BOX 1975
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
POHNPEI
NANDAKU SUNDAY SCHOOL
PO BOX 864
POHNPEI FM 96941-0864

UNITED PENTECOSTAL YOUTH OF
POHNPEI
PO BOX 1666
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

MERIAM R WOLPHAGEN
PO BOX 1196
POHNPEI FM 96941-1196

MERIAM R WOLPHAGEN
PO BOX 1196
POHNPEI FM 96941-1196

FREDRICK XAVIER
PO BOX 1594
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

PRENS XAVIER
PO BOX 1594
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

KOSRAE BRANCH

BERLIN B SIGRAH
PO BOX 653
KOSRAE FM 96944-0308

YAP BRANCH

PETER R AYIN
986 LOSOYA DR
WOODLAND CA 95776

TERESA G RUUEMAU
ESTHER RUNMER
7104 SE 122ND DR
PORTLAND OR 97236-5007

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

CHUUK BRANCH

JOHN JUNIFER ALEONAR
PO BOX 2353
CHUUK FM 96942-2353

DIONISIA ARONGAW
PO BOX 1274
CHUUK FM 96942-1274

ATIREK CHIWI
PO BOX 2267
CHUUK FM 96942-2267

CHUUK NURSES ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 400
CHUUK FM 96942-0400

JANCY DANNY
PO BOX 2227
CHUUK FM 96942-2227

JUDY J ENLET
PO BOX 1650
CHUUK FM 96942-1650

TARAUTY EPINEISAR
PO BOX 1971
CHUUK FM 96942-1971

GPCC MICRONESIA INC
PO BOX 1968
CHUUK FM 96942-1968

MISAEEL HENRY
PO BOX 1973
CHUUK FM 96942-1973

REIKIKO JAMES
PO BOX 267
CHUUK FM 96942-0267

PASTORA K JOSEPH
PO BOX 738
CHUUK FM 96942-0738

WILLY E NARRUHN
PO BOX 1784
CHUUK FM 96942-1784

DORINA OSOMAI
PO BOX 343
CHUUK FM 96942-0343

PAATA SDA CHURCH
PO BOX 1141
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

PETRUS S PETRUS
PO BOX 910
CHUUK FM 96942-0910

TAKY T ROLLIS
PO BOX 1510
CHUUK FM 96942-1510

JULIET SIDNEY
PO BOX 1208
CHUUK FM 96942-1208

EMITA SOULENG
PO BOX 1538
CHUUK FM 96942-1538

VINCENT SOUMATAW
PO BOX 343
CHUUK FM 96942-0343

TMSON TAMSON
PO BOX 1393
CHUUK FM 96942-1393

NEMENITA TAN
PO BOX 1319
CHUUK FM 96942-1319

ANNE TRAYNOR
PO BOX 220
CHUUK FM 96942-0220

ATOMINO N WENGU
PO BOX 910
CHUUK FM 96942-0910

POHNPEI BRANCH

REDSON ABRAHAM
PO BOX 51
POHNPEI FM 96941-0051

ANDREW JAMES ERBS
PO BOX 2420
POHNPEI FM 96941-2420

GINGER S ARNOLD
DBA UPDATED MOVIES & SERVICES
PO BOX 1378
POHNPEI FM 96941-1378

ASSOCIATION OF MICRONESIAN
UTILITIES
PO BOX PS12
POHNPEI FM 96941

BEST AND BEST MOTORS INC
PO BOX 1300
POHNPEI FM 96941

DESIRE IFAMILIK
PO BOX 2259
POHNPEI FM 96941-2259

BURNICE HELTER
PO BOX 1451
POHNPEI FM 96941-1451

BENJAMIN JIM
PO BOX 1164
POHNPEI FM 96941-1164

AMY JOEL
PO BOX 1305
POHNPEI FM 96941-1305

JEAN LUZAMA
829 LAKE AVE C
STORMLAKE IA 50588

METELANIM HOUSING
PO BOX 1120
POHNPEI FM 96941

NATIONAL FISHERIES
CORPORATION
CHRISTIAN/SIMINA SCHOLARSHIP
PO BOX R
POHNPEI FM 96941

CHANCE OBED
87 150 HELELUA ST 4
WAIANAE HI 96792

OKEANOS FSM SUSTAINABLE SEA
TRANSPORTATION INC
OKEANOS POH
PO BOX 2997
POHNPEI FM 96941-2997

PCR & RESTAURANT
AND RESTAURAN
PO BOX 101
POHNPEI FM 96941

LAYNE B PETER
PO BOX 277
POHNPEI FM 96941-0277

SAINT PHILLIP YOUTH
ORGANIZATION
SPYO INC
PO BOX 129
POHNPEI FM 96941-0129

BALANNIE SILAHRA
PO BOX 1735
POHNPEI FM 96941-1735

THANKS INSURANCE
CORPORATION
PO BOX 902
KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

VITAL ENERGY INC
PO BOX 1762
POHNPEI FM 96941-1762

BRUCE J WALLACE
PO BOX 1762
POHNPEI FM 96941-1762

ANDREW R YATILMAN
DBA DA ISLAND TRADERS
PO BOX PS85
POHNPEI FM 96941

YUSINHR CO LTD
PO BOX 1829
POHNPEI FM 96941-1829

KOSRAE BRANCH

PALOKOA K CHARLEY
74-5285 KAEKA ST APT 1102
KAILUA KONA HI 96740-1496

KENYE SAIOLYN R NETH
PO BOX 843
KOSRAE FM 96944

JESTER W PAULINO
PO BOX 673
KOSRAE FM 96944

ERWINE G YOUNGSTROM
PO BOX 338
KOSRAE FM 96944

YAP BRANCH

MANAYOG GAAN
PO BOX 934
YAP FM 96943-0934

MELISA MANNA RUWETAM
PO BOX 4090
HAGATNA GU 96932-4090

IGNATHIUS J YUGMANG
JAMES LUBUW
4238 N OLIVE ST
KANSAS CITY MO 64116-2436



FSM joins Pacific Australia Emerging Leaders Summit 2025

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

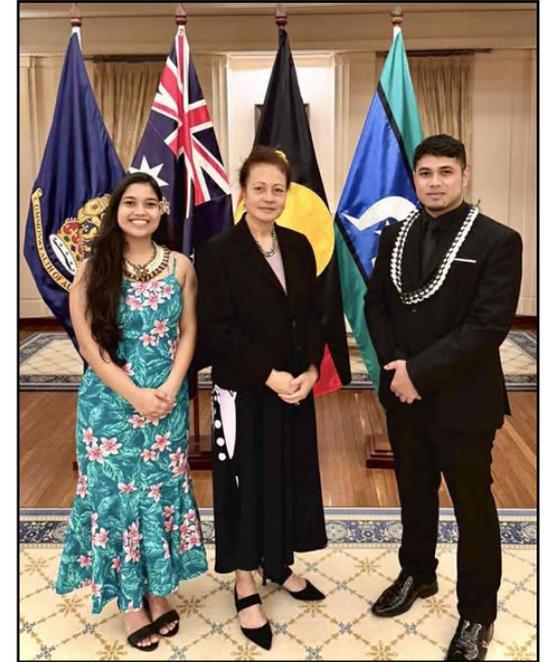
November 29, 2025

Australia - President of Chuuk Youth Council, Mahoney Mori joined young leaders from across the Pacific at this year's Emerging Leaders' Summit in Australia.

A camping trip provided an opportunity for team building and cultural activities, followed by a dinner hosted by the Australian Governor General, Her Excellency Sam Mostyn AC, with FSM Ambassador to Australia Jane Chigiyal also in attendance.

"The Pacific Emerging Leaders Program is another example of Australia's continued support for young emerging FSM leaders by providing opportunities for them to grow their skills and connections," said Ambassador Jenny Grant.

Through this program participants are gaining insights on key issues facing Pacific youth from scholars and elders.



Pacific Nations strengthening regional maritime security

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 24, 2025

Sydney - On 3 November 2025, Pacific Heads of Maritime Forces and Senior Maritime Officials, gather in Sydney for the Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP) Workshop. Commander Steward Peter, Maritime Wing Commander, proudly represented the FSM at the forum.

Building on from the PMSP Workshop held in Suva on 21 July 2025, this workshop was a significant opportunity to advance regionalism, share insights, and strengthen partnerships to address the Blue Pacific's maritime security priorities. Together, we focused on coordinated efforts that underpin our

collective security.

- Key discussions included:
- PMSP Training Programs
 - Maintenance and Sustainment
 - Regional Coordination initiatives.

Prior to the workshop, officials attended a breakfast hosted by Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO, RAN on board the Admiral Hudson.

Pacific nations, supported by the PMSP, continues to deliver generational maritime security capability, including the Guardian Class Patrol Boats one PMSP fleet that exemplifies Pacific-led solutions and collaboration across the region.



Australia stands united with our partners in the FSM to end Gender-Based Violence

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 25, 2025

FSM - On International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the first day of #16Days of Activism on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Australia stands with our Pacific partners working to end GBV #NoExcuse.

Your leadership and commitment have brought us this far, and we stand united

with you in this critical effort.

Through Pacific Strong: Amplifying Action to End Violence against Women and Girls, we're expanding support to eleven crisis centres across 9 Pacific countries to ensure women and children experiencing GBV can access survivor-centred services in a safe and timely manner.

The Embassy of Australia to the FSM is proud to partner with the Chuuk Women's Council's Tongen Inepwineu Counselling Center in this initiative to support their transformational work towards safety and equality.



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 JA Kyosai Bldg., 7-9, Hirakawacho 2-chome,
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093
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Class 9: Mobile phone software applications, downloadable; computer programs, downloadable; recorded computer programs; operating system programs; tablet computers; smartwatches; smartglasses; computer peripheral devices; styluses; notebook computers; monitors; computer keyboards; mice; scales; navigational instruments; holders adapted for mobile telephones and smartphones; selfie sticks for smartphones; smartphones; protective films adapted for smartphones; cases for smartphones; covers for smartphones; network communication equipments; routers; virtual reality headsets; earphones; wireless earphones for mobile phones; set top box (STB); television apparatus; microphones; smart speakers; display screens; webcams; cameras; USB cables; sensors; chips (integrated circuits); power adaptors; remote controller for household use; electric switches; wireless chargers; electric batteries; battery chargers; power banks (portable battery chargers); all-in-one Personal Computer TV; multimedia projector; mobile phone accessories, including cameras for mobile phone, smartphone camera lens, flashlights for smartphones, cellphone screens, smartphone displays and mobile phone heat dissipation back clips.

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MUNRO LEYS

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 Email: trademarks@munroleyslaw.com.fj
www.munroleyslaw.com

MUNRO LEYS

Australia joins UN Day celebrations

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

November 27, 2025

Pohnpei - Deputy Head of Mission Sarah McCarthy attended the UN Day 2025 celebration at PICS High School Gym, marking the 80th anniversary of the United Nations under the theme “A Symbol of Hope and Global Unity.”

The event highlighted youth engagement through interactive displays on gender equality, health, and education, and showcased the work of UN agencies.

“This is a celebration of our shared future. Our youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow; they are the contributors of today,” said Stanley Etse, Director of the Pohnpei State Department of Education.

A key takeaway was the School-in-a-Box—a portable classroom designed for emergency settings. Each kit includes 42 school supplies for 40 students and a teacher, with Braille-embossed materials to support children with visual impairments. These kits

have been distributed across FSM to outer island schools and those at risk of emergencies.

“Education should never stop—even in emergency situations. The School-in-a-Box initiative is instrumental in making that possible,” said Ms McCarthy.

“When we work together, we strengthen opportunities for Micronesian youth and ensure no one is left behind. It was heartwarming to see the kids engaging with the displays—moments like these remind us that the ability to create lasting change begins with the young.”

UNICEF Chief Cromwell Bacareza said the event was “a commitment to the future—a future where all young people have equal opportunities, where persons with disabilities are recognised as leaders, and where no island and no young person is left behind.”

The event served as a powerful reminder that empowering youth is essential to building a sustainable and inclusive future.



President Wesley W. Simina receives Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific

FSM Information Services

November 28, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, for a courtesy call at the President's Office in Palikir. The visit marks Dr. Piukala's first official visit to the FSM and his first visit in his capacity as Regional Director.

President Simina opened the meeting by warmly welcoming Dr. Piukala and his delegation. Dr. Piukala expressed his gratitude for the President's hospitality, followed by brief introductions from the WHO delegation.

During the meeting, Dr. Piukala highlighted the successful elevation of the WHO Liaison Office in the FSM to a WHO Representative Office, reflecting its strengthened commitment to the country. He also introduced Mr. Roderico Ofrin as the new WHO Representative for Northern

Micronesia, covering the FSM, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Dr. Piukala noted that his visit serves as an opportunity to better understand the FSM's healthcare system as a member state of the WHO. He emphasized that Pacific Island nations face similar challenges—such as geographical isolation and climate change—and underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing these issues. He reaffirmed that the success of member states is the success of WHO and reiterated the organization's commitment to expanding its support and increasing its budget to better assist member states.

The Regional Director also shared updates from the Western Pacific Region, noting that with Indonesia's reassignment from the Southeast Asia Region, the Western Pacific now comprises 38 countries and a population of 1.2 billion, making it the largest WHO region. He added that the upgrading of the WHO Liaison Office in the FSM to a Representative

Office further demonstrates the organization's dedication to supporting the FSM Government, particularly through the Department of Health and Social Affairs.

President Simina conveyed the FSM's deep appreciation for WHO's ongoing support, including critical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and the various scholarship programs that have strengthened the FSM health workforce. He also briefed Dr. Piukala on progress toward establishing the One UN House in the FSM and extended an invitation for WHO to participate in this initiative. Dr. Piukala thanked the President for the update and welcomed the opportunity for WHO's involvement.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the FSM and WHO's shared commitment to improving public health. Both sides expressed optimism that their continued



partnership will yield meaningful progress for the FSM's health sector and the wider Pacific region.

FSM updates on U.S. Legislative action supporting Head Start and COFA Veterans

FSM Information Services

November 21, 2025

FSM - The Office of the President is pleased to announce two significant legislative developments following the passage of the current Continuing Resolution (CR) by the U.S. Congress and its signing into law by President Donald Trump. These actions officially ended the 43-day U.S. government shutdown and secured critical provisions benefiting FSM.

Key Highlights

Headstart funding secured:

The CR includes a provision guaranteeing a base grant of \$8 million for FSM and RMI under the Head Start program for FY 2026. This funding ensures continued support for early childhood education programs across the nation.

Sec. 155 of the CR states: "Notwithstanding section 101, the matter under the heading 'Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs' in title II of division D of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by adding the following after the second proviso: 'Provided further, That for purposes of section 640(a)(2)(B)(v) of such Act, the base grant for each of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands shall be \$8,000,000, and shall be considered equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdictions under such Act for the prior fiscal year.'" (p. 27)

Support for COFA veterans:

The final FY 2026 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, which was passed as part of a spending

package with the CR, directs the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide briefings to Congress on the implementation of provisions in Public Law 118-42 relating to veterans in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent. This includes engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and implementation cost estimates. The accompanying Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations explanatory statement directs the Secretary of VA to implement these services (telehealth, mail order pharmaceuticals, travel reimbursement, and direct care from VA providers) before the end of Fiscal Year 2026.

Next steps:

The FSM will work closely with U.S. partners to ensure timely implementation of these provisions. The

Government of FSM extends its gratitude to congressional offices and advocates who supported these measures, reinforcing the strong partnership between FSM and the United States.

"These successes reflect the unwavering commitment of our dedicated team at the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the tireless advocacy of our partners at A&P. Their hard work and steadfast partnership were essential in securing these outcomes for our Nation—simply put, it would not have been possible without them." President Simina stated.

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia conveys its sincere appreciation to the U.S. Congress for its bipartisan support in advancing these important measures.



UN Human Rights Workshop and courtesy call by UN Regional Human Rights Representative

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

November 17, 2025

Pohnpei - On November 17, 2025, Ambassador Kagomiya attended the opening ceremony of the UN Human Rights Council’s Workshop (November 17–20, 2025) for the Pacific Region which was held at the National Convention Center in Palikir, Pohnpei.

The theme of the workshop is assessing the training and capacity building activities so far to identify achievements and areas of improvement. The delegates from the Pacific Island Countries as well as the staffs of Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) attended the workshop.

The ceremony was addressed by H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of FSM, as well as H.E. Jurg Lauber, the President of the UN Human Rights Council and Ms. Heike Alefsen, the Regional Representative of OHCHR.

Following the ceremony, on November 19, Ms. Heike Alefsen and Mr. Diego V. Neto, Human Rights Officer of Pacific Regional Office made a courtesy call on Ambassador Kagomiya at the Embassy of Japan.

Ms. Heike Alefsen emphasized the importance of the collaboration and

engagement of all the regional actors for the work on Human Rights in the Pacific region.

Ambassador Kagomiya expressed his deep appreciation for the firm commitment and tireless efforts of the human rights officers in the Pacific Region and conveyed his hope for continued collaboration with Human Rights Council.



Audit staff gather in Guam to hone their stakeholder engagement skills

By PASAI

November 21, 2025

Hagatna, Guam - The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) delivered stakeholder engagement training to 16 staff (8 female, 8 male) from 9 public audit offices from 17 to 20 November 2025.

The staff were from the audit offices of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the FSM states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap, Guam, the Marshall Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau.

During the 4-day in-person workshop, participants learned practical steps to maximise their engagement with stakeholders such as the legislature, audited entities, the media and the public.

Program Director, Mike Scott, leads PASAI’s stakeholder management program and explained, “We aim to improve our members’ ability to effectively communicate audit findings, increase the impact of their work and demonstrate their value to the lives of citizens in the Pacific.”

PASAI Chief Executive, Esther Lameko-Poutoa; and Communications Advisor, Luke Eaton; co-facilitated

the workshop at a training venue provided by the Guam Office of Public Accountability.

Workshop facilitators guided participants on communications principles, crafting actionable recommendations, drafting media releases, maximising their impact with social media content, and incorporating multimedia into audit reports and related communications material. The workshop built on previous PASAI training that includes developing and implementing a stakeholder engagement strategy, report writing, interpersonal communications and media interview preparation.

Mr Scott played a video that senior staff at the Office of the Auditor General of the Republic of Fiji had pre-recorded for their North Pacific counterparts explaining their engagement with members of the Fijian Parliament in reviewing the Audit Act. Beneficial reforms were later passed into law in the Fiji Audit Act 2025.

“The knowledge-sharing of the Fijian auditors sparked discussion among workshop participants on how they may be able to improve engagement with their legislatures to strengthen their offices’ independence,” he said.

Mr Scott also played a video made

by the Executive Director of the Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal, Jeanette Calder, on the role civil society organisations can play in the accountability system, and one by senior staff at the New Zealand Office of the Auditor-General, Mark Evans (Director) and Giovanni Fesuiari (Sector Manager), on engagement with the Legislature to promote scrutiny, accountability and impact.

Strategic communications partners from the New Zealand audit office, Richard Scott and Cameron Webb, prepared some media- and social media-related workshop content for the participants to view and joined remotely to respond to questions.

All participants presented short- and long-term plans for how they can implement lessons from the workshop customised to the realities they face with their various stakeholders.

Mr Scott expressed satisfaction with the level of improvement demonstrated by participants, saying, “Attendees interacted enthusiastically with workshop content and invested serious energy into creating strategies that I’m confident will translate into tangible actions.”

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick attends Joint Committee Meeting hosted in Pohnpei

Pohnpei Public Information

November 19, 2025



Dekehtik, Pohnpei – Acting Governor Herolyn S. Movick delivered opening and closing remarks at this year’s Joint Committee Meeting (JCM), hosted by Pohnpei State. The JCM, held twice annually, brings together representatives of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the United States to address matters under Title 3 of the Compact of Free Association, with a focus on Defense and Security.

In her opening remarks, Acting Governor Movick welcomed delegates on behalf of Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and the People of Pohnpei, highlighting the honor of hosting this important gathering. She emphasized Pohnpei’s commitment to supporting productive dialogue between the FSM and the United States, noting the significance of the JCM as a forum for transparency, cooperation, and shared responsibility.



Acting Governor Movick also called for a moment of respect for the late Honorable Lorin S. Robert, former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, whose decades of service strengthened FSM diplomacy and foreign relations. She extended condolences to his family and the National Government, acknowledging his lasting impact on the nation.

With dignitaries from the United States Department of War and representatives from FSM’s National and State Governments in attendance, the Acting Governor reaffirmed Pohnpei’s appreciation for the longstanding partnership between the FSM and the United States, particularly in supporting regional peace, stability, and resilience.

In her closing remarks, Acting Governor Movick expressed deep gratitude to all partners and participants, particularly the U.S. agencies and programs that have supported Pohnpei and the FSM over the years. She acknowledged the contributions of:

- Pacific Partnership
- The 333 Program
- U.S. Navy Seabees
- Koa Moana
- Operation Christmas Drop



“These efforts—whether in disaster preparedness, training, humanitarian assistance, or community engagement—show not only cooperation, but true and enduring friendship,” she stated. “You have shown us time and again that you are not just partners, but some of our most important and trusted friends.”

Acting Governor Movick concluded the meeting by thanking participants for their dedication and reaffirming Pohnpei’s commitment to continued collaboration: “May we move forward together with purpose, unity, and goodwill. Kalahngan, and safe travels to all.”

The Pohnpei State Government extends its appreciation to all delegates, agencies, and supporting organizations for their participation and partnership during this year’s Joint Committee Meeting.

TUNE IN TO POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO

PARADISE RADIO

FM 89.5 V6WI

Public Safety Week concludes with visit to high schools, parade, and Christmas tree lighting

Pohnpei Public Information

November 21, 2025

Pohnpei - Today, Friday, November 21, 2025, the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick led a vibrant Police Parade that circled the island, showcasing the dedication and unity of Pohnpei’s law enforcement officers. The parade made special stops at Nanpei Memorial High School and Madolenihmw High School, where officers distributed candies and treats to delighted students. These treats will be further shared with elementary schools in the respective municipalities, spreading joy and reinforcing positive relationships between law enforcement and our youngest community members.



Tonight, Public Safety Week will culminate with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, marking the official start of the holiday season in Pohnpei. Festivities will begin with a parade starting at the historic Spanish Wall, proceeding through Kolonia Town, and concluding at the Governor’s Office, where the Christmas tree will be illuminated in a celebration of peace, safety, and community spirit.



Governor Joseph attends 22nd Annual Marine Protected Area (MPA) cross-site visit in Mwoakot, Kitti

Pohnpei Public Information

November 28, 2025

Mwoakot, Kitti — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph joined community leaders, resource managers, partner agencies, and conservation stakeholders today at the 22nd Annual Marine Protected Area (MPA) Cross-Site Visit, hosted by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP).

The annual event brings participants from across Pohnpei to exchange experiences, strengthen collaboration, and

highlight best practices in marine conservation and sustainable community livelihoods. This year’s theme, “Resilient Seas, Resilient Communities,” emphasizes the importance of protecting marine ecosystems while supporting the wellbeing of local communities.

In his remarks, Governor Joseph thanked all partners for their continued dedication to safeguarding Pohnpei’s marine resources. He noted that their efforts reflect a broader global movement, drawing connections to his recent participation in discussions at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, where climate resilience and sustainable ocean management were central topics.

Governor Joseph also shared observations from his home municipality, acknowledging how local marine protected areas have strengthened conservation efforts and improved marine resource management at the community level.



He reaffirmed the Pohnpei State Government’s support for community-led conservation initiatives and emphasized the vital role of cooperation between traditional leaders, local governments, NGOs, and partner agencies in advancing long-term sustainability.

The 22nd Annual MPA Cross-Site Visit continues to serve as an important platform for building shared understanding and collective action to protect Pohnpei’s marine environment.

Public Safety Week concludes with parade and annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Pohnpei Public Information

November 22, 2025

Peilapalap, Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and Lt. Governor Herolyn S. Movick joined the community on Friday, November 21, 2025, for the closing program of Public Safety Week 2025, highlighted by a parade from Spanish Wall to the Pohnpei State Administrative Building in Peilapalap, where the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held.

Honored guests included:
Hon. McGarry Miguel, Acting Speaker, 11th Pohnpei Legislature
H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia
First Lady Ancelly Simina
H.E. Wu Wei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

H.E. Jennifer L. Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM
First Lady of Pohnpei, Dr. Aina Garstang

The ceremony began with opening and closing prayers offered by Wapar Mwomwohdiso, Senior Pastor Raynold Jack, followed by welcoming remarks from Eltes Pelep, Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Governor Joseph reflected on the origins of Public Safety Week, explaining that the event began about four years ago to commemorate the establishment of the Department of Public Safety in 1999, following its transition from the former Department of Justice. He underscored that the week-long activities were created to strengthen public outreach, raise awareness on safety issues, and help

students understand the importance of law, responsibility, and community protection.

Addressing police officers and first responders, Governor Joseph expressed appreciation for their dedication, acknowledging the demanding nature of their work and emphasizing the essential role they play in safeguarding Pohnpei.

As the community gathered for the Christmas Tree Lighting, Governor Joseph welcomed the start of the holiday season, noting that it is a time for reflection, gratitude, and unity across the island. He extended his appreciation to all guests, partners, and families who joined the evening's celebration.

The highlight of the night came

when First Lady of Pohnpei Dr. Aina Garstang, First Lady of the FSM Ancelly Simina, and U.S. Ambassador H.E. Jennifer L. Johnson illuminated the Christmas tree following a ten-second countdown led by Master of Ceremonies Denson David, Kous Madolenihmw.

The ceremony brought the community together in the spirit of the season as Pohnpei officially welcomed Christmas 2025.



Small Island Pacific States chart a shared human rights future at Regional LDCs/SIDS Workshop in Federated States of Micronesia

By Carlota Nunez
UN Resident Coordinator's Office

November 19, 2025

Palikir, Pohnpei - “The Council is stronger when it is more inclusive. Your voices: especially on climate change, sustainable development, and cultural rights; ground our deliberations in the realities people face every day.” — Jürg Lauber, President of the Human Rights Council

The President’s words echoed through the Kamorale Convention Centre as the morning sun broke over the hills of Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia.

For three days, delegates from across the Pacific came together not simply to discuss human rights, but to reaffirm a

shared identity, shared challenges and a shared future. This was the first LDCs/SIDS Pacific Regional Workshop ever held in the Micronesian subregion.

The workshop was hosted in partnership with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with support from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office Micronesia. Participants from Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu came together to strengthen Pacific Voices at the UN Human Rights Council.

Set against the backdrop of a polarised global order of shrinking space for



human rights, Micronesia and the Pacific region have emerged as strong defenders of multilateralism.

Participants from the ten governments of Small Pacific Islands Developing States arrived at the workshop with different histories and perspectives, yet united by common priorities that have shaped generations: the urgency of climate justice, the pursuit of gender equality, ensuring progressive social

and legal reforms while supporting rights-respecting traditions, social protection and mobility, and the enduring nuclear legacy.

The workshop was formally opened by H.E. Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; Jürg Lauber, President of the Human

[Click here for continuation](#)

FSM Launches ATscale project: Unlock Healthy Learning – SPARK FSM

UNICEF

November 27, 2025

Pohnpei, FSM – On November 6, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) officially launched the ATscale project: Unlock Healthy Learning – SPARK FSM (Strengthening Pacific Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation for Kids), a transformative initiative to improve access to assistive technology and rehabilitation services for school-aged children. The ATscale project – SPARK FSM, implemented in FSM in partnership with UNICEF, is part of a global effort to empower children with disabilities through assistive technology. By improving access to these tools, FSM is paving the way for better educational outcomes, social inclusion, and equal opportunities for all. This project will provide eyeglasses, hearing aids, and mobility aids to ensure that every child can learn, participate, and thrive.

The initiative began with an Inception Workshop which took place on October 15–16, 2025, hosted by UNICEF in partnership with the FSM National Department of Education (NDOE), Health and Social Affairs. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from education, health, and social sectors, including civil

society representatives, to align objectives, validate program design, and plan implementation strategies. Discussions were focused on integrated screening for vision, hearing, and mobility, referral pathways, and intersectoral governance.

Building on this foundation, the Official Launch was held on November 6, 2025, at the Pohnpei State Hospital Conference Room. The event gathered representatives from UNICEF, ATscale, WHO, the Australian Embassy (a Donor partner), Chinese Embassy, The World Bank, SPC, Pohnpei/FSM government and civil society organizations.

Delivering the welcome remarks at the launch, the Acting Governor of Pohnpei State, Hon’ble Herolyn S. Movick, emphasized the project’s impact on children with disabilities saying - “this project is hope for children and families—a step toward equity and inclusion. It will provide our children with a sense of normalcy and belonging when they are equipped with the tools to clearly see, hear, and be mobile, ensuring every child has the same opportunity to learn and thrive. As a mother, there is nothing more satisfying than knowing my child is no different from any other child and

is accorded the same opportunities.”

Ambassador Jenny Grant of the Australian Embassy said that ensuring everyone has access to the tools they need to participate fully in their community is key to building an inclusive FSM, and that Australia was honored to support that vision. She added, “The Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has played a pivotal role as one of the principal donors supporting the ATscale project, reinforcing its commitment to advancing global health, accessibility, and inclusion.”

UNICEF, as the Implementing

Agent, stands in solidarity with the FSM in its efforts towards scaling up assistive technology and related rehabilitation services, to ensure every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.





...LDCs/SIDS

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Rights Council; Heike Alefsen, OHCHR Regional Representative for the Pacific; Hui Lu, Secretary of the Human Rights Council, and Mr. Patterson Shed, Chief of Staff, Pohnpei State. Development partners Australia, Japan and the FSM Permanent Mission New York reaffirmed their commitment to the work of the HRC by attending the opening ceremony in Palikir.

A Pacific region at the forefront of human rights
The gathering came during an exceptionally active year for Pacific engagement with the human rights system. Fiji, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands underwent Universal Periodic Review of their human rights situation at the Human Rights Council; FSM, Nauru, Palau and Solomon Islands are preparing for theirs; and the region hosted UN Special Rapporteurs, notably the first mission to FSM by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights.

Small Islands Developing States across the Pacific are the least responsible for climate change but among the most affected. This is why the Human Rights Council's adoption of its first resolution linking the ocean and human rights was another significant milestone, building on decades of leadership on ocean stewardship.

Testimonials from former LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund beneficiaries were among the workshop's most powerful moments. Many spoke of the profound impact of addressing the Human Rights Council for the first time. Participants also had the opportunity to directly engage with the President of the Human Rights Council on their countries most urgent human rights priorities:

"For Pacific island nations like the Marshall Islands, climate change is not a future threat, but a present reality." - Tamelia Rang, Human Rights Coordinator, RMI Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs and LDCs/SIDS Workshop participant

"The nuclear legacy is a human rights issue that not only affects the Republic of the Marshall Islands, but the entire Pacific region." - Ariana Kilma,



Chairperson, Marshall Islands National Nuclear Commission and LDCs/SIDS Workshop participant

The exchanges reflected how the Trust Fund is opening doors for Pacific delegates, ensuring that voices shaped by frontline experiences help guide global decision-making.

OHCHR's Deepening work across the Pacific

The workshop also shone a light on the long-standing work of the OHCHR in the Pacific, which has engaged with governments, civil society and communities in the region for two decades. With staff now based in Fiji, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, OHCHR works across:

- climate mobility and environmental protection
- gender equality and the rights of women and girls
- disability rights and inclusive policy-making
- media freedoms, cybercrime legislation and digital rights
- judicial independence, rule of law and support for democratic institutions
- protection of civic space and support to human rights defenders
- torture prevention and law enforcement capacity-building
- cultural rights and traditional knowledge
- the nuclear legacy and historical justice

This work takes the form of legal advice, public education, training for civil servants, community dialogue, support for national human rights institutions and engagement with the UN system to integrate human rights across programming.

In her opening address, OHCHR Regional Representative Heike Alefsen reflected on the Pacific's commitment to multilateralism, "Over the past years, in the Pacific, we have been seeing an increase in engagement on leaving no one behind that embodies a human rights-based approach to sustainable development. We have also seen more requests from countries for support to working with human rights mechanisms, but we need the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund, our Office and the UN in the Pacific to be fully resourced to be able to continue this work."

Charting the Path Forward

On the final day, participants drafted a set of forward-looking recommendations which will contribute to work under Human Rights Council Resolution 49/32. They centred on stronger national coordination, more consistent follow-up to recommendations, improved regional collaboration in Geneva, and sustained investment in capacity-building.

Underlying these proposals was a shared belief that Pacific engagement

must move beyond representation towards deeper implementation at national level. The goal is not simply to speak in global forums, but to ensure that what is said there translates into tangible improvements across Pacific communities.

A Shared Commitment to Human Dignity

As the workshop came to a close, the feeling was one of unity and resolve. The Pacific's presence at the Human Rights Council has never been stronger, but sustained solidarity will be essential as the region continues to confront existential challenges and navigates a world where enabling space for human rights is shrinking.

President Lauber's closing reflection captured the spirit of the week. "From Palikir to the Palais des Nations, from the Pacific to the Alps, we are united by the same dignity, the same aspirations, and the same responsibility to make the Human Rights Council a home for all voices," he said.

The seas, as the FSM Constitution reminds us, bring Pacific peoples together rather than divide them. This spirit of connection guided the workshop, and it is hoped that it will continue to shape the region's human rights journey in the years ahead.



Youth players find pride and purpose in ongoing Matson Champions League



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 1, 2025
Pohnpei - The Matson Champions League—organized through the Pohnpei Soccer Association’s Kids Club—continues in full swing, bringing together nearly one hundred young players from schools across Pohnpei.

Despite rain, flu season, and several unexpected setbacks, the league has pressed on with determination, heart, and contagious enthusiasm.

League organizers expressed deep appreciation for the principals, parents, coaches, and “most of all, the children,” whose commitment has carried the competition forward. Many of the young athletes, they noted, are children who are often overlooked when school sports teams are formed. For them, this league has become something special—an opportunity to belong, to compete, and to be proud of their own game.

“This is soccer—football—the most beautiful and most played game in the world,” celebrating how the sport has given these kids confidence, teamwork, and joy.

Updated Standings

Kolonia and Ohmine currently lead the table with two wins each, while a tightly packed mid-table keeps the competition lively. PCS, SDA, and Sekere continue to fight for position, and St. Paul awaits its first appearance.

Matchday Highlights
Matchday 2: Ohmine 3, PCS 2

Ohmine’s Jacob delivered a standout performance with a hat trick, including what coaches called a “very, very nice” second goal.

PCS scorers Kai-min and Castiel kept their side close, though Coach Paul noted several of his top players were out sick—warning other teams to “beware of mighty Ohmine!”

Kai-min remained the league’s top scorer at this point with four goals.

Matchday 3

Sekere 3, PCS 3
• Sekere: Hartman (2), Vtrey (1)
• PCS: Kai-min (1), Castiel (2)

Ohmine 5, Sekere 2

• Ohmine: Kayden (2), Jacob (2), Thomas (1)
• Sekere: Jaynor, Kiokae

Ohmine continued to establish itself as the powerhouse of the league—“a bulldozer,” according to observers.

Matchday 4:

Kolonia 3, PCS 1
(Played at Spanish Wall Park)

Scorers:
• Kolonia: Rico Paniel (2), Keitani Ehsa (1)
• PCS: Castiel Roland Kersey (1)

Two of the league’s top teams met in a tightly contested match. A smaller field at Spanish Wall Park forced PCS away from its preferred wide-passing style. Kolonia’s defense crowded out PCS star Kai-min—his first match without a goal—while midfield leader Keitani Ehsa controlled the tempo throughout the first half.

PCS struck first through a fine combination between Ron and Castiel, but fatigue set in after halftime. With five minutes left, Kolonia surged: Angelo Silbanuz repeatedly broke through the

lines, setting up Rico Paniel to close the match with two decisive goals.

In a display of excellent sportsmanship, Rico openly acknowledged that PCS’s goal had slipped in through a hole in the net.

Matchday 5

SDA 5, Sekere 4

A strong showing from Sekere’s EJ kept the match close, while SDA’s Will played equally impressively. SDA’s goalkeeper Kanoe endured several hard knocks but continued with reliable performances.

The second scheduled match—Sekere vs. St. Paul—was postponed. Since St. Paul did not appear, SDA and Ohmine agreed to an additional friendly match.

Ohmine 8, SDA 3
Tired legs from SDA showed, while Ohmine’s cohesion and rhythm reinforced their status as the team to beat. Even the league’s “good-luck dog,” a frequent presence at the field, seemed to lose interest as the game wore on.

PUC announces arrival of two of three generators funded by World Bank

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation

December 1, 2025

Pohnpei - A Facebook post by Pohnpei Utilities Corporation says that “two of the three new power generators funded by the World Bank under an \$11.4 million support program have officially arrived in Pohnpei on December 1, 2025. These generators are part of a

major initiative to strengthen Pohnpei’s power generation capacity, totaling 7.5 megawatts once all units are in place.

“The third and final generator is scheduled to arrive on December 7, 2025. When fully commissioned, all three generators will significantly enhance grid reliability, reduce unexpected outages, and support the

growing power demands of Pohnpei.

“PUC expresses its sincere appreciation to the World Bank for its continued commitment to improving essential services and supporting long-term energy stability for the people of Pohnpei.”



Government of Japan commits to additional assistance in response to Chuuk oil leak

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

November 29, 2025

FSM – On November 28, the Ministry of Japan issued a very brief press release announcing additional

emergency assistance in response to the oil leak from the sunken Japanese ship in Chuuk lagoon.

“...upon the request of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Government of Japan

has decided to provide emergency relief goods (oil absorbent mats, oil fences and etc.) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the FSM in response to the damages caused by the oil leak,” the PR said.

“In light of the humanitarian perspective and the close relations between Japan and the FSM, Japan has decided to provide emergency assistance to the FSM to support the people affected by the oil leak.”

Letter to the Editor

Neglected Pohnpei public roads in dilapidated condition

Dear Editor:

A state law was enacted more than a decade ago to increase vehicle registration fees with the clear purpose of maintaining and improving the public roads across Pohnpei Island.

Unfortunately, this mandate has not been carried out as prescribed and the result has been widespread public frustration over the deteriorating road conditions in and around Pohnpei.

Any driver traveling through Pohnpei can see the reality: potholes and cracks left unattended for months even years. The neglect raises serious questions about whether resources are being properly allocated to fulfill this basic responsibility.

Too often, road maintenance seems to become a priority only during election seasons, when leaders seek to quiet public complaints rather than address the problem consistently.

It should not fall to ordinary citizens like myself in this instance to raise alarms about our road conditions. The responsibility lies squarely with government officials-

particularly the Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA) which is tasked with maintaining our public road system.

Government Officials must leave their offices, inspect the roads and act promptly to repair damage(s). Legislative oversight is urgently needed to determine why road maintenance has been neglected despite the availability of resources.

The consequences of this neglect are serious: vehicles suffer flat tires and breakdowns, families face safety risks and commerce is disrupted. Roads are not a luxury; they are essential infrastructure that supports our livelihood, mobility and economic wellbeing.

The continued failure to maintain Pohnpei's roads is a disgraceful dereliction of duty. Our leaders must honor the law, fulfill their responsibilities and ensure that the roads we all depend on are properly cared for.

*Sincerely,
Ringlen Wolphagen*

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Opinion Editorial

COP30 delivers incremental climate action, but lack of implementation support jeopardizes health

Climate and Health Alliance

November 22, 2025

Belém - As the COP 30 climate summit closed today, the Global Climate and Health Alliance bemoaned governments' failure to deliver a genuinely transformative COP, including the lack of agreed progress on the phaseout of fossil fuels, while noting some areas of progress - such as institutional architecture to support just transitions and increased adaptation finance, and an announcement from the COP president regarding a future roadmap for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.

"Belém promised to deliver a turning point in progress on addressing climate change, and a COP that put people and action at its center, but while progress has been made on some important issues, COP30 has not delivered on that turning point", said Dr Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, a consortium of more than 200 health professional and health civil society organizations and networks from around the world addressing climate change. "On the two most decisive issues for people's health addressed at this COP, adaptation finance to enable developing countries to better protect people's lives and health in the face of climate impacts; and phasing out fossil fuels to prevent accelerating climate change from reaching unlivable levels, governments gave us mixed progress on finance, but while the COP president signaled a future roadmap on ending the fossil fuel era, there is a lack of clarity on what this will look like".

"While not a total loss, COP30 certainly cannot be counted as a strong win for people around the world who are looking to our leaders to take meaningful action that will protect us all from climate change", said Miller.

Adaptation COP Delays Mean More Suffering

"At the eleventh hour, the list of indicators proposed by experts several months ago was modified, with the Presidency presenting a list which many considered to be methodologically infeasible", said Miller. While the decision was adopted, further work in Bonn at the June intersessionals will be vital in order to be able to begin monitoring whether or not adaptation is sufficient to protect health and lives."

"While the COP30 agreement to triple adaptation finance by 2035 is a positive step, pushing out the delivery date compared to the 2030 timeline requested by developing countries means many more people will suffer, many more people will die", said Miller. "Every country is now experiencing the impacts of climate change in real time. Without timely and vital finance - as well as technical

support and capacity building - developing countries are becoming overwhelmed by the growing impacts of the climate crisis."

"Developing countries, which have done little to cause the climate crisis, and are grappling with poverty, struggling health systems, and fragile infrastructure, are far less equipped to prepare for and adapt to those impacts", said Miller. "Even in high income countries, healthcare systems are being stretched to the limit - lives, homes, clinics, livelihoods, and the health of whole populations are at risk. For low-income developing countries, existing financial flows are difficult to access and have historically come with crippling interest rates creating an impossible debt burden that syphons domestic funds away from healthcare, education, and domestic infrastructure."

Fossil Fuel Phase Out - What Next?

During plenary on November 22, Brazil's COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago said he would create two roadmaps, one on halting and reversing deforestation, and one on transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just orderly and equitable manner. He added that these will be led by science and will be inclusive - with a series of high-level dialogues and a report back to COP. Meanwhile, Colombia sought to propose inclusion of language in the mitigation decision that further work on just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels would be undertaken in 2026, but this was not incorporated into the text.

"Failure by governments at COP30 to agree to a phase out of fossil fuels not only increases the risk to people from climate impacts, but ensures that all countries will increasingly become overwhelmed", continued Miller. "Without phasing out fossil fuels - the primary driver of climate change - impacts will continue to grow, we will experience dangerous and irreversible tipping points in critical earth systems; communities, as well as healthcare systems, will quickly reach the limits of their ability to adapt. If we do not succeed in phasing out fossil fuels we will see healthcare systems collapse and widespread suffering."

Just Transition

In the final text of the just transition work Program, governments recognized the importance of protecting the human right to health and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in just transitions, as well as the links between renewable energy and clean cooking. They also decided to establish a just transition mechanism, to enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions. "These are sure steps forward, but resourcing will be necessary to operationalize this support to ensure health is not only recognized but

actively protected and promoted through just transitions."

Leadership Required

"Leadership does not require consensus", said Miller. "The 80 countries that expressed support for a fossil fuel phase out plan can lead by example, particularly wealthy developed countries that have the most resources to invest. Phasing out use and extraction of fossil fuels will benefit their own people's health and reduce the drain on health systems and public coffers from the health harms of fossil fuels."

"Meanwhile developed countries should not have to be told by the latest COP conference to meet the commitments they made in the Paris Agreement", concluded Miller. "Supporting the most impacted, least developed countries with finance and other support is a step wealthy, developed countries can and should take. It is not only a commitment agreed in 2021, it is an investment in global stability, in international goodwill, and in cooperation, an investment in solving a global problem together."

Quotes from GCHA member organizations and Board Members

Howard Catton, CEO, International Council of Nurses:

"Nurses carry the memories of patients whose suffering is tied to fossil fuels. We see the child gasping for air, the family grieving after climate disasters, and Indigenous communities losing health, land, and safety. These harms are not abstract. They deepen inequities and push health systems beyond their limits. Nurses are the ones who sit beside the patient, witnessing their pain and knowing these harms are not random, but driven by human choices. They are preventable if leaders listen to those on the frontlines. We are calling for urgent investment in resilient health systems and a strong health workforce, and we are calling for a rapid and just phase out of fossil fuels to protect the health of people and the planet."

Dr. Courtney Howard, Board Chair of the Global Climate and Health Alliance:

"I serve a majority Indigenous population that extends to the high Arctic across an area larger than France and Spain combined. We're warming at triple the global rate. In 2023 wildfires forced the evacuation of our hundred-bed hospital, down to Vancouver. The costs were staggering. Smoke from these fires circled the planet — exposing 354 million people to increased air pollution leading to over 82,000 premature deaths globally. The Belém Health Action Plan has excellent advice for adapting health systems to climate change. However, given the current severity of impacts, it is clear that even in a high-income country we cannot adapt in a healthy way to the emissions trajectory we are on. The infrastructure,

supply chains and workforce that high quality healthcare depends on will fray. It's time for politicians and business leaders to decide to save lives with policies that phase out fossil fuels—so doctors can continue to save them via medical practice."

Emily Bancroft, Emily Bancroft, Health Care Without Harm US

"The lesson from COP30 is clear: you cannot have healthy people without a healthy planet. COP30 highlighted real progress—from the launch of the Belém Health Action Plan to healthcare's strengthened commitments to Race to Zero. Yet it also exposed the gaps we must confront: the political will to accelerate a just transition away from fossil fuels and inadequate financing to protect the most vulnerable. Without closing these gaps, people's lives and the planet on which we depend remain at risk. The health community will continue to lead by example, driving the action, evidence, and accountability needed to move the world toward a climate-resilient, equitable future."

Gustavo H. N. Dalle Cort, Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues, International Federation of Medical Students Associations, a member of the GCHA Board of Directors

"As medical students, we make clear that the climate crisis is a health crisis, one that is already overburdening communities and deepening inequalities. If left unchecked, it will overwhelm health systems and cause even more loss and pain. Departing COP30, we are left feeling that there is much to do, there is a long path ahead - but time is running out. Without global unity, a clear way to a fossil fuel phase out and climate justice, it is our patients, especially the most vulnerable, who will suffer the most. We cannot afford any delays. Ahead of next year's COP31, it is time to be bold and to take this health crisis seriously."

Katie Huffling, Executive Director the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, a member of the GCHA Board of Directors:

"For far too long climate negotiations have failed to deliver what the scale of the climate crisis requires - an end to our dependence on fossil fuels. Nurses came into this COP with a strong call to move from discussions to agreement on a roadmap for implementation and adequate finance to support a phase out of fossil fuels - centering health and grounded in equity and justice. While nurses applaud the launch of the Belém Health Action Plan, without adequate means of implementation and climate finance, it will remain solely a commitment. Nurses will continue to push global leaders to deliver action that provides the health protections our communities and future generations deserve."

Opinion Editorial

Drawing up a New Blueprint for High-Quality Development, Composing a New Chapter of Mutually Beneficial Cooperation

From October 20 to 23, 2025, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was successfully held in Beijing. This plenary session was an important meeting held at a critical time when China is on the verge of accomplishing the major objectives and tasks of the 14th Five-Year Plan, and is entering a key period of reinforcing the foundations and pushing ahead on all fronts toward basically achieving socialist modernization. The Session deliberated over and adopted the Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, outlining the top-level design and strategic blueprint for the next five years. I would like to share the key points of this meeting with our friends in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Solid steps have been taken toward high-quality development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period

Over the past five years, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the Chinese people have risen to challenges and forged ahead, withstood the severe shock of a once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic, and responded effectively to a raft of major risks and challenges, securing significant new achievements in advancing Chinese modernization.

This period has been a crucial phase for laying the foundations of China's basically realizing socialist modernization. The transformation unseen in a century has accelerated over the past five years, presenting unprecedented challenges in reform, development, and stability. China's economy has grown in the wind and rain, and gotten stronger through hard times. In the first four years of this period, China's economy has maintained an average annual growth rate of 5.5 percent, ranking among the highest among major global economies. Its economic output has successively crossed the thresholds of RMB 110 trillion, 120 trillion, and 130 trillion yuan, and is expected to reach approximately RMB 140 trillion yuan this year. The incremental growth is projected to exceed RMB 35 trillion yuan. China has consistently contributed around 30 percent to global economic growth annually, serving as the most stable and reliable engine for the world economy.

Innovation-driven development has achieved remarkable progress. China's first space station, Tiangong, has been fully constructed and put into operation. The Chang'e-6 mission accomplished the mission of bringing back first samples from the far side of the moon. The domestically-made C919 large passenger aircraft, designed according to international airworthiness standards, has operated its first commercial flights. These firsts demonstrate major breakthroughs in China's scientific and technological innovation and industrial development.

People's well-being has been improved. China has established the world's largest education system, social security system, and healthcare system. The completion rate of nine-year compulsory education, as well as the coverage rates of basic pension and basic medical insurance, has remained steadily above 95 percent. China's high-speed rail operating mileage is twice that of all other countries combined. Fresh products can reach residents' tables with same-day delivery or next-day arrival from farms, while transportation and express delivery services have become more efficient. People's sense of gain, happiness, and security have been significantly enhanced.

The efficiency and quality of green development have been upgraded and improved. With its forest coverage rising to over 25 percent, China has contributed one-quarter of the world's new green coverage. Days of air quality reaching good or excellent levels account for about 87 percent. China has built the world's largest clean power generation system and its new energy generation capacity has reached a historic milestone by surpassing that of coal power. The idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are mountains of gold and silver has taken root in people's hearts, and green development has become a defining feature of contemporary China, where skies are bluer, waters are clearer, and lands are cleaner.

The blueprint for the 15th Five-Year Plan enables us to pool strength in tackling key challenges on the path to Chinese modernization

Socialist modernization can only be realized through a historical process of gradual and ongoing development. Formulating and implementing the five-year plans in a scientific way is an important experience of the Party in governing the country,

significantly representing the political advantage of socialism with Chinese characteristics. From the first Five-Year Plan to the 14th Five-Year Plan, the constant theme has been building China into a modern socialist country.

The adopted Recommendations outlines approaches and major tasks in the key areas of industrial development, scientific and technological innovation, the domestic market, the economic structure, opening up, rural revitalization, coordinated regional development, cultural development, public well-being, green development, security and development, and national defense. With five more years of efforts, China is going to realize following seven major objectives for the 15th Five-Year Plan period: significant achievements in high-quality development; substantial improvements in scientific and technological self-reliance and strength; fresh breakthroughs in further deepening reform comprehensively; notable cultural and ethical progress across society; further improvements in quality of life; major new strides in advancing the Beautiful China Initiative; and further advances in strengthening the national security shield.

In China, we say that working from generation to generation on the same blueprint to make it a reality. Building on the efforts made during the 14th, 15th, and 16th Five-Year Plan period, we will see that by the year 2035 China's economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, national defense capabilities, composite national strength, and international influence will all be markedly stronger, that its per capita GDP will be on a par with that of a mid-level developed country, that its people will live better and happier lives, and that socialist modernization will be basically realized. Through successive Five-Year Plans, we will turn the grand goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation into a magnificent reality.

The China-FSM cooperation has yielded fruitful results

Since China and the FSM established diplomatic relations 36 years ago, the two countries have always respected each other, treated each other as equals, and pursued friendly cooperation for mutually beneficial results. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, under the guidance of the important consensus reached by our two heads of state, the China-FSM relations maintained sound and steady development. Exchanges and

dialogue at all levels have been deepened, practical cooperation in infrastructure and other fields has been advanced steadily, and people-to-people exchanges have become increasingly close. We have walked hand in hand on the journey of advancing our respective national development, painting a vivid picture of win-win cooperation across the vast Pacific Ocean.

At present, the international landscape continues to undergo profound changes as the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. Peace and development are facing numerous new risks and challenges. Against this backdrop, China has put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, to counter the uncertainty of rapid changes in the external environment with the certainty of high-quality development. The Recommendations states that opening up and cooperation for mutual benefit are integral to Chinese modernization. China will continue to expand opening up at the institutional level, safeguard the multilateral trading system, and promote broader international economic flows, and China will draw momentum from opening up to propel reform and development, and share opportunities with the FSM and the rest of the world and promote common development.

Recently, China and five Pacific Island countries, including the FSM, jointly signed the Framework Agreement on Enhanced Economic Partnership (EEPA). Based on mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, China stands ready to share its vast market and broad development opportunities with Pacific Island countries. Standing at the new starting point of the 15th Five-Year Plan period, we are willing to join hands with the FSM to further expand cooperation in various fields such as infrastructure and climate change response, continue to deepen exchanges in education, youth, and subnational cooperation, so as to advance the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, jointly build a closer community with a shared future between China and the Pacific Island countries, and work together to promote peace, development, and prosperity in the Pacific Islands region.

***Ambassador Wu Wei
Embassy of the People's Republic of
China to the FSM***

US Indo-Pacific command officials, FSM representatives partner to enhance regional security, increase defense, deterrence during Joint Committee Meeting

By Catherine Norton
Joint Task Force – Micronesia

Pohnpei - U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Josh Lasky, Indo-Pacific Command senior military official for the Federated States of Micronesia and commander, Joint Task Force – Micronesia, along with the U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Jennifer Johnson, led the delegation for the meeting in Pohnpei State.

The objective of these meetings is to ensure U.S. and FSM collaboration to identify and prioritize significant, near-term actions within the framework of the Compact of Free Association to address key concerns related to security and defense responsibilities, with a focus on fostering sustainable solutions and measurable progress.

Lasky delivered opening remarks and reaffirmed America's unwavering commitment to defense and deterrence as essential pillars of national and global security amidst evolving regional threats. He emphasized the importance of readiness, strategic partnerships and advanced capabilities, and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen military preparedness to ensure a robust deterrence posture.

“Our meetings play a crucial role in strengthening the partnerships and fostering the collaboration,” Lasky said. “By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, these gatherings help build trust, enhance communication, and ensure a unified approach to addressing emerging threats. Such cooperation not only bolsters our collective security but also reinforces the commitment of all parties to maintaining peace and stability in an increasingly complex global environment.”

In her opening remarks, Ambassador

Johnson assured FSM counterparts by stating, “We remain fully committed to our shared security responsibilities under the Compact and to strengthening the trust that underpins our partnership.”

The agenda included briefs from both U.S. representatives and FSM agencies with vital discussions surrounding four lines of effort – homeland defense; internal security; maritime security and maritime domain awareness; and disaster preparedness and community resiliency building.

This session also focused on strengthening security and stability in the region with discussions about threats to cyber security and maritime security; law enforcement requirements; and humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

Additionally, the committee discussed ongoing defense site projects in Yap State and timelines associated with the environmental requirements for each. These proposed projects include the construction of Seabee warehouses, improvements to the Yap seaport and upgrades to the Yap airport. All three of these projects are vital to the regional stability and security of the FSM and the operational capabilities for both the regional military and FSM communities.

The JCM is in accordance with the COFA Title III: Security and Defense Relations and promotes ongoing dialogue between nations for the purpose of enhancing security and defense responsibilities in the region. The meeting is supported by inter-agency departments and units to include the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Air Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and many others.

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