

# Relief and recovery efforts continue for Typhoon Sinlaku-affected islands in Chuuk, FSM



**International Organization for Migration**

May 4, 2026

**Chuuk, FSM** – Relief efforts for affected communities following the typhoon that swept through Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) earlier last month are ongoing as communities cope with the aftermath of the storm.

In the weeks following the typhoon, teams have been on the ground across

Chuuk State coming together to deliver essential items including food, water, shelter supplies, and essential household items for families who were uprooted from their homes overnight.

On 30 April 2024, the emergency response team, comprising representatives from the FSM Department of Environment Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), Chuuk Disaster Coordinating Office (DCO), the United States (U.S.) Department of State, the United

Nations (UN) Multi Country Office for Micronesia, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and partners, visited Iras Village in Weno and five villages in Fanapanges, Chuuk Lagoon, to deliver critical supplies.

In addition, UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) technical staff are currently deployed in Chuuk,

offering surge support alongside national and international partners to strengthen ongoing response and recovery operations.

Building on this collaborative effort, IOM delivered over 200 tarps, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and jerry cans to 121 households whose homes and crops were heavily impacted by the typhoon. IOM also deployed one Reverse Osmosis

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# Chuuk leadership dispute deepens as Court’s “stipulated” order is challenged

By **Bill Jaynes**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

May 5, 2026

**WENO, Chuuk** — Chuuk State’s ongoing leadership dispute entered a new phase this week with additional court filings challenging a May 1 order that maintained the current administration while broader legal questions remain unresolved.

The latest development comes as the state continues recovering from the impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku, with some residents expressing concern over

political instability during an already difficult period.

On May 1, the Chuuk State Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Jayson Robert, issued an order directing that the current status quo remain in place, with Alexander Narruhn and Mekioshy William continuing to serve as Governor and Lieutenant Governor pending further proceedings.

That order followed a hearing on competing petitions filed by both sides, each seeking temporary restraining orders and injunctive relief over control

of the executive branch.

However, on May 4, attorneys for Mark Mailo and Joe Enlet filed a motion asking the court to reconsider and amend the May 1 order, including a challenge to the court’s characterization of the order as “stipulated.”

In that filing, their attorney, Daniel Rescue Jr., argues that language in the order describing Narruhn and William as the “lawful” Governor and Lieutenant Governor was not agreed to by the parties and should not have been included in what the court described as

a stipulated order.

The motion further contends that the inclusion of that language effectively resolves the core legal question—who has lawful authority to hold office—without a full hearing on the merits, and asks the court to amend the order to remove that characterization while preserving its procedural directives.

Those procedural issues center on a separate motion filed by Mailo and Enlet seeking to disqualify all sitting

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# Audit finds weak controls, policy gaps in Madolenihmw Municipal Government finances

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 2, 2026

**Kolonia, Pohnpei** — A performance audit of the Madolenihmw Municipal Government (MMG) has identified significant weaknesses in financial controls, including delays in depositing public funds, improper disbursement practices, and the absence of key policies governing spending and accountability.

The audit, conducted by the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (OPA), reviewed cash receipts and disbursements for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 and concluded that while some basic accounting practices are in place, “pervasive systemic weaknesses in internal control environment” remain.

The report raises concerns about the municipality’s ability to safeguard public funds and ensure accountability.

Among the primary findings is the failure to deposit collected revenues in a timely manner. Auditors found that more than \$454,000 in collections was held for multiple days—sometimes up to a week—before being deposited.

Under Pohnpei financial regulations, public funds are required to be deposited no later than the next business day. The delays increase the risk of theft, misuse, or loss of funds, the report said.

The audit also identified serious weaknesses in the disbursement process. Of 2,036 transactions reviewed, 744—representing approximately \$206,000—were completed without approval from the Meninkeder Lapalap.

In some cases, checks totaling more than \$47,000 were issued directly to an employee rather than vendors, reducing transparency and accountability over how funds were ultimately used.

Auditors said such practices bypass required oversight mechanisms and increase the risk of unauthorized spending.

Further concerns were raised over payments for goods and services made to the Meninkeder Lapalap. These included funds for community events and municipal activities where supporting documentation was incomplete or could not confirm how the money was spent.

The report noted instances where funds issued for specific purposes—such as Farmer Day activities and police uniforms—could not be fully accounted for.

The audit found that MMG lacks formal written policies in several critical areas:

- Fuel (POL) controls: No formal system exists to track fuel use, and documentation often lacked vehicle plate numbers or proper authorization.
- Legislative allowances: Payments to members of the municipal council were made without clear rules governing eligibility, timing, or purpose. In some

cases, allowances were issued before services were rendered.

- Payroll controls: Timekeeping practices were unreliable, with some payrolls based on handwritten entries that could not be verified. The municipality also failed to withhold certain required taxes, potentially exposing it to liabilities.

Auditors also reported that MMG did not perform monthly bank reconciliations, a basic financial control used to verify account balances and detect errors or fraud.

Without regular reconciliation, officials cannot confirm whether recorded balances are accurate or whether unauthorized transactions have occurred, the report said.

The OPA issued several recommendations, including:

- Enforcing strict compliance with deposit deadlines
- Requiring proper authorization for all expenditures
- Establishing formal policies for fuel use, procurement, and allowances
- Strengthening payroll and timekeeping systems
- Conducting regular bank reconciliations

The report stressed that stronger oversight and adherence to established financial regulations are essential to restoring accountability and transparency.

In its response included in the audit, the Madolenihmw Municipal Government acknowledged many of the findings and outlined steps to address them.

These include drafting legislation to change deposit schedules, strengthening internal controls over disbursements, introducing timekeeping systems such as punch clocks, and developing policies for allowances and fuel usage.

The Meninkeder Lapalap also issued internal directives requiring dual signatures on checks and mandating written explanations when collections are not deposited.

Auditors concluded that the municipality’s current financial operations “do not provide reasonable assurance that public funds are being safeguarded effectively.”

They warned that continued weaknesses could undermine public trust and expose the municipality to financial risk.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:  
May 20, 2026**

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

**Monday, May 18, 2026**

# FSM Supreme Court dismisses Chuuk election lawsuit filed by voters

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

April 28, 2026

**WENO, Chuuk** — The FSM Supreme Court Trial Division in Chuuk has dismissed a lawsuit filed by nearly 90 voters challenging the handling of ballots in the March 4, 2025 Chuuk general election, ruling that the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the case.

The complaint, filed in mid-2025 by a group of voters led by Adore William, alleged that ballot boxes in Weno were tampered with and that valid votes were either not counted or unlawfully discarded. The plaintiffs sought monetary damages and a declaration that their constitutional right to vote had been violated.

According to the complaint, the

plaintiffs claimed that election officials deliberately removed blank ballots and excluded certain ballot boxes from the final tabulation, effectively disenfranchising voters in Weno and impacting the outcome of the gubernatorial race. The filing alleged damages of at least \$100,000 per plaintiff.

However, in an Order of Dismissal entered April 28, 2026, Associate Justice Larry Wentworth ruled that the case could not proceed because it was, in substance, an election contest filed in the wrong forum.

The court explained that complaints involving illegal votes or election disputes must first be brought before the Chuuk Election Commission. Appeals from the Commission go to the Chuuk State Supreme Court appellate division,

and only then may proceed to the FSM Supreme Court appellate division—not the trial division.

“At no time does the FSM Supreme Court trial division have jurisdiction,” the order stated, noting that the plaintiffs failed to follow the procedures outlined in Chuuk state election law.

The defendants—including the Chuuk Election Commission, its board members, and the certified winning candidates for governor and lieutenant governor—had filed a motion to dismiss on January 20, 2026, arguing that the case was a “disguised election contest” and that the plaintiffs lacked standing.

In their motion, the defendants further argued that the plaintiffs had already pursued relief through the Chuuk State Supreme Court appellate process but

failed to file a timely appeal to the FSM Supreme Court appellate division, as required under state law.

The court also pointed out that the plaintiffs did not file any opposition to the motion to dismiss and had taken no further action in the case, which contributed to a finding that the matter had been abandoned.

As a result, the court dismissed the case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction under FSM Civil Rules 12(b)(1) and 12(h)(3), and additionally cited Rule 41(b), which allows dismissal for failure to prosecute.

The ruling effectively brings an end to the case at the trial division level, reinforcing the strict procedural requirements governing election disputes in Chuuk and the FSM.

# ANZAC Day Commemoration in the Federated States of Micronesia

*Embassy of Australia to the FSM*

April 27, 2026

**Pohnpei** - On 25 April, a dawn service was held in the Federated States of Micronesia to mark ANZAC Day, bringing together attendees to honor the service and sacrifice of Australians and New Zealanders who have served in war, conflict, and peacekeeping operations.

ANZAC Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the shared values that continue to guide our nations.

“ANZAC Day reminds us of the courage and sacrifice that continue to shape our shared values and partnerships,” said Chargé d’Affaires Ms Sarah McCarthy.

The ceremony also highlighted the close ties between Australia and the Federated States of Micronesia, and our shared commitment to cooperation, mutual respect, and regional peace and security.

“The lessons from those who came before us are clear: we meet hard days by working together, building trust early, and standing with the partners and communities we serve,” said Lt Commander Paul Norton, Maritime Surveillance Advisor.

Lest We Forget.



# ADB Report points to steady but challenging path for Pacific economies

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

April 27, 2026

**Pacific** - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reported continued economic recovery across the Pacific region in 2025, driven by tourism, resource sectors, and infrastructure investment, while warning that small island states remain highly vulnerable to external shocks, climate change, and structural constraints.

According to the ADB's Annual Report 2025, Pacific economies recorded gains alongside the broader Asia-Pacific region, with growth supported by mining, liquefied natural gas production, tourism rebounds, and ongoing infrastructure development. However, the report makes clear that these gains are uneven and fragile, particularly in small island developing states where economic diversification remains limited.

## Financing and Development Support

ADB commitments to the Pacific totaled about \$680 million in 2025, a decrease from the previous year but still reflective of targeted support to smaller economies. The bank continues to prioritize grants, concessional financing, and technical assistance to address the unique challenges faced by Pacific nations.

A significant focus has been placed on strengthening private sector development. The report notes the launch of the Pacific Wayfinder Program, designed to support businesses that often struggle to access traditional financing. This initiative aims to stimulate economic activity and job creation in fragile and geographically isolated markets.

## Climate Vulnerability and Resilience

The Pacific remains one of the most climate-exposed regions in the world, and ADB has scaled up efforts to address disaster risk and environmental pressures. The report highlights new financing tools and partnerships aimed at improving disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and infrastructure durability.

In Tonga, for example, ADB is leading a major investment in sustainable economic corridors and urban resilience—described as the largest development partner-financed project in the country's history. This reflects a broader shift toward integrated projects that combine climate adaptation with economic development.

## Regional Cooperation and Service Delivery

ADB also emphasized regional

approaches to shared challenges. Through partnerships with the World Bank and other institutions, the bank is supporting projects that improve health systems, infrastructure, and connectivity across multiple Pacific Island countries.

Digital transformation is another emerging priority. Technical assistance programs are underway in countries such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands to expand digital infrastructure, improve cybersecurity, and build workforce skills for a modern economy.

## Ongoing Challenges

Despite progress, the report suggests persistent constraints in the Pacific, including small domestic markets, high costs of service delivery, and limited access to finance. Poverty and inequality remain concerns, particularly in remote and outer island communities that face barriers to health care, education, and basic services.

ADB notes that many Pacific countries continue to rely heavily on external financing and development assistance, making partnerships critical to sustaining growth and resilience.



## Outlook

Looking ahead, ADB says its strategy in the Pacific will focus on expanding private sector opportunities, strengthening climate resilience, improving public services, and enhancing regional cooperation.

While the region has demonstrated resilience in the face of global uncertainty, the report concludes that sustained investment, innovation, and collaboration will be essential to secure long-term, inclusive growth for Pacific Island economies.

# Guam responds to global cyber threat affecting government systems

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 4, 2026

**Guam** - The Government of Guam has activated its cyber incident response following the discovery of a global vulnerability affecting websites hosted on cPanel systems, according to a press release issued May 2.

Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero confirmed that Guam is among multiple jurisdictions responding to what appears to be a widespread cyber event tied to a critical zero-day vulnerability. Acting Governor Joshua F. Tenorio has also been briefed, and a government-wide assessment of potentially impacted agencies is now underway.

Preliminary findings suggest that several government websites may be affected, though officials said the full scope of the incident remains under investigation. Authorities are also examining worst-case scenarios, including possible data disruption, deletion, or encryption similar to ransomware activity. At this time, there is no confirmation that sensitive personal information has been compromised.

The Office of Technology (OTECH) is leading response and recovery efforts, working alongside hosting partners to secure systems, verify data integrity, and restore services using backups where available. Immediate patching and system hardening measures are being

implemented across affected platforms to prevent further exposure.

Regional and federal partners have been notified, including the Mariana Regional Fusion Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as the incident may be part of a broader global cyber campaign.

“This is a serious situation, and we are treating it with urgency and discipline,” Governor Leon Guerrero said. “Our focus is clear: secure our systems, protect the public, and restore services safely and as quickly as possible.”

Officials said there has been no impact on emergency response operations,

and the Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense website remains operational. Government services are continuing through alternate channels where necessary.

Residents are urged to rely only on official government communication platforms for updates and to remain cautious of phishing attempts or fraudulent websites. The public is also encouraged to report any suspicious activity to the Mariana Regional Fusion Center.

The advisory comes as cybersecurity experts worldwide continue to monitor the evolving situation linked to the vulnerability, which has affected systems across multiple regions.

## ...Chuuk relief

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Unit to Fanapanges with the capacity to filter 5,000 gallons of seawater per day to support access to drinking water and household use.

This crucial response capability is supported by the U.S. Department of State, whose teams are on the ground actively supporting distribution of supplies, coordinating emergency response and assisting ongoing damage assessments.

The distribution in Iras, one of the hardest-hit villages in Weno, the Chuuk capital, was joined by high level officials including Chuuk Governor, Alexander Narruhn, who expressed his gratitude to partners and the international community for their solidarity and swift response.

FSM leadership commended the U.S. Department of State, DECEM and the Chuuk State DCO for their on-the-ground proactive response leadership which demonstrated the commitment of the American people and the Micronesian people to assist communities in their time of need. Impacted communities also mentioned that the U.S. and FSM teams delivering assistance together brought hope amidst the devastation of Sinlaku.

The distribution was also joined by the UN Resident Coordinator, Mamadou

Kane, who expressed his appreciation for UN agencies operating as One UN to deliver assistance to the hardest hit communities at this critical juncture. He further announced new financial support for Chuuk through the Central Emergency Response Fund, further strengthening the ongoing recovery efforts.

At the same time, various assessment teams have been deployed to the lagoon and outer islands of Chuuk to gauge urgent needs on the ground.

Findings from the Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) led by the FSM Government indicate widespread damage across Weno, the Chuuk Lagoon, and the Northwest and Mortlocks regions, with Weno and surrounding lagoon communities among the hardest hit. Two outer islands of Yap are also impacted with severe damages to agriculture reported.

More than 13,000 people are estimated to have been displaced, as homes, health facilities, and schools have sustained extensive damage. Livelihoods have also been severely affected, as key crops such as banana, taro, coconut, and breadfruit suffered significant damage, raising growing food security needs. Access to safe drinking water remains critically limited in many areas.

Assessment Phases: Initial Damage Assessment vs. Joint Damage Assessment (JDA)

Following disaster events, Mayors, and community and municipal focal persons of affected communities and State DCOs assess damages to food and water sources, dwellings, and public infrastructure, reporting their findings to the State DCO to inform immediate relief support from the State and National Government.

When damage is significant, a multi-agency team, including DECEM, DCO, state departments, IOM and other stakeholders, conducts IDAs to verify community reports and identify further needs, such as food, water, and emergency shelter and disruptions to essential services including health and education. The government provides ongoing financial support for procurement and delivery of food and water, while IOM compliments with in-kind assistance through provision of non-food items emergency shelter, hygiene

and sanitation supplies.

Given the scale of destruction from Typhoon Sinlaku, the U.S. Government responded quickly, releasing Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund worth USD 500,000 for immediate relief and deploying U.S. Department of State personnel to Chuuk. In addition, and following a request from the Government of FSM, the U.S. Department of State and FSM Response leaders initiated the US-FSM JDA process to validate the IDA findings and determine the full scale of the relief and reconstruction requirements for impacted communities.

JDA assessments have continued throughout the Lagoon and are expanding to the Northwest and Mortlocks Regions. Relief efforts will continue to reach the most affected communities in the coming weeks as needs are identified.



## ...Chuuk court

[Click here to return](#)

justices of the Chuuk State Supreme Court, as well as certain temporary judges, from hearing the case.

In that motion, filed April 27 and supplemented on May 1, the plaintiffs argue that prior involvement by members of the court in related election matters creates potential conflicts of interest requiring recusal.

The May 1 court order acknowledged those disqualification motions and directed that a newly appointed justice be assigned to hear and rule on them before the court proceeds on the underlying requests for

temporary restraining orders.

Until that process is completed, the court ordered that the existing leadership arrangement remain in place.

The competing legal actions at the center of the dispute were both filed on April 20.

In one case, Narruhn and William sought to block efforts by Mailo and Enlet to assume office. In the other, Mailo and Enlet filed for declaratory and injunctive relief seeking recognition as the duly elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor and requesting that the current officeholders vacate.

The filings followed an April 20 notice from Mailo and Enlet directing Narruhn and William to vacate their

offices by May 1, citing a court opinion and a proclamation by the Chuuk State Election Commission recognizing them as the elected leadership.

That notice, along with strong public statements from the Office of the Attorney General warning that any such attempt would be unlawful, contributed to concerns about potential unrest leading up to May 1.

Government agencies took precautionary steps, including advisories to public servants and the temporary closure of schools around the state administration complex.

Despite those concerns, there were no confirmed reports of civil disturbances on May 1.

The court's May 1 order did not

resolve the underlying dispute, and the new motion to reconsider adds another layer of complexity to an already unusual legal situation.

At the same time, the broader election dispute continues at the national level, where Mailo and Enlet have an appeal pending before the FSM Supreme Court's appellate division. That appeal was filed on May 2, 2025—more than one year ago—but as of now, no appellate panel has been assembled to hear the case.

With multiple proceedings ongoing and key procedural issues still unresolved, the question of who is the lawful Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk remains before the courts.

## President Simina marks launch of Pacific Angel Medical exercise in Chuuk

*FSM Information Services*

*April 27, 2026*

**Weno, Chuuk** — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), addressed attendees at the Opening Prayer event for the Pacific Angel Medical Exercise at Chuuk International Airport, marking the launch of the first Pacific Angel mission hosted in the FSM.

The event launched the Pacific Angel Medical Exercise across Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae, with more than 50 medical personnel from the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) deployed to deliver specialized services in ophthalmology, dentistry, physical therapy, and public health through direct patient care.

The program opened with an invocation by Reverend Johnny Andrew, followed by remarks from Lieutenant Governor Mekioshy William. The event was co-hosted by the Chuuk State Government and PACAF and attended by President Simina; Governor Alexander Narruhn; Lieutenant Governor William;

and Chuuk State Senate Vice President Wisney Nakayama. U.S. representatives included Colonel Elizabeth G. Gibby, Medical Group Commander at Andersen Air Force Base; Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Grader, U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché; and Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Gomes, Pacific Angel Mission Commander.

President Simina thanked the Chuuk State Government and people for hosting and welcomed all partners and medical teams. He emphasized that Pacific Angel reflects strong and enduring partnerships grounded in a shared commitment to the well-being of the FSM.

“Today marks not just the launch of a humanitarian mission, but the enduring strength of partnerships anchored in our shared commitment to the well-being of our people,” he said.

He noted the mission was both timely and meaningful, bringing hope to communities, especially in Chuuk, as the nation continued its recovery from Typhoon Sinlaku.

The Pacific Angel Medical Exercise brings together regional and international partners to deliver humanitarian assistance, strengthen healthcare capacity, and reinforce cooperation across the Pacific.



## Pohnpei U14 girls shine in historic friendly against U.S. Embassy team

*Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids' Club*

*April 30, 2026*

**Pohnpei** — The afternoon of April 30th will be remembered as a special one for girls' football in Pohnpei. After joining the Autism Awareness Fun Walk together, the Pohnpei U14 Female Team and a U.S. Embassy Female side kicked off at 5pm at for two spirited halves of twenty minutes each, in what turned out to be far more than a football match.

The final score — 9-2 in favor of Pohnpei, with almost every girl on the team finding the net — tells only part of the story.

Not all Pohnpei players could make it. Flu, ongoing school exams, and the perennial challenge of transportation kept some girls away. That last issue is one the Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) is actively working to solve, through a system of local clubs and a funding request currently before the Pohnpei State Legislature. On this day, though, those who did show up made every minute count.

The Pohnpei squad is drawn from across the island's elementary schools — Ohmine, Kolonia, PCS, SDA, Sekere, and CCA — public and private alike. That mix is no accident. PSAKC has always believed that sport, and football especially, makes no distinction between institutions or backgrounds. We are created equal, and on the pitch that equality becomes real.

Facing them was an equally spirited Embassy side made up of Embassy staff, their daughters, U.S. Navy Seabees, and U.S. Army personnel — a team that brought energy and goodwill in equal measure.

The match was officiated by referee Jasmine and lineswoman Oyorra, under the watchful eyes of two very distinguished coaches: H.E. U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson, who led the Embassy side, and Mrs. Shelolyn Neth, who guided the Pohnpei girls. Both teams took to the field in their colors — red for the Embassy, blue for Pohnpei. Well, almost. One Pohnpei player, in



a moment that had everyone smiling, arrived in red. Of all the colors to choose. The laughter it sparked said everything about the warmth of the afternoon.

The U.S. Embassy marked the occasion with a generous donation of footballs to the association, and extended an invitation to all players to join the Fun Run on May 9th at 7am. Participation medals were awarded to both teams.

PSAKC will do its best to bring as many players — and their parents — to that run. Because for those who still

wonder whether these kids are worth the investment, events like April 30th are the clearest possible answer.

One final note: young Amaya has already announced she will be running to win on May 9th. Knowing her, she has every chance.

The Pohnpei Soccer Association Kids Club (PSAKC) trains youth players from across Pohnpei's elementary schools and serves as the grassroots foundation of the FSM Football and Futsal Federation (4F).

# Pohnpei marks Autism Awareness Day with Community Walk, Governor's Proclamation

By **Bill Jaynes**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

April 30, 2026

**Kolonia, Pohnpei** — Pohnpei State observed Autism Awareness Day on April 30 with a community fun walk and an official proclamation from Governor Stevenson A. Joseph calling for greater inclusion and support for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Participants, including Governor Joseph and First Lady Joseph, gathered for a morning walk from the Spanish Wall to the Governor's Office, joining families, advocates, and supporters in recognizing the contributions and challenges of those living with autism.

Following the walk, Governor Joseph thanked the local non-governmental organization My Child Speaks for its ongoing efforts to raise awareness and support families. He also commended parents and participants, emphasizing the importance of their role in building a more inclusive community.

The event concluded with the reading of Executive Proclamation 26-05, which formally designated April 30, 2026, as Autism Awareness Day in Pohnpei.

In the proclamation, the state reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that all citizens, including those with developmental disabilities, are able

to lead full and productive lives. It described Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as a complex neurological and developmental condition that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior, impacting many families across the islands.

The document also recognized April as Autism Awareness Month worldwide, a time dedicated to increasing understanding, promoting acceptance, and celebrating the unique talents of individuals on the spectrum.

Special acknowledgment was given to My Child Speaks, described as a parent-led advocacy group that has played a key role in raising awareness,

supporting families, and advancing the rights and inclusion of autistic children in Pohnpei.

Governor Joseph's proclamation called on government agencies, traditional leaders, private organizations, and citizens to observe the day, learn more about autism, and support efforts to create a more inclusive society.

The Pohnpei State Government said it will continue working with community partners and families to strengthen support systems, including education, healthcare, and community programs, to ensure accessibility and dignity for all.



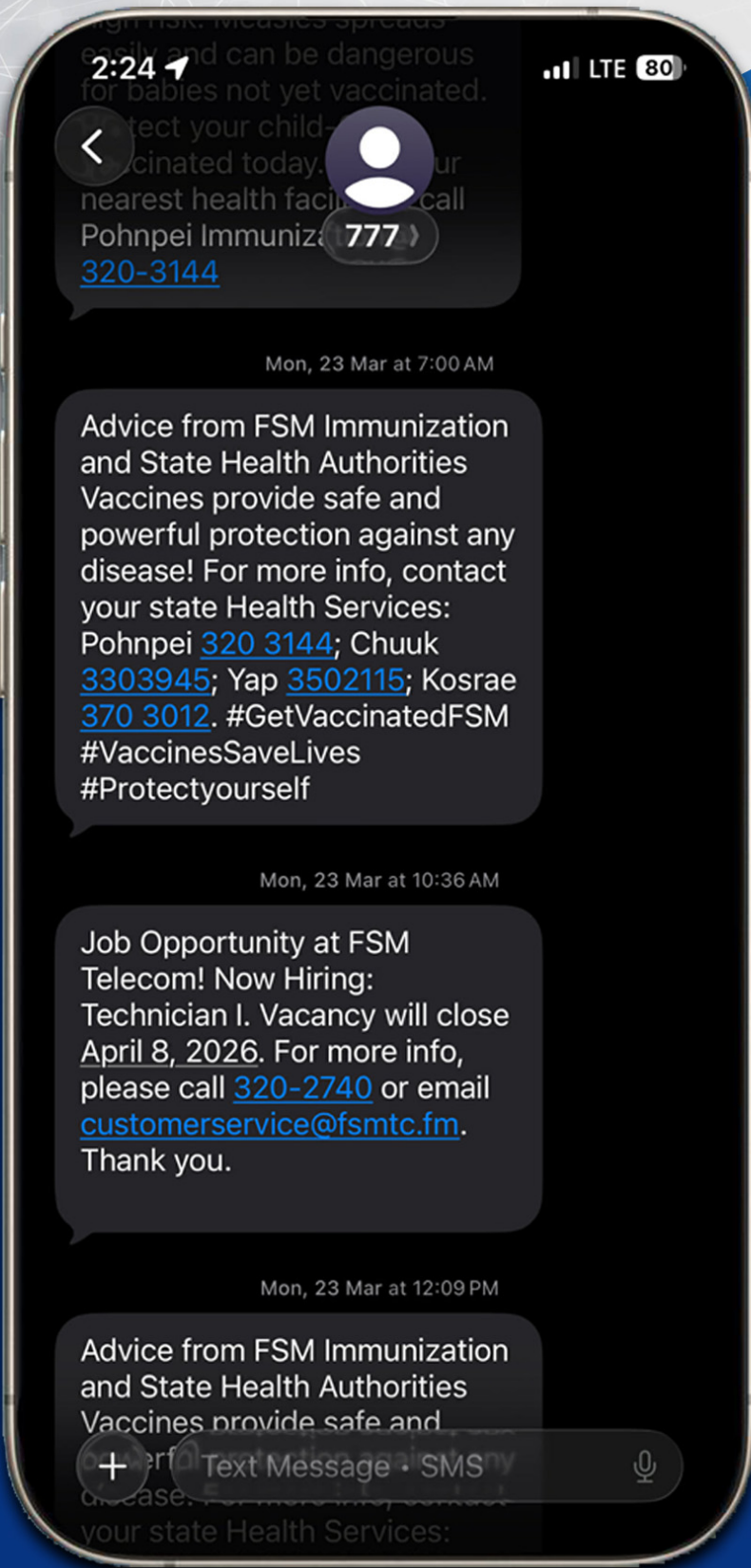
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# Canberra Fellowships Program visits Australia

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

April 29, 2026

Canberra - Australia warmly welcomes an FSM delegation to Australia as part of the Canberra Fellowships Program, which hosts emerging leaders from the Pacific in Australia, further



developing our people-to-people links and supporting opportunities for greater cooperation on mutual areas of interest.

As part of the visit, the delegation, including FSM Transport, Communications and Infrastructure Secretary Apis and Justice Secretary Bacalando visited the 4 megawatt NEXTDC Data Centre in Canberra. The team was hosted by Scott Macleod, Head of Security and Operations Manager, Danny Winter who spoke about the importance of power and cooling to secure data centers.

The site provides data services to government, private and hyper scaler customers. Data centers are critical to our modern economy, supporting cloud computing, secure data storage and the rapidly growing demand for AI-enabled technologies.

NEXTDC is a major Australian operator expanding its network across Australia, including significant new developments in Australia's states.



# Teresa M. Filepin Sworn in as FSM National Government Representative to JEMCO

FSM Information Services

April 21, 2026

**Harmon, Guam** — At the margins of the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) Mid-Year meeting in Guam, the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, administered the oath of office to Mrs. Teresa M. Filepin, who will serve as the National Government's representative on the Committee.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the Honorable Francis Itimai, Governor of Yap State; the Honorable Tulensa W. Palik, Governor of Kosrae State; Senator Johnson Asher of the 24th FSM Congress; members of JEMCO; and Mr. Johnny Silbanuz, Acting Consul General of the Federated States of Micronesia to Guam, along with staff.

Vice President Palik congratulated Mrs. Filepin on her appointment, acknowledging the FSM Congress for its continued support in confirming her nomination. He expressed confidence in her ability to contribute to the

Committee's work and wished JEMCO members well as they address key issues under the Compact of Free Association.

Mrs. Filepin conveyed her appreciation to President Simina and Vice President Palik for the opportunity to serve, noting her commitment to supporting the Committee's mandate and expressing enthusiasm about joining the team.

Mrs. Filepin currently serves as Deputy Chief of Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United States, a role she has held since 2023. She previously served as FSM Consul General to Guam from 2018 to 2023 and has worked with Micronesian Legal Services, alongside holding various leadership roles in education and public service in the Yap State Government.

The Joint Economic Management Committee plays a central role in overseeing the effective implementation of Compact resources and advancing the Federated States of Micronesia's development priorities in partnership with the United States under the Compact of Free Association.

The Simina-Palik Administration extends its appreciation to the 24th FSM Congress for its continued support in the confirmation process and reaffirms its commitment to strengthening effective representation and advancing the nation's priorities through JEMCO.





# College of Micronesia-FSM

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## COM-FSM WELCOMES NEW REGENTS REPRESENTING CHUUK AND KOSRAE

On behalf of the Board of Regents, students, faculty, and staff, the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) is proud to announce the appointment of two distinguished professionals to its Board of Regents. Regent Roger Arnold from the State of Chuuk and Regent Steven George from the State of Kosrae join the leadership team, bringing a wealth of economic expertise and a steadfast commitment to the College's mission.

The appointment of Regents Arnold and George strengthens the Board's ability to navigate the fiscal and developmental goals of the College.

Regent Roger Arnold (Representing Chuuk State) Since 2018, Regent Arnold has served as the Chief Economist for the Chuuk State Government. In this capacity, he oversees the compilation of annual economic reports, spearheads the state's budget preparation, and evaluates economic development initiatives. His deep understanding of public finance and strategic planning will be invaluable to the College's growth.

Regent Steven George (Representing Kosrae State) Regent George serves as a Staff Economist with the Economic Management Policy Advisory Team under the FSM Department of Economic Affairs. His role in national economic policy provides a vital perspective on the intersection of education and workforce development across the Federated States of Micronesia.



**Regent Roger Arnold (Representing Chuuk State) & Regent Steven George (Representing Kosrae State)**

We are thrilled to welcome Regent Arnold and Regent George to the COM-FSM family, the College leadership stated. Their combined experience in economic management and policy will be instrumental as we continue to provide high-quality education and foster sustainable development for our nation.

As we welcome new leadership, the College also wishes to express its deepest gratitude to our outgoing members. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Former Regent Jeffrey Arnold (Chuuk State), who served as the Vice Chair until his term ended last December, and the late Former Regent Lyndon Cornelius (Kosrae State) for their years of dedicated service on the COM-FSM Board of Regents.

Their leadership, wisdom, and tireless advocacy have played a pivotal role in the advancement of our institution. The College has been greatly enriched by their contributions, and we wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

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# United States provides emergency disaster assistance for victims of super typhoon Sinlaku

*Embassy of the United States to the FSM*

*April 23, 2026*

**Kolonia** - In the wake of Super Typhoon Sinlaku's devastation, the Trump Administration is delivering life-saving assistance, including emergency shelter, safe drinking water, and emergency relief supplies to communities hardest hit by the storm across Chuuk State.

U.S. disaster assistance will be closely coordinated with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and local organizations to ensure timely and effective relief for those most in need.

The United States and the Federated States of Micronesia share a deep partnership rooted in our Compact of Free Association. Since establishing bilateral ties, the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States have enjoyed an enduring friendship and shared vision of a free, open, resilient, and prosperous Pacific Islands region. As thousands of Micronesians face the challenges left by this disaster, including displacement, damaged homes, disrupted livelihoods, and lack of access to basic services, our rapid response stands as a testament to the strength of our partnership, especially in times of crisis.



# Minutes of Discussion on the Feasibility Study of China-aid Project of upgrading road in Yap State was signed

*Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM*

*April 22, 2026*

**Palikir, Pohnpei** - On April 22, 2026, Chinese Ambassador H.E. Wu Wei signed the Minutes of Discussion on the Feasibility Study of China-aid Project of Upgrading Road in Yap State, with T.H. Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure of the FSM. Mr. Sohses Ehmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs attended the event.

Ambassador Wu extended sincere appreciation to H.E. President Simina, T.H. Vice President Palik and T.H. Francis Itimai, Governor of Yap State for their commitment, care and support

to this project. He highlighted that promoting the project is a concrete action to implement the important consensus reached by H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Simina. He noted that signing the Minutes of Discussion is a big stride toward the implementation of the project. China is willing to work closely with the FSM to promote cooperation related to the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative, and implement relevant practical cooperation projects including the infrastructure projects with high efficiency and high quality to better benefit our two peoples.

Secretary Apis expressed gratitude to the Chinese Government for its long-term support and looked forward to the project to be implemented at an early date.





# BANKGUAM HOLDING COMPANY

P.O. Box BW • Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Tel: (671) 472-5271

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BankGuam Holding Company announces Share Repurchase Program Up to \$500,000**

May 4, 2026, Hagåtña, Guam – BankGuam Holding Company (BKGM: Pink Open Market) today announced that its Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$500,000 of its outstanding common stock.

Under the repurchase program, the Company may purchase shares of its common stock through open market transactions, block purchases, and privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any repurchases under the program will be determined by the Company based on a variety of factors, including the market price of our common stock, corporate considerations, general market and economic conditions, and legal requirements. The repurchase program does not have a set expiration date, that obligates the Company to acquire any particular amount of common stock, and may be modified, discontinued or suspended at any time or from time to time in the Company's discretion. The Company anticipates funding for this program to come from available corporate funds.

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains statements that are "forward-looking statements". Forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of this press release. Our actual results may differ materially from the results described in or anticipated by our forward-looking statements due to certain risks and uncertainties. As a result, the Company's actual results could differ materially from those contained in these forward-looking statements due to a number of factors. Any of these factors and other factors beyond our control, could have an adverse effect on the overall business environment, cause uncertainties in the regions where we conduct business, cause our business to suffer in ways that we cannot predict and materially and adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. We expressly disclaim any duty to provide updates to any forward-looking statements made in this press release, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

For more information, please contact:

- Symon Madrazo, Senior Vice President | Chief Financial Officer  
Phone: (671) 472-5268 | Email: [symon.madrazo@bankofguam.com](mailto:symon.madrazo@bankofguam.com)
- Danilo M. Rapadas, Senior Vice President | Chief Risk Officer  
Phone: (671) 472-5255 | Email: [drapadas@bankofguam.com](mailto:drapadas@bankofguam.com)

# FSM voices concern over Middle East tensions at UN Security Council debate

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

April 30, 2026

**New York** - The Federated States of Micronesia has expressed deep concern over escalating tensions across the Middle East, calling for restraint, adherence to international law, and renewed commitment to peaceful resolution during a recent United Nations Security Council open debate.

In a statement delivered on April 30, 2026, at the United Nations Security Council, FSM Deputy Permanent Representative Universe Y. Lawrence addressed the ongoing crises in the region, including the Palestinian question, warning that the situation risks further destabilizing an already fragile geopolitical landscape.

Speaking during a session convened by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which held the Council presidency for April, Lawrence said Micronesia remains “gravely concerned” about the interconnected conflicts unfolding across the Middle

East. She condemned attacks attributed to Iran against neighboring countries and criticized its support for armed groups, describing such actions as contributing to regional instability.

The FSM also raised alarm over threats to disrupt or close the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping route. Lawrence warned that any such action would violate international law and pose serious risks to global peace, security, and economic stability. She noted that for small island developing states like Micronesia, the uninterrupted flow of energy and commerce through international waterways is essential.

“Freedom of navigation must be fully respected and safeguarded,” the statement said.

Addressing the Israel-Gaza conflict and broader regional tensions, the FSM reaffirmed Israel’s right to defend itself against attacks, calling that right “fundamental and non-negotiable.” However, Lawrence stressed that any measures taken in self-defense must

comply with international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians.

The statement also highlighted growing concern over violence along the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon, particularly continued attacks by Hezbollah. Lawrence warned that such actions could trigger a wider regional conflict and urged full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for a cessation of hostilities and strengthened Lebanese state control over its territory.

Turning to the Palestinian issue, Micronesia reiterated its support for a negotiated two-state solution, based on relevant United Nations resolutions. The FSM called for Israel and a future State of Palestine to coexist peacefully and securely.

Throughout the statement, the FSM emphasized the urgent need for de-



escalation and restraint by all parties involved, urging actors in the region to avoid actions that could further inflame tensions.

“As a small island developing State, Micronesia places strong faith in multilateralism, respect for sovereignty, and adherence to international law,” Lawrence said, calling on the Security Council to act with unity and resolve in addressing the ongoing crises.

The FSM’s remarks come amid heightened international concern over the risk of broader conflict in the Middle East, with global leaders continuing to call for diplomatic solutions and renewed commitment to peace.

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Class 37: Construction services; installation and repair services; mining extraction, oil and gas drilling; installation maintenance and repair of computer hardware; electric appliance installation and repair; vehicle breakdown repair services.

Class 38: Telecommunications services; message sending; providing online forums.

Class 42: Scientific and technological services and research and design relating thereto; industrial analysis; industrial research and industrial design services; quality control and authentication services; design and development of computer hardware and software; software as a service [SaaS]; platform as a service [PaaS]; electronic data storage.

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## Pohnpei declares mourning period for late Statesman Maske Jim

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

April 17, 2026

**Kolonia, Pohnpei**—The Pohnpei State Government has declared an official period of mourning following the passing of the Honorable Maske Jim, a former legislator and longtime educator remembered for his service to the state and its people.

In an executive proclamation issued on April 17, 2026, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph announced the death of Jim, describing him as a “distinguished statesman, dedicated educator, and pillar of our community.”



Jim served as a Senator in the 9th Pohnpei State Legislature, where he was recognized for his leadership and commitment to representing his constituents.



The proclamation noted that his legislative work reflected “excellence and integrity,” along with a steady dedication to public service.

Beyond his role in government, Jim spent decades in the field of education. He worked as both a teacher and school administrator within the Pohnpei Department

of Education, contributing to the development of generations of students across the state. His influence extended beyond the classroom, shaping both educational standards and civic responsibility.

Governor Joseph said Jim’s legacy as both an educator and lawmaker helped lay “a foundation of knowledge and civic duty for future generations.”



The proclamation also conveyed condolences on behalf of the government and people of Pohnpei to Jim’s family, friends, and colleagues, recognizing his wisdom, mentorship, and lasting contributions to the island.

As part of the official mourning period, the Pohnpei State flag was to be flown at half-staff at all government buildings and public grounds for three consecutive days, effective immediately.



The order was issued under the authority granted to the governor by state law and serves as a formal tribute to Jim’s life of service and enduring impact on Pohnpei.

# Australia and FSM: Partnering on passport production

*Embassy of Australia to the FSM*

**May 1, 2026**

**Canberra** - The FSM Canberra Fellowship Program delegation visited the Note Printing Australia (NPA) secure facility in Victoria which prints FSM's national

passports.

NPA is wholly owned by the Reserve Bank of Australia and produces Australian passports and polymer currency notes for countries around the Indo-Pacific.

"This is a unique partnership where FSM is the only country other than Australia whose passports are printed at the NPA facility," said Ambassador Jenny Grant.

NPA has been producing FSM passports since 2006.

"FSM passports printed at NPA include unique security features that make these documents safe for citizens as they travel overseas," said Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando.



# Rotary Club of Pohnpei now accepting 2026-27 scholarship applications; deadline July 1

*Rotary Club of Pohnpei*

**KOLONIA, Pohnpei** — The Rotary Club of Pohnpei is now accepting applications for its 2026-27 scholarship program, with a submission deadline of July 1, 2026. Students from all four FSM states are encouraged to apply.

The Club administers two distinct scholarship opportunities under the program. The Vital Scholarship, sponsored by Vital Energy, awards \$2,500 per semester (\$5,000 total) to four selected students. The Rotary Scholarship, supported by Mobil Oil Guam, Inc. and the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, awards individual scholarships generally ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 per student, with the number of awards determined by available funds.

Students may apply to both scholarships, but those selected will be awarded only one.

Eligible applicants are FSM citizens who are (1) high school seniors, (2) currently enrolled college students, or (3) high school graduates or GED holders who have been accepted to an accredited institution of higher learning for the upcoming academic year. Applicants must provide

proof of acceptance and supporting documentation as set out in the application.

In the 2025 cycle, the Scholarship Committee received 81 applications from across the FSM and awarded 35 scholarships, a 43% selection rate. Recipients pursued studies in fields including STEM, healthcare, law, business, public administration, and education.

Applications and full eligibility details are available through the Rotary Club of Pohnpei's Facebook page and the QR code on program flyers circulated throughout the FSM. Completed applications and questions may be sent to [rotarypohnpeischolarships@gmail.com](mailto:rotarypohnpeischolarships@gmail.com).

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei thanks Vital Energy and Mobil Oil Guam, Inc. for their continued sponsorship and acknowledges the broader community of donors and supporters whose contributions make the program possible each year.

**We encourage students from ALL 4 FSM STATES to apply!**

**Deadline**  
*Must apply by:*  
**July 01, 2026**

**NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The scholarships aim to support FSM citizens in pursuing post-secondary education. Eligible applicants include FSM citizens who are high school seniors, currently enrolled college students, or high school graduates (or GED holders) who have been accepted to an accredited institution of higher learning for the upcoming academic year.

Visit this link to get applications: **APPLICATION**  
Email questions & completed applications to: [rotarypohnpeischolarships@gmail.com](mailto:rotarypohnpeischolarships@gmail.com)

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## Lt. Governor Movick receives French Naval Leadership during regional security mission

*Pohnpei Public information*

**April 27, 2026**

**Peilapalap, Pohnpei** — On behalf of the Joseph-Movick Administration, Lieutenant Governor Herolyn S. Movick met with Rear Admiral Guillaume Pinget, French Joint Commander for the Asia-Pacific, and Captain Stephan Litzler, Defense Attaché, for a high-level courtesy call today at the Lieutenant Governor’s Office. Governor Stevenson A. Joseph’s Chief of Staff, Patterson K. Shed, was also in attendance to support the discussions.



vulnerabilities of regional infrastructure. Although FSMTC's internet connectivity is currently separate from the cybersecurity framework, both parties discussed potential collaboration on digital safety. These topics included:

- **Training Initiatives:** Exploring cybersecurity training for Pohnpei state officials.
- **Regional Support:** Utilizing training resources in Nouméa for maritime and digital security.
- **Counter-Narcotics:** Addressing the connection between Pacific transport hubs and narcotics trafficking.

Lt. Governor Movick expressed Pohnpei’s appreciation for France’s ongoing involvement in the Pacific, noting that managing threats like cybersecurity and illegal fishing depends on the international cooperation demonstrated during this visit.

The meeting ended with a commitment to maintain coordination through the Federated States of Micronesia National Government (FSMNG) to address these security priorities.

The French delegation arrived in Pohnpei via military aircraft following a mission to Tuvalu. Rear Admiral Pinget, based in French Polynesia, outlined his strategic responsibilities in the Pacific and emphasized France’s commitment to regional stability and the protection of its citizens in the region.

**Maritime Security and Fisheries.** The discussion focused on shared maritime interests; particularly illegal fishing and the risks linked to unauthorized transshipment. Lt. Governor Movick highlighted Pohnpei’s vital interest in maritime resources and the necessity for improved surveillance and policing. The Admiral noted that the French Navy remains active in the Pacific to support monitoring efforts and the protection of fisheries.

**Cybersecurity and Narcotics:** Lt. Governor Movick expressed concerns regarding cybersecurity and the

## Vice President Palik welcomes French Ambassador, signals stronger ties during courtesy call to the Office of the President

*FSM Information Services*

**April 20, 2026**

**Palikir, Pohnpei** — The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), welcomed Her Excellency Ambassador Véronique Roger Lacan of France on a courtesy call on April 10, 2026, reaffirming the growing partnership between FSM and France.



The discussions highlighted shared priorities across the Pacific, including air connectivity, climate action, maritime security, and people-to-people ties. Vice President Palik emphasized that improved connectivity remains vital for FSM as an ocean state and welcomed France’s continued leadership on global climate efforts.

Both sides exchanged views on pressing regional and global challenges, including supply chain resilience, energy security, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, while underscoring the importance of joint efforts to strengthen coastal resilience and respond to sea level rise.

France reaffirmed its commitment to the Pacific through sustained investments in capacity building, maritime security, and education and training, while both sides acknowledged opportunities to expand cooperation in aviation and fisheries development.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to deepen engagement, advance sustainable development, and strengthen collaboration within the Pacific Islands Forum.



# President Simina pays final respects at state funeral of former RMI President H.E. David Kabua

FSM Information Services

April 24, 2026

**Palikir, Pohnpei** — His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, traveled to Majuro to attend the state funeral of the late former President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), H.E. David Kabua.

In reflecting on the occasion, President Simina stated, "President Kabua was a dedicated leader and a valued colleague whose commitment to his people and to regional unity will be long remembered. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, the Government, and the people of the Marshall Islands during this time of mourning."

President Simina joined dignitaries and the Marshallese people in paying final respects to the late President Kabua, honoring his legacy of service to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the broader Pacific region.

President Simina's attendance underscores the close ties between the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as well as the shared respect among Pacific leaders for those who have served with distinction.



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Class 38: Telecommunications services; message sending; providing online forums.

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# First ever European Union regional workshop on security threats linked to natural disasters takes place in the Pacific

*Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific*

*April 21, 2026*

**Nadi, Fiji** - Experts from 9 Pacific countries, the EU and its Member States are convening at Blackrock Camp in Nadi to analyse how hostile entities exploit vulnerabilities caused by natural disasters and climate change, with a special focus on hybrid threats including foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), transnational organised crime, and threats to critical maritime infrastructure.

The 2-day workshop is co-organised by the European Union and the Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies (CISS), as part of the EU project ESIWA+ (Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia and the Indo-Pacific). The event is hosted at the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Joint Task Force Command.

The Honourable Pio Tikoduadua, Minister for Defence and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Fiji, said: “We gather at a time when the hybrid threats we confront during natural disasters are no longer defined by geography or convention. This workshop reflects that we are a team — bringing together expertise from Pacific islands and from Europe to find solutions together. Fiji has always understood the importance of partnership and is an active contributor to international peace

and security. We welcome engagement with international partners such as the European Union to ensure that future solutions are grounded in Pacific realities, reflecting our priorities.”

Welcoming the 60 participants, H.E. Barbara Plinkert, Ambassador of the European Union to the Pacific, underlined that “by extending the activities of the ESIWA+ project to the Pacific, this workshop will create an invaluable network of peer-to-peer expertise between the EU and the Pacific, showing Team Europe as a credible and reliable security and defence partner for the Indo-Pacific region. Together, we are committed to building a resilient, stable, and secure Blue Pacific – capable of withstanding not only the shocks of nature, but also the pressures of an increasingly complex geopolitical environment. Resilience is not built alone — it is built together.”

Participants included senior officials and security experts from across the Pacific, including representatives from Fiji, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.

The workshop marks an important step towards strengthening regional cooperation on climate-related security risks and hybrid threats. Building on this exchange, partners will continue to develop practical, demand-driven responses and reinforce a shared commitment to resilience and stability in the Pacific.

Prof Dr Carlo Masala, Conference Chair, CISS, Bundeswehr University Munich, said: “There is a significant risk that foreign actors exploit disaster-induced chaos with a mix of diverse tactics of hybrid warfare. This threat must be addressed and discussed, and short-, medium- and long-term strategies developed. I therefore very much look forward to a rigorous and candid exchange with experts from academia, politics and the military — the expertise of the participating Pacific countries is indispensable in this regard.”



## “Let’s Talk Tuna!”



### **FSM NORMA**

What’s is National Oceanic Fisheries Investment Policy (NOFIP) and why should it matter to you?

Did you know that tuna is one of FSM’s biggest sources of national income, yet much of its value still leaves our shores? That means we earn from selling fishing access, but the higher value activities (processing, exporting, retail etc) occur overseas.

In August 2024, the FSM National Government and all four States came together to adopt the National Oceanic Fisheries Investment Policy (NOFIP) 2024–2029. This policy sets a clear direction: to help FSM earn more value from our tuna while creating jobs and other economic opportunities here at home.

NOFIP focuses on:

- Protecting our tuna resources for future generations

- Increasing national revenue from fishing access
- Supporting local businesses and job creation
- Attracting investment that benefits our communities

Fisheries revenues are already shared between the National and State Governments. But NOFIP goes further, by encouraging processing, services, and other investments onshore, more benefits can reach our people directly. That could mean more

local jobs, fish processed here, and money flowing into the local communities.

NORMA and the Department of Resources and Development are working with all four states to turn this policy into real opportunities for FSM - because tuna isn’t just a resource; it’s a pathway to growth, jobs, and a stronger future.

For more information contact FSM NORMA.



# U.S. Coast Guard suspends search for crew of capsized vessel offshore Saipan

*Coast Guard Oceania District External Affairs*

**April 29, 2026**

**Honolulu** — The Coast Guard suspended its search for the missing crew members of the cargo vessel Mariana at 10:35 p.m. Tuesday.

Missing are five crew members of the cargo vessel Mariana, which reportedly experienced a disabled engine approximately 140 miles northwest of Saipan on April 15.

The six crew members aboard the Mariana at the time of the incident were Frederick L. Nosek Jr., Landon Delos Reyes, Jose L. Ramirez, Mohammed A. Rahaman, Chet R. Brochon, and Vincent B. Agulto.

In total, Coast Guard crews and involved partners searched for more than 100 hours, covering over 135,000

square nautical miles, an area larger than the size of California.

“We are deeply saddened to announce that despite widespread efforts, we have made the difficult decision to suspend our active search for the missing crew members,” said Cmdr. Preston Hieb, search and rescue mission coordinator, Coast Guard Oceania District. “We offer our deepest condolences to the families of the Mariana crew, as well as the entire Saipan community affected by this tragedy. We are grateful for the efforts of our international and U.S. military partners during the search, as well as the resilience and support demonstrated by the CNMI community.”

Search efforts began after Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu watchstanders lost communications with the Mariana on

April 15.

Watchstanders coordinated the launch of HC-130 Hercules airplane crews from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and the crews of fast response cutters USCGC Frederick Hatch (WPC 1143) and USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) to search for the missing vessel and crew members.

Involved in the search:

- Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu
- USCGC Frederick Hatch (WPC 1143), Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, Apra Harbor, Guam
- USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140), Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, Apra Harbor, Guam
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Kapolei, Hawaii

- U.S. Air Force 31st Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan
- U.S. Air Force 36th Airlift Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Tokyo
- U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon airplane crew, Patrol Squadron 26 (VP-26), Commander, Task Force 72 (CTF-72)
- Japan Coast Guard Gulfstream V jet
- Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel Akitsushima (PLH-32), Yokohama, Japan
- Royal New Zealand Air Force P-8A Poseidon airplane crew, RNZAF Base Ohakea, New Zealand

The U.S. Coast Guard is leading the investigation into the incident with assistance from the National Transportation Safety Board.



# FSM thankful for PCRIC USD \$375,000 payout against Cyclone Sinlaku damage

*Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company*

**April 20, 2026**

**FSM** - The decision to join PCRIC as a new member in November 2025 and secure protection against the financial impact of tropical cyclone damage has proved to be a wise investment in disaster preparedness for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Impacting the island of Chuuk and surrounding atolls on April 9, Category 5 Cyclone Sinlaku resulted in a tragic loss of life and caused extensive damage to housing, businesses and critical infrastructure.

As losses are grieved, authorities continue to implement disaster response plans, providing much needed relief to devastated communities. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, PCRIC has been preparing its own response.

The payout by PCRIC to the FSM government of USD \$375,000 demonstrates the tangible value of including a pre-arranged financial safety net as part of overall national disaster readiness strategies. PCRIC funds will directly help address the

cost of the government’s immediate relief expenditures, lifting stress off financial reserves and enabling authorities to direct efforts to where they are most urgently needed.

PCRIC stands with the government and people of FSM at this time, proud to have been able to bring a measure of confidence and certainty to a difficult and challenging situation.



# French Ambassador for the Pacific visits Ambassador Kagomiya

*Embassy of Japan to the FSM*

*April 20, 2026*

**Pohnpei** - On April 16, Ambassador Kagomiya received a courtesy call from Her Excellency Véronique Roger-Lacan, Ambassador of France for the Pacific. Ambassador Roger-Lacan resides in New Caledonia and oversees the Pacific region.



The Ambassadors discussed the friendly bilateral relations between Japan and France, and the friendly relations between their own countries and the FSM, as well as the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Member States. They also discussed the economy and development cooperation, and how Japan and France can cooperate with each other and with the FSM.

# Ambassador Kagomiya attends handover ceremony of Japan and UNDP funded Legislature Website Project

*Embassy of Japan to the FSM*

*April 27, 2026*

**Pohnpei** - On April 21, Ambassador Kagomiya attended the handover ceremony for the Federated States

of Micronesia (FSM) State Legislature Website Project, which is part of the Strengthening Legislatures' Capacity in Pacific Islands Countries Phase II (SLIP2) project implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the financial support from Japan.



This project supports the State Legislatures of the FSM and the National Congress of Palau in strengthening citizen participation and access to information through the creation of new websites.

Ambassador Kagomiya expressed his sincere appreciation to the UNDP for its continued support, stating that Japan shares common values including democracy, rule of law, human rights, and maritime security with the Pacific Island Countries and continue to support these countries.

Ms. Gulbahor Nematova, Deputy Resident Representative for the North Pacific Office of the UNDP and Mr. Douglas Marar, Chief of Staff for the Chuuk State Legislature, stated the importance of digital access to the legislature and expressed gratitude for Japan's support.

At the end of the ceremony, as part of the effort to promote Japanese cuisine, Japanese sweets made with "matcha" and "mochi" by the embassy's chef were served, and participants enjoyed the Japanese sweets.



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# Celebrating Madolenihmw Constitution Day

*Pohnpei Public information*

**May 1, 2026**

**Madolenihmw, Pohnpei** - Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and First Lady Dr. Aina Garstang joined the community

today, May 1, 2026, at the Pohnlangas Municipal Ground to observe the annual Madolenihmw Constitution Day Games.

The event marks the historic establishment of the municipality's

constitution and serves as a vibrant display of local unity and heritage. The Governor and First Lady enjoyed the opportunity to witness the athletic competitions and cultural festivities alongside the people of Madolenihmw,

celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and the shared values that define the municipality.

Happy Constitution Day to the residents of Madolenihmw!



# Pohnpei proclaims World Tuna Day, emphasizes conservation and economic importance

*By Bill Jaynes*

*The Kaselehlie Press*

**May 1, 2026**

**kolonia, pohnpei** — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph has officially proclaimed May 2, 2026, as World Tuna Day in Pohnpei State, calling on residents, communities, and institutions to recognize the critical role tuna plays in the state's economy, food security, and cultural life.

In an executive proclamation issued May 1, Governor Joseph described the Federated States of Micronesia—and Pohnpei in particular—as part of one of the world's most productive tuna fishing zones, contributing to the Pacific Ocean's globally significant tuna stocks.

The proclamation noted that tuna is not only a primary source of sustenance for local communities but also a cornerstone of economic activity, supporting livelihoods and contributing to sustainable development across the islands.

World Tuna Day, recognized by the United Nations, aims to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable fishing practices and the long-term conservation of tuna resources for future generations.

Pohnpei's role in regional fisheries management was also acknowledged, as the state hosts key institutions such as

the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA). These organizations are central to ongoing efforts to monitor tuna stocks and protect marine ecosystems.

Governor Joseph pointed to initiatives such as the Blue Prosperity Micronesia program and the work of the Tuna Commission as complementary efforts aimed at preserving fish stocks while strengthening economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

The proclamation further stressed the responsibility of government and citizens alike to act as stewards of marine resources. It calls for support of scientific

research, the promotion of traditional knowledge, stronger enforcement against illegal fishing, and equitable sharing of benefits derived from ocean resources.

Governor Joseph urged government agencies, traditional leaders, schools, businesses, faith-based organizations, and all citizens to take part in commemorative activities, educational programs, and community events marking the day.

"Let us celebrate not only the bounty of the ocean but also the wisdom of conservation, the strength of cooperation, and the shared responsibility we hold as island people," the proclamation said.

# Voices of Resilience: Confronting Loss and Damage in the Federated States of Micronesia

*Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP)*

**April 20, 2026**

**FSM** - Growing an awareness of Climate Change Loss and Damage is at the forefront of community workshops held across the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia in March.

Through the Loss and Damage Capacity and Capability Project funded by the Government of New Zealand and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), work has been undertaken in partnership with the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management.

Loss and Damage is a climate change impact determined when actions to stop or slow climate change haven't been addressed, and adaptation activities have reached their limit and no longer work resulting in a loss of service or benefit that has built the foundation of resilience, livelihoods or the way of life.

"Our Pacific islands region contributes to less than 0.03% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions but we are amongst the most vulnerable to the

impacts of climate change," said Ms Filomena Nelson, the Climate Change Adaptation and Loss and Damage Adviser for SPREP.

"In spite of this our Pacific is showing leadership with both their adaptation and mitigation actions at all levels. We are always learning, now we are learning about Loss and Damage and how it is impacting our people, and the spirit of action is strong – we are still being asked, what and how can we address this?"

All Pacific Islands have their own unique circumstances alike the FSM whereby Loss and Damage experiences vary State to State.

The Loss and Damage Capacity and Capability Project over the month of March, has conducted state level dialogues in Kosrae, Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei. The priorities, definitions and experiences gathered from these dialogues provided the base of the national level dialogue held at the end of March. The workshops have helped build understanding of Loss and Damage, as well as learn more about people's experiences as they face the impacts of Loss and Damage.

The workshop has also resulted in agreed

definitions and priorities to inform future planning, policy and projects in FSM that relate to Loss and Damage.

"Mitigation and adaptation have done and will continue to do its part in order for our low-lying islands to thrive, but the importance of climate-related Loss and Damage lies in survival and resilience," said Mr Johnathan Fichibman Fathal, Chief of Planning- Yap State Office of Planning and Budget.

"Our understanding of Loss and Damage must be ubiquitous to ensure collective responsibility in safeguarding our people, heritage, and the very ground upon which our people's future is built."

The workshops also provided climate change, environment, culture, economic, health and community stakeholders information on the current Loss and Damage landscape in the Pacific and helped to understand the experiences encountered by other sectors and communities within FSM.

"The Loss and Damage initiative is important as it provides justice for the people, land and sea of our state in the future," said Ms Roseline Kichiro, the Health Educator Division of Sanitation of

Chuuk State.

The national Federated States of Micronesia National Loss and Damage Dialogue was held on 24 and 25 March 2026. A loss and damage dialogue was held in Kosrae on 3 – 4 March, Yap on 10 – 11 March, Chuuk on 17 – 18 March and Pohnpei on 20 and 23 March.

The Loss and Damage Capacity and Capability Project funded by the Government of New Zealand and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme spans the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Solomon Islands Tonga and Tokelau.



## France reaffirms commitment to Pacific disaster preparedness with €1 million contribution



*Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

**April 23, 2026**

**Pacific** - As funding for humanitarian preparedness becomes increasingly constrained worldwide, the Pacific Community (SPC) welcomes the Government of France's €1 million contribution to the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program (PHWP) for the programme activities.

This contribution underscores France's long-standing partnership with the Pacific and recognises that strengthened preparedness remains essential as Pacific Island countries face more frequent and severe climate-related disasters. The

support will assist SPC and participating countries to sustain and consolidate critical systems at a time when predictable funding for preparedness is becoming increasingly constrained.

The funding will enable SPC to continue delivering tailored warehouse management systems, targeted capacity strengthening, personnel support and effective programme coordination through the PHWP. As a Pacific-led initiative, the programme focuses on reinforcing national systems and building sovereign capability across participating countries, supporting their ability to manage and coordinate humanitarian supplies within the crucial first 24 to 48 hours following a disaster.

By strengthening national readiness ahead of emergencies, the PHWP supports countries[1] to act decisively and pre-emptively when disasters strike, thus improving the timeliness, accountability and appropriateness of humanitarian response. The programme prioritises practical systems, trained national personnel and inclusive approaches that

support the safety and dignity of affected communities.

SPC Director for the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, Rhonda Robinson, said the contribution was particularly significant in the current global funding environment. "At a time when resources for preparedness are under increasing pressure worldwide, we sincerely thank the Government of France for its continued commitment to supporting disaster readiness in the Pacific. This contribution enables countries to strengthen their own systems and respond quickly and inclusively when disasters occur, helping to protect lives and livelihoods."

Philippe Lalliot, Director of the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed France's support for the programme. "France remains committed to working with SPC and Pacific Island Countries to strengthen disaster preparedness and response as disasters continue to regularly impact the region. Supporting the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program reflects our shared focus on resilience, partnership and ensuring that participating

countries are able to manage their own stocks and act rapidly in the critical first hours following a disaster."

The PHWP extends beyond physical infrastructure and equipment. It supports the development of skills, systems and governance arrangements that strengthen operational readiness over time. This includes prepositioning essential relief supplies, strengthening the capabilities of national disaster risk management offices and humanitarian partners, embedding gender equality, disability and social inclusion principles across warehousing and logistics functions, and supporting transparent management through reporting, monitoring and coordination mechanisms. The programme also promotes localisation and environmentally responsible practices by working with local suppliers and reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian logistics wherever possible.

As a multi-partner[2] initiative, the PHWP complements national and regional investments in preparedness and response, contributing to improved access to climate-resilient warehousing and more coordinated humanitarian systems across the Pacific.