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NFC asks for creative thinking from COVID-19 task forces as mental health begins to be an issue at sea

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By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 28, 2020

FSM—Within the last month, two FSM nationals have been taken off FSM National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) vessels due to mental health issues and were quarantined after medical attention. Two others are presumed to be dead after they went overboard while at sea.

At approximately 3:00 AM on May 19, a young fisherman from Pohnpei working for

the National Fisheries Corporation aboard the Micronesia 101 went overboard in waters 30 miles southeast of Sapwuahfik. The FSM marine surveillance vessel FSS Independence arrived in Sapwuahfik waters on May 19 and together with the Micronesia 101 made a search for the Pohnpeian fisherman. The search was coordinated between the US Coast Guard Sector Guam and the FSM Maritime Wing Headquarters with search patterns provided to the two vessels based on ocean drift models in the designated search area. The search continued until the last light of May 23 without success.

On April 29, a crew member from Yap aboard the Taiyo Chuuk went overboard in Papua New Guinea waters. His body was also never recovered.

Stuart Peter, Acting Captain of the FSM National Police said that both deaths are

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Yap Legislature asks court for declaratory judgment on actions taken to cancel COVID-19 declaration

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 29, 2020

Yap—The 10th Legislature of the State of Yap has filed a civil action at the Yap State Court seeking declaratory judgment based on the Yap Constitution that its legislative action revoking Governor Falan’s Declaration of Emergency regarding COVID-19 is lawful.

On March 27, Governor Falan issued his first COVID-19 Emergency Declaration that gave the Executive Branch emergency powers and established a task force to deal with the worldwide pandemic. Under the Yap Constitution, that declaration would be in place for 30 days.

In a letter dated April 24, Governor Falan sent a letter to Vincent Figir, the Speaker of the 10th Yap State Legislature asking for the Legislature to extend his Emergency Declaration. According to the attachments to the civil action filed by the Legislature, the Legislature did not receive the letter until 8:45 on the morning of April 27.

According to the April 27 return letter to Governor Falan from Speaker Figir, saying that since the declaration had expired on April 26, the Legislature’s committee of the whole decided that it could not constitutionally extend the Emergency Declaration likely since

the Legislature could not “extend” an emergency declaration that had already expired.

On April 29, Governor Falan issued another Declaration of State Emergency. On April 30, the Legislature passed a resolution revoking the April 29 declaration, saying that the March 27 declaration had adequately addressed the emergency posed by COVID-19 to the State of Yap and so there was no basis for extending the declaration.

On May 4, Governor Falan announced that his administration rejects the Legislature’s action because it has no merit in law. “Until we find a meritorious legal reason or basis to acknowledge its legality, we will continue to and rely on the Emergency Declaration to address the present COVID-19 pandemic,” he wrote.

On May 20, the Yap Legislature filed suit for declaratory judgment on the matter arguing that Section 9, Article VI of the Yap Constitution is very clear in regards to revocation, amendment or extending a declaration of emergency. It says that the Legislature has exclusive powers to take such actions upon Governor’s declaration and that the Legislature had the constitutionally empowered right to decide on revocation, amendment or extension of the declaration. “Petitioners beg this court to issue a declaratory judgement that would

clarify that any actions or decrees that are pursuant to such declarations revoked by the Legislature should be rendered null, void, and unlawful,” it said.

On May 27 the Yap Department of Youth and Civic Affairs issued press release on the matter attributed to DYCA Director Constantine Yowbalow. On the same day the Pacific Island Times issued a news item with the same wording attributed to a PIT News Staff member. “One of the reasons that Governor Falan and the executive leaders of the task force and the DHS recommend maintaining an emergency declaration for the state is the possible requirement by outside funding sources that the state have its own declaration. It may not be enough that the FSM national

government has issued one. The other three FSM states...also have their own declaration,” it said.

The press release and news article then inexplicably launch into several paragraphs about Speaker Figir having accepted a donation on behalf of the Yap-China Economic and Cultural Exchange Association of \$17,000 worth of personal protective equipment from the Zhongshan People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on May 20 which he then turned over to the State’s COVID-19 task force.

Governor Falan has 30 days from the date of filing at the Yap Court to file his response.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:
June 17, 2020

Deadline for submission of articles
or advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:
Friday, June 12, 2020**

Pohnpei Legislature considering enforcement measures if Pohnpei gets confirmed case of COVID-19

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 30, 2020

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Legislature is currently considering the passage of a resolution to establish temporary enforcement measures in the event that Pohnpei gets its first confirmed case of COVID-19. The resolution is currently in its draft form and may change before it passes.

As the resolution is currently worded the resolution would:

- Ban all public and private in-person gatherings of 10 or more people.

- All in-person instruction at Early Childhood Education Centers and grades Kindergarten through 12th grade whether public or private would end for the duration of a Constitutional Emergency Order.

- All congregation areas of restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, take out stands, farmers markets,

on—sale alcohol establishments, and on-premises sakau bars will be closed.

- All public movie theaters and internet cafes, exercise centers, gymnasiums, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, and indoor exercise facilities, beauty salons, barbershops and any other location where personal care or personal grooming services are performed that would not allow compliance with social distancing guidelines, would be closed.

- Essential retail and wholesale businesses could remain open such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores that sell food and beverage or pharmacy products, medical laboratory, and vision supply retailers, automotive parts, accessories, and tire retailers as well as automotive repair facilities, home improvement, hardware, building material, and building supply retailers, retail functions of gas stations, liquid petroleum and other chemical liquid or gas suppliers, retailers located within health facilities, banks and other financial institutions with retail

functions, printing and office supply stores, laundromats, and wholesale establishments that service the allowed retail operations.

- All allowed retail and wholesale operators would have to limit all in-person shopping to no more than 10 patrons per establishment and if it cannot do so then it must close.

- All employees at allowed retail and wholesale operators would be required to wear protective face masks.

- Businesses offering professional rather than retail or wholesale services could remain open but they should utilize digital communication distance working as much as possible. Where that is not possible they must adhere to social distancing recommendations, and enhanced sanitizing practices on common surface.

- It says that nothing in the proposed Constitutional Emergency Order shall limit the provision of health care or medical services, the operations of the media, or the operations of local, state and national law enforcement

agencies

The remainder of the resolution sets up penalties and enforcement measures. A person who violates the Emergency Order would upon conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 and/or jail time of up to six months.

The resolution would also authorize the Governor to order the Department of Public Safety to shut down a business in violation of the order for up to 28 days and to freeze the sale or distribution of merchandise in the possession of such a business. The business owner would be allowed to appeal the decision to the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

Any person who willfully disobeys the order of shutdown of his business would, if convicted be guilty of a felony offense of endangerment of the life and health of the people of Pohnpei and could be punished by a fine of up to \$3000 and/or nine months in jail.

FSMPC announces second price reduction of 2020

Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation

Pohnpei, FSM – Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) announces to its customers the second price reduction of 2020. The wholesale prices of diesel (ADO), unleaded gasoline (ULP), and dual purpose kerosene (DPK) decreased by fifteen cents per gallon (cpg) on Thursday, May 21, 2020.

FSMPC Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr. Faustino Yangmog commented, “The halt in economic activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant changes in oil supply versus demand patterns. Prices dropped within the first quarter of 2020, and are slowly on the rise. Despite this, I am pleased that FSMPC is passing on to our customers, and I believe we will finally be able to see pump prices under \$4.00 per gallon.”

Since the first price decrease in April, motorists across the FSM have seen pump prices drop by up to 25cpg, with gasoline prices as low as \$4.00/gal in Kosrae (Senny’s); \$4.05/gal in Chuuk (Susumu’s); and \$4.10/gal in both Pohnpei (PITC) and Yap (YCA). In the greater Micronesian region, pump prices are as low as \$3.28/gal (Guam), \$3.89/gal (Palau), and \$4.60/

gal (Majuro).

International market prices for crude oil have drastically fallen since January. However, the U.S. Energy Information Administration <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/report/index.php> anticipates that crude oil prices will increase from the second quarter of 2020 and on to the end of the year, as “declining global oil inventories next year will put upward pressure on oil prices.”

From public hearings to private citizens voicing their concern, the FSMPC has witnessed within the past few months a growing interest in gas prices in the FSM. In April, the Pohnpei State Legislature - Committee on Public Works, Transportation & Communications (PWTC) called for a hearing with FSMPC Senior Management. FSMPC Chief Strategy & Investment Officer (CSIO) Mathias Lawrence and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Johnny Adolph represented the Corporation, addressing the Committee’s inquiries on pump prices in Pohnpei versus pump prices in Guam; pump prices in Pohnpei versus the other FSM states; and price forecasting. CSIO

Lawrence advised the PWTC Committee:

“As you’ve seen in international news, the world market prices for fuel have plummeted due to the substantial decrease in demand. Similarly, in the FSM, we observe a reduction in our sales volumes as a direct impact of the restrictions on air and sea transportation. We carry high levels of inventory as a strategic reserve. This inventory was purchased between 60 to 90 days ago when prices were still high.

New cargoes are coming in each month at the lower international prices and we will be able to pass on these saving when we realize them. Still, FSMPC is reacting to the downward trend in international prices and has already implemented a series of price decreases. For your information, since January 2020, a reduction of over \$0.75 per gallon has been passed on to the state utilities, and on April 21st, the first price reduction of \$0.25 per gallon to gas stations.”

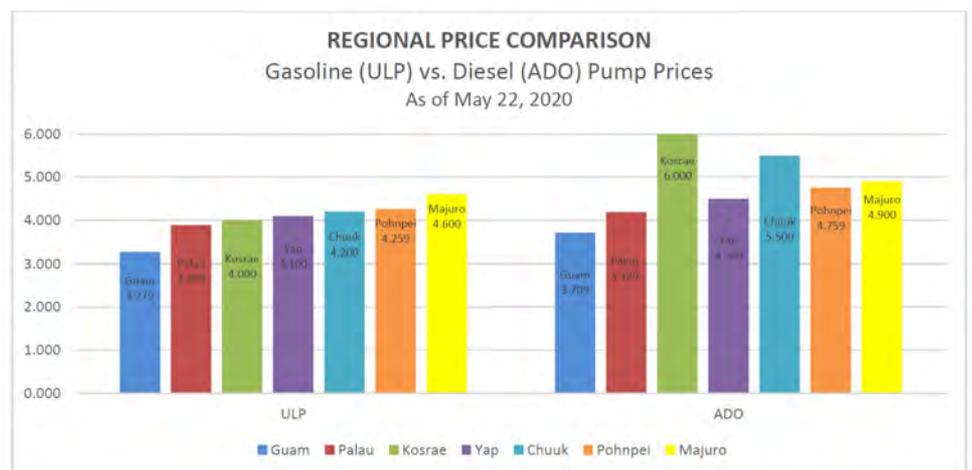


Figure 1: Regional price comparison of gasoline (ULP) and diesel (ADO), based on pump prices in Guam (Mobile Maite); Palau (Blue Bay); Kosrae (Senny’s Service Station); Yap (YCA); Chuuk (BS Distributing Co); Pohnpei (Ace Service Station); and Majuro (Ace’s One Stop) as of May 22, 2020. Service stations selling both products of gasoline and diesel are referenced here.

FSM President David Panuelo delivers his first State of the Nation address

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 20, 2020

FSM—On May 20, 2020 at the invitation of the 21st FSM Congress, President David Panuelo delivered his first State of the Nation address by video conferencing. The address was streamed live on Youtube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0NmXH2zJFY&feature=youtu.be&t=835).

As covered in a separate article in this newspaper (Page 6) the President announced \$300,000 in financial support for FSM citizens stranded during return to the FSM in Guam and Hawaii.

He thanked Congress for support of the FSM's \$16 million Economic Stimulus packaged which was partially funded by local revenue and currently focuses on the Tourism Sector. No industry in the FSM has had as big an impact as its tourism industry, which last year had revenues of \$43 million and employs 1,048 people or 6.7% of the FSM's total labor force. He announced that so far approximately one million dollars had at that time been distributed to 90 private sector businesses suffering losses due to COVID-19 and said that monthly support would continue to those tourism related businesses in the hopes that those businesses would be able to keep their employees employed while also weathering the economic effects of the pandemic. He asked Congress to consider expanding the assistance to other sectors of the economy.

Though much has been said by FSM citizens on social media in response to the distribution of funds to just a few businesses, much of it negative, little has been said about the arrangement with the United States for FSM citizens to apply for unemployment benefits from the US Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program. The President briefly discussed that plan in his State of the Nation address. FSM citizens who have lost their jobs, or had their hours reduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can apply to the PUA program for benefits. PUA will pay a minimum of \$166 per week to affected individuals from February until December 31 of this year. They can additionally apply for a minimum of \$600 per week through July 31 of this year. The assistance rates were set by the US Department of Labor and were non-negotiable but affected citizens stand to bring in a significant amount of money from the program.

At the time of this writing, the FSM

was set to announce details as to where and how FSM citizens can apply for PUA within the FSM. It is hoped that process will begin on Monday, June 1 but until all office leases have been signed for the program, the FSM could not yet announce it.

President Panuelo thanked the FSM's development partners who have strongly assisted the FSM as it strives to keep its citizens and residents safe from COVID-19.

The President announced that negotiations with the United States on the Compact of Free Association are underway on a mutually agreed-upon rapid pace. Leo A. Falcam, Jr. is the FSM's Chief Negotiator.

President Panuelo told Congress that the Panuelo-George administration has kept its promise of transparent, open, and accountable government by expanding its Public Information division to a new level. It has established a new Office of Information Technology and Support service to support the delivery of e-Government and e-Commerce activities.

They have restructured the Department of Justice to include a new Division of Anti-Human Trafficking and have submitted the necessary documents for FSM's entry into INTERPOL.

In support of FSM National Maritime Boundaries he announced that the FSM's continental shelf claim North of Yap of more than 100,000 square kilometers is rightfully under the FSM's jurisdiction under the Law of the Sea Convention.

He said that activities on Climate Change include a memorandum of Understanding with the Waitt Institute and Blue Prosperity Coalition to protect 30% of the FSM's marine resources by 2030.

He said that the Micronesian subregion had chosen Gerald Zackios of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to serve

as the Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. The FSM will host the upcoming United Nations Multi-Country Office, and the Asian Development Bank and World Bank will also be establishing full offices in the FSM.

He congratulated Congress on passing FSM legislation to ban most forms of plastic which will take effect in July of 2020.

On development of the economy he pointed "crucial initiatives" such as the Integrated Coconut Processing Facility on Tonoas, Chuuk, the Pave the Nation project of climate resilient roads, in association with the World Bank and the People's Republic of China, and the FSM Digital Connectivity Project.

He said that the FSM Department of Resources and Development, with assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union, and other partners is actively implementing over \$60 million of projects to strengthen the Nation's electrical grid, improve accessibility of electricity to remote communities, and to lessen the FSM's reliance on fossil fuels.

The administration is developing a Fisheries Investment Policy to incentivize more onshore fisheries investments. Under the Technology for Tuna Transparency plan established by the Administration of former President Peter M. Christian, the FSM remains on a path towards becoming the first Nation in the world with a 100% transparent tuna fishery.

The Department of Education has been implementing a recently strengthened version of the FSM School Accreditation procedures and working with the United Nation's Children's Fund to ensure that children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are still learning.



"Our Nation's greatest strength is its unity. By paddling together in one direction, we will keep ourselves afloat in this storm. In time, we will see that these unprecedented challenges will reward us, and through sustainable policy-making, we'll endure the hardship of the COVID-19 Pandemic by emerging as a more resilient and capable Nation," the President concluded.

FSM official lists numbers of COVID-10 cases for FSM citizens living in the US

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 30, 2020

FSM—At the time of this writing the United States has reported 1,746,019 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic was first reported there. Since then, 102,809 people have died from COVID-19 related complications.

Many thousand FSM citizens currently live in the United States or its territories under the Compact of Free Association with the United States. This week, the FSM Consulate General in Portland, Oregon, who serves on one of that State's COVID-19 task forces, released COVID-19 impact numbers on FSM citizens living in the United States.

He reports that 52 FSM citizens living in the US in seven States have contracted the virus. Of those, eight have died and 19 have recovered. The States where FSM citizens have contracted the virus are Washington where five were identified, two recovered, and two died. In Utah there were two positive cases neither of whom recovered. In New York one FSM citizen contracted the disease who died from it. 24 FSM citizens in North Carolina were found to have contracted COVID-19. So far, none have been listed as recovered and none have died. Colorado had four cases among FSM citizens. Two of them recovered and two died. Missouri had 15 cases among FSM citizens, all of whom recovered. One FSM citizen contracted the virus in Iowa and later died from it.

The chart lists no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among FSM citizens in Hawaii or in Guam.

The chart shows no Yapese as having contracted the virus. Three Kosraeans caught the virus and two have recovered. No Kosraean is listed as having died from the virus. Six of Chuuk's citizens contracted the virus. Two of them recovered and four of them died. Pohnpeians had the highest listed number of cases at 43 people. 15 of those were listed as having recovered. Four of them died.

So far, COVID-19 has not yet been identified with the FSM and officials are doing all they can to ensure that the numbers here remain at zero.

...NFC at sea

Continued from front page

the matter of ongoing investigations. No official conclusions have yet been made on either death.

FSM is one of only eleven countries, most of them Pacific Island Nations, that has yet to have a case of COVID-19 and it intends to stay that way. To do so the FSM States and the National Government have established policies regarding entry that ban disembarkation from fishing vessels. Those rules apply to all fishing vessels including domestic vessels.

The action is not merely a matter of paranoia but a very real threat. Pacific Island nations have recently been warned that they should put urgent COVID-19 safety measures into place at ports because foreign fishing vessels have been identified as points of transmission, and most have done so. The Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency has recently recalled fisheries observers due to the threat of CV-19 and is now solely monitoring fishing

activities through vessel monitoring systems.

So far the measures seem to have been effective at keeping COVID-19 out of the FSM, a vital end goal since the FSM, like most Small Island States may never be completely ready to deal with an outbreak. However, as Peter Sitan, NFC CEO, and Cassiano Shoniber, NFC Board Chairman have pointed out in letters to the FSM President and Pohnpei's Governor, there is another serious health concern for fishing vessel crew members—their mental health.

“Staying at sea for a long time is a different lifestyle,” Sitan said during an interview. “It’s tough to spend months at sea and then return to your home island and not be able to get off or even visit family members from a safe distance.” He said that when the Micronesia 101 arrived at the Pohnpei port for transshipment and resupply he didn’t ask the crew members if anyone wanted to disembark. They all knew that it wasn’t allowed accept in cases of emergency and then only by special permission. That was that case when two previous crew members who had

become a danger to themselves and to the crew because of mental health problems were granted permission to disembark and be quarantined. “I’m going to ask every time now,” he said.

Shoniber wrote that NFC is mindful that their operations are no exceptions to the rule and that they must comply with emergency health declarations and orders regarding COVID-19. But NFC is hoping that some consideration can be given to the mental health of their crew members, particularly the local crew members. Sitan said that an average of 5 to 6 crew members on each of NFC’s vessels are locals.

Marko Kamber, CEO of Caroline Fisheries Corporation said that while CFC has not had the types of problems that NFC has, yet the issue of “crew rest” has been a challenge to resolve, but he says that CFC’s problem applies more to their foreign crew members. He said that locals can disembark and enter quarantine before returning home and CFC can hire other locals. Indeed, currently the only people in quarantine are fishermen. Kamber said CFC’s officers are generally not FSM citizens and they have no way of

returning to their homes because of the travel ban and if there was there would be no way to bring other officers in to replace them.

“I’m not suggesting what States should do,” Sitan said. “We have to be safe and respond according to science. We just hope that we can find a way to handle this problem for the mental health of our crew.

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President announces plan to assist stranded citizens and eventually to repatriate them

Pohnpei Governor says it cannot accept stranded citizens until fishermen complete quarantine

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 30, 2020

FSM—On May 20, 2020, President David Panuelo addressed the members of the 21st Congress of the FSM in his State of the Nation address. During the speech he announced financial support in the amount of \$300,000 to assist FSM citizens stranded in transit to the FSM in Guam and Hawaii. He said that no concrete date had yet been set for their return but that he and the Governors of the FSM States had broadly agreed that when it does happen each will be required to be tested for COVID-19 within two days prior to entry to the FSM. Each would be required to follow individual State-mandated quarantine and isolation procedures and be tested a second time prior to

departing their quarantine area.

On May 20, the Government of Pohnpei issued an announcement aimed at its citizens who are stranded off island as a result of COVID-19 emergency declarations. It said that no date has yet been established for possible return but encouraged them to contact their nearest FSM Consulate Offices to register their name, passport number, date of birth, age, purpose of travel, original intended travel date back to Pohnpei, number of people traveling in their group if a family, copy of original itinerary or flight booking, and their contact information. It says that the registration list will be used to coordinate flights into Pohnpei with United Airlines, the FSM National Government, and Pohnpei State Government. It notes that Pohnpei

citizens are still responsible for their own travel costs.

Pohnpei Governor Reed Oliver, in a letter to President Panuelo dated May 20 says that Pohnpei has received an unprecedented number of emergency disembarkation requests from fishing vessels that are still in operation. Currently, the only people who are in quarantine are from fishing vessels. “We wish to clear out our quarantine sites so that we can consider repatriation of our stranded citizens abroad, especially the medical referral patients, most of whom will still require medical attention,” he wrote. He expressed concern about new language that the FSM Congress is currently considering regarding operation of fishing vessels at FSM ports and asked for further dialogue prior to passage of

any bill considering a change. “As long as fishing vessels are still in operation in our ports,” he wrote, “we will not be able to foresee and have the assurance of adequate space in quarantine.”

“We will be ready to receive our stranded medical referral patients 14-16 days after the last person checks in to quarantine. We were hopeful that this could be later this week or early next week, however, two new individuals recently disembarked from fishing vessels yesterday, so the clock has to start again, as we do not wish to mingle quarantine individuals from low risk areas (eg. fishing vessels) with individuals from high risk areas (eg. Covid-infected areas such as Guam),” the Governor wrote.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(Date of Issuance: May 6, 2020)

YAP STATE PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION (YSPSC)
WATER TANKS ENGINEERING DESIGN CONSULTANT SERVICES
YAP STATE, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA RFP NO. 2020- 001

On behalf of the Yap State Government, Federated States of Micronesia, the Office of Planning and Budget/**Project Management Office (PMO)** invites proposals for the provision of professional consultant services to perform Engineering Design for the repairs and refurbishment of existing two atmospheric one million gallons (MG) potable water steel tanks and Engineering Design for a new two hundred fifty thousand gallons epoxy coated carbon steel potable water tank located in Colonia, Yap State.

Respondent may request a clarification or inquiry of any of the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents in writing addressed to: Samuel E. Luzano, PMO Manager, Project Management Office, YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970, Colonia, Yap FM 96943 at (691) 350- 2324 or emailed to seluzano@yapstategov.org

All Proposals will be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**RFP No. 2020-001, YSPSC Water Tanks Engineering Design**” and must incorporate the name and address of the Respondent on the outside of the envelope addressed to:

The PMO Manager
Project Management Office
YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970
Colonia, Yap FM 96943

Proposals must be submitted to the above address no later than July 7, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., local time to be eligible for consideration. Proposals received after the deadline shall be rejected.

Whenever Proposals will be sent via FedEx, UPS or other mail carrier, Respondent will ensure that the outside mailing package is also clearly marked “RFP-YSPSC Water Tanks Engineering Design” with the name and address of the Respondent. Packages and envelopes not marked with the name of the proposal may be misidentified and will be rejected.

Proposals can also be submitted in electronic copies by E-mail. Electronic copies of proposals sent through E-mail shall be in PDF and submitted to:

Samuel E. Luzano
PMO Manager
seluzano@yapstategov.org
seluzano@gmail.com

Yela landowners continue to receive benefits from their conservation easement

The ten families who own part of the Yela Valley in Kosrae continue to benefit from their commitment to conservation and sustainable development. In April 2020, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), who manages the Yela Conservation Easement Endowment Fund, released \$21,111 to the Yela Environment Landowners Association (YELA). The easement was established in 2014 with support from The Nature Conservancy, the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), the US Forest Services (USFS) and the Lucile and David Packard Foundation. Every year MCT disburses approximately \$20,000 from the endowment to the landowners to help them manage and benefit from their decision to protect the Yela Valley. This is the 5th year that MCT has made this disbursement. The Yela watershed is a special place that is home to the world’s last remaining terminalia forest stand. Locally known as ka, this species of terminalia exists in Kosrae and in Pohnpei (kehmah). As you fly into Kosrae, you can view the amazing ka forest on your right side of the plane as you are just about to land, with its distinct

and beautiful light green colors.

Conservation easements are common in the US and in other parts of the world, providing a way to assist landowners who wish to sustainably manage and protect their forests that support ecosystem services, for themselves, and for the greater good. The Yela Conservation Easement outlines certain rules, like restrictions on major infrastructure to help maintain the health of the forest resources, but also allows sustainable farming and eco-tourism activities. Today the families also benefit from visitors who pay an entry fee to visit this unique forest by boat or for hiking. The conservation easement is a long-term agreement and if the families continue to abide by their own policies, they will continue to receive the funds from their endowment with MCT. The conservation easement also serves as a sort of forest insurance for Yela. If a natural disaster, such as a typhoon, destroys the forest and the natural resources that support the livelihoods of the landowners, they will continue to receive the earnings from their endowment.

The Waitt Foundation donates \$20,000 to communities across the FSM to support with their COVID19 efforts

Micronesia Conservation Trust

May 26, 2020

The Waitt Foundation, through its partnership with the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), has approved a \$20,000 grant to support the fabrication of face masks to support FSM and its states' COVID-19 prevention efforts. MCT is currently working with its state

and local task forces and partners to identify women's groups to fabricate these masks. MCT and its partners estimate that they will be able to fabricate around 70,000 face masks. This program will not only help the states with their prevention efforts but will also help to spur some alternative sources of livelihoods during these tough times. Some of the masks will be sold for one



dollar a piece to help the participating community women earn money and to support the sustainability of the project, while some will be provided free of charge to certain vulnerable members of the community who cannot afford to pay for these masks. These groups include in particular the elderly with no

or little income, and persons living with disabilities. This kind contribution is part of the Waitt Foundation's commitment to supporting the FSM and its states with their ongoing Blue Prosperity Coalition Program efforts to build blue economies in the FSM.

U.S. Government honors fallen soldiers on Memorial Day

Embassy of the United States of America
Kolonias

In observance of Memorial Day May 25, U.S. Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor and Honorable Secretary Kandhi Elieisar, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs participated in an ocean wreath laying ceremony. The brief ceremony took place in front of the Sokeh's Rock landmark in Pohnpei, FSM. The wreaths were made locally from biodegradable fresh flowers and pandanus fibers.

Also attending the ceremony: Special Advisor Mr. Lorin Robert; FSM Chief of Staff Leo Falcam Jr; Commander Stewart Peter, FSM Maritime Wing; Mr. Richard Clark, FSM Public Information Officer; Ms. Cindy Lutrick, Pohnpei Veterans Association Representative; Staff from U.S. Embassy Kolonia Defense Attaché Office Lt. Col Erin Richter, Mr. Christopher Knight, and SMSgt Jody Robey; Somer Bessire Briars, acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Management Officer, U.S. Embassy Kolonia; ENS Gayle Gauck, Seabee Liaison; Lt. Brian Wood, Officer in Charge, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five, and Ms. Lynn Pangelinan, Economic/Political Specialist, U.S. Embassy Kolonia.

In conjunction to the Pohnpei commemoration, Seabees from the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE (NMCB5) also held a wreath laying ceremony at the Waterfront Park in Yap, FSM. Lt. Bradford Garrigues, Officer in Charge; Electrician Chief Petty Officer Kevin Appleby and Utilitiesman 2nd Class Patrick Krupa are deployed in the FSM to execute construction and humanitarian efforts to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Seabees stationed in Yap have built hand-washing stations throughout the island in preparation for COVID-19.

Memorial Day is commemorated in the United States on the last Monday of the month of May to honor all service members who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Compact of Free Association enables Micronesians to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, which they have done honorably since World War II.



Ambassador Cantor and Secretary Kandhi Elieisar lay wreaths in observance of Memorial Day. Photo By: Christopher Knight



Seabees from NMCB5 salute to commemorate Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony in Yap, FSM. Photo By: Joyce McClure



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First Marshall Islanders in nearly 3 months return home

BY Giff Johnson

29 MAY 2020

MAJURO — Two Marshall Islanders who drifted at sea for 42 days and seven others were returned home Thursday, the first people allowed into this western Pacific nation since early-March after a Covid-19 travel ban was enforced.

They were greeted on arrival by authorities wrapped in full-body personal protection equipment and were tested for Covid-19 at the airports on Kwajalein and Majuro, then placed into 14-day quarantine.

The two fishermen from Ebeye Island, Godfrey Capelle and Benjamin Thomas, survived an ocean drift of over 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) before washing up on Namoluk Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia on May 14. Their repatriation was complicated by international and domestic Covid-19 travel bans in the FSM. Ultimately, they were transported by a FSM surveillance vessel from Chuuk to Pohnpei this week Wednesday in order to be in place for the arrival Thursday of an Air Marshall Islands charter flight dispatched to collect them and seven Marshall Islanders who had been stranded in Pohnpei since the travel ban went into effect March 8. Five Pohnpeians who have been in Majuro had hoped to return home on the charter flight but Pohnpei officials would not allow it.

“The fact that FSM is Covid-19 free has allowed for consideration by the National Disaster Committee to allow the repatriation of these Marshallese,” said government Chief Secretary Kino Kabua Thursday.

Details about the 42-day ordeal of the Ebeye fishermen were not available as they were put straight into quarantine at the US Army Garrison, Kwajalein Atoll on their return Thursday. At Kwajalein, they were joined by Ebeye resident Connielynn Paul, who was one of the seven returned from Pohnpei.

The other six were flown to Majuro, where they also were put into a special quarantine facility managed by the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

Capelle asked authorities at Kwajalein for a cell phone so he could call his wife on Ebeye Island, three miles away from the US Army base. Already away for two months from their families, Capelle and Thomas won't see their nearby relatives for another 14 days until released from quarantine.

All nine Marshall Islanders were tested for Covid-19 in Pohnpei prior to boarding the special, and tested again on arrival in Kwajalein and Majuro before starting the 14-day quarantine, said Kabua. “Director of Public Health Dr. Frank Underwood advised the National Disaster Committee that although the FSM is Covid-19 free and there is little risk, the Marshall Islands should still take extra precautionary measures,” she said.

Thursday's first repatriation of islanders is the start of a plan that will likely see the return of several hundred stranded Marshall Islanders in the United States and other countries, as well as hundreds of U.S. Army base personnel stranded in the US because of the travel ban that will hit the three-month mark in early June.

“Early next month, the (government) will initiate discussions on the arrangements, including protocols, for Marshall Islands citizens stranded in Covid-19-affected countries (to return home),” said Kabua. “Part of this major decision to eventually allow our citizens back home will be contingent upon the completion of the quarantine, isolation and laboratory facilities on Majuro, where the main quarantine activity will take place. Return of citizens will need to be done in batches of manageable numbers.”

The Marshall Islands remains one of a few nations globally without a confirmed case of Covid-19.



The two Ebeye fishermen who survived a 42-day drift at sea and one other Marshall Islander went into a 14-day Covid-19 quarantine period at the US Army base at Kwajalein Thursday afternoon. Pictured, from left: An Army official in full personal protection equipment, Godfrey Capelle, Benjamin Thomas and Connielynn Paul outside their quarantine quarters at the base. Photo by Hilary Hosia



Ebeye fishermen Benjamin Thomas, left, and Godfrey Capelle, who survived a 42-day, 1,600 kilometer ocean drift were repatriated to the Marshall Islands Thursday where they immediately went into a Covid-19 14-day quarantine at the U.S. Army Garrison, Kwajalein Atoll. Photo by Hilary Hosia.

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U.S. Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor kicks off Pohnpei Girl Scout Pilot Program

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

On Saturday, May 23rd Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor kicked off the Pohnpei Girl Scouts Pilot Program at the U.S. Embassy Kolonia with His Excellency FSM President David W. Panuelo and First Lady Patricia Edwin. Ambassador Cantor spoke to the girls about her passion to inspire and empower young girls in the FSM and how Girl Scouts work together to improve their communities and shared a sense of curiosity and a belief they could do anything. Ambassador Cantor was a Girl Scout growing up in Puerto Rico.

Girl Scouts began in 1912 when Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low held the first meeting in Savannah, Georgia. She gathered a group of 18 young girls to share what she had learned abroad about outdoor and educational youth programs. From there, Daisy sparked a movement which continues to inspire millions of girls across the world.

The Pohnpei Girl Scouts is led by President Justleen Ezekias; Vice President Luise Sharma; Sec-retary

McClaine Gilmete; and Treasurer Lindsay Lowe. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the program is limited to 30 girls in Pohnpei, but the troop leaders hope to find more adult volunteers to expand the number of participants to all four States in the FSM.

Ambassador Cantor anticipates the program will build courage and confidence and inspire young girls in the FSM to become leaders within their communities.

TUNE IN TO POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO

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Ambassador Cantor and His Excellency FSM President David W. Panuelo and First Lady Patricia Edwin with the Pohnpei Girl Scouts.

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FSM citizens graduates from the U.S. Service Academies

*Embassy of the United States of America
Kolonias*

“A big, big thank you to my parents and everyone who supported me in this journey. I couldn’t have done it without them” said Cadet Susaia.

On May 21, Cadet Youki Susaia Jr. graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) with a Bachelor of Science in Management. Susaia, 21, is the second citizen from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to graduate from the USCGA and the third to be accepted into the prestigious school. Midshipman Hitoshi Phillip Abello Oue graduated from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology on May 22. Oue, 21 is also an FSM citizen and the third citizen to graduate and have been accepted into the USNA.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the USCGA held their first virtual graduation with 248 graduates, the largest and most diverse graduating class. During the virtual graduation, Secretary Kandhi Elieisar, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs delivered a congratulatory message to Cadet Susaia on behalf of the government of the FSM. U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Carmen G. Cantor and Cadet Susaia’s extended family also sent a Facebook video congratulating Cadet Susaia.

The USNA also held five groups of in-person ceremonies on May 15-20 and concluded with a virtual graduation ceremony with U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper delivering a virtual keynote address. Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor and Midshipman Oue’s family also recorded a video message that was posted on U.S. Embassy Kolonia’s Facebook page.

While attending the Academy, Mid-Shipman Oue participated in the Navy Boxing Club team during his freshmen to junior year. He later became Brigade Boxing Champion in the 139lb category, competing against other collegiate boxers in the tournament.

“I want to thank Clayton and Universe Lawrence and their children, Brenden Yamase, Christopher Alfonso, Jamie and Veronica Pangelinan Amor who were living abroad during my time at the Naval Academy and made me feel a lot closer to home,” said Midshipman Oue.

Under the Compact of Free Association, the F.S.M. may nominate candidates to compete for admission at each of the U.S. Service Academies: the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Army’s Military Academy (West Point), and Merchant Marines’ Academy (Kings Point). The nominees must be FSM citizens between the ages of seven-teen and twenty-three. Both students enrolled in the prestigious schools after graduating from Xavier High School in Chuuk, FSM.



Midshipman Hitoshi Phillip Abello Oue
U.S. Naval Academy
B.S. Information Technology

Cadet Youki Susaia Jr.
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
B.S. Management

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2020-001

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



POSITION: PCS Principal
JOB DESCRIPTION: The position of PCS principal consists of planning, managing, or coordinating the academic, administration, clerical, or auxiliary activities of the PCS elementary and high schools.
LOCATION: Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS), Kolonia, Pohnpei State
SALARY: Depending on Qualification & Work Experience
OPENING DATE: May 25, 2020
CLOSING DATE: June 25, 2020

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Illustrative only):

1. Administer/manage school activities and staff.
2. Collaborate with teachers to develop and maintain curriculum standards; develop mission statements, and set performance goals and objectives.
3. Confer with parents and staff to discuss educational activities, policies, and student behavioral or learning problems.
4. Counsel and provide guidance to students regarding personal, academic, vocational, or behavioral issues.
5. Enforce discipline and attendance rules.
6. Establish, coordinate, and oversee particular programs across school districts, such as programs to evaluate student academic achievement.
7. Evaluate curricula, teaching methods, and programs to determine their effectiveness, efficiency, and utilization, and to ensure that school activities comply with state and local regulations.
8. Observe teaching methods and examine learning materials to evaluate and standardize curricula and teaching techniques, and to determine areas where improvement is needed.
9. Plan and lead professional development activities for teachers, administrators, and support staff.

10. Recruit, hire, train, and evaluate primary and supplemental staff.
11. Set educational standard and goals, and help establish policies and procedures to carry them out.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Required qualifications and skills/experience for the position include:

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor’s degree (or higher) in education or other related field of study
- At least one (1) to two (2) years of related work experience and training
- At least one (1) to two (2) years experience in school accreditation
- Enthusiastic and passionate leader/administrator with good “people skills”
- Pro-active in addressing crises
- Proficient at curriculum development
- Capable of developing an annual budget
- Proficient at developing grant/funding proposals
- Excellent oral and verbal communication skills,
- Proficient in use of Microsoft Office (preferred),
- Excellent oral and verbal communication skills,
- Proven good problem-solving skills, and coursework conflict management.
- Excellent public speaker

APPLICATION:

Interested applicants should provide the following in a package:

- i. Letter of interest (how can you be an asset in the position of PCS Principal)
- ii. Curriculum vitae/resume
- iii. Copies of degrees or school transcript
- iv. Name and contact details for 3 referees

Application packages consisting of the above 4 items should be emailed to the PCS Board at email address 2020pcsboard@gmail.com no later than June 25, 2020.

Micronesian Resource Center one-stop shop continues assistance during COVID-19 pandemic

Micronesian Resource Center

May 26, 2020

Harmon, GUAM- The Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop (MRCOSS), a division of local nonprofit Mañe’lu, provides informational and educational resources to those migrating from the Freely Associated States (FAS) to assist individuals and families with their transition to life on Guam. The project, which started in 2015, is funded by the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs and received additional CARES Act funding from the agency to assist in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the first confirmed case of COVID-19, MRCOSS’s multi-lingual caseworkers have been hard at work translating important information related to COVID-19 government regulations into Chuukese, Pohnpeian and Kosraean, and responding to client inquiries over the phone and online. MRCOSS has also partnered up with the FSM Association and the FSM Consulate to start holding live Virtual Village Meetings to help the

FAS community stay connected during the pandemic. The next Virtual Village Meeting will be on Thursday, May 28, 2020 and can be watched by clients via Facebook or through Zoom.

“We have been receiving calls, emails and messages from people who need assistance understanding the application process for public benefits as well as applying for those benefits,” said Project Director Edimund Wengu. “In the near future, the team is looking forward to receiving training from the Department of Labor to help clients complete the pandemic unemployment assistance application.”

Although the MRCOSS program primarily caters to those from the FAS, the office has experienced an uptick of calls from Guam residents of all backgrounds requesting assistance.

“We have been very active on social media to get out important information and offer our services to those in need. We are happy to help everybody during these difficult times.” Said Wengu.

The MRCOSS office is located in the Harmon Industrial Park and is currently open by appointment only Monday – Friday from 8am to 5pm. To ensure client and staff safety, the office requests that clients who feel ill refrain from visiting the office. Face masks and social distancing guidelines have been instituted and surfaces are sanitized after each client visit. If you, or someone you know could benefit from the multi-lingual assistance of the MRCOSS staff, please contact the office at 789-1265, send an email to mrcoss@manelu.org or send a message on Facebook @mrcoss.guam.

Pohnpei Government Ethics and Payroll Processing and Accountability Workshop

Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor

Kolonia, Pohnpei – On May 12, 2020, the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) conducted a workshop on government ethics and payroll processing and accountability for employees of the Department of Treasury and Administration (DoT&A) and the Administrative Officers of the various departments, offices and agencies of the Pohnpei State Government. The workshop was delivered at the invitation of the new Director of DoT&A as part of POPA’s ongoing public awareness and proactive efforts to promote and improve transparency, accountability and good governance in the Pohnpei State Government.

See “Pohnpei workshop” Continued on next page



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A Tribute to The Honorable Camillo Noket, Chief Justice of the Chuuk State Supreme Court

By Chief Justice Dennis K. Yamase,
FSM Supreme Court

May 18, 2020

On Monday, May 11, 2020, the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received the very sad news of the passing of the Honorable Camillo Noket, Chief Justice (CJ) of the Chuuk State Supreme Court (CSSC) in Manila, Philippines on May 4, 2020.

All of the FSM Supreme Court Justices and staff share in the sorrow of CJ Noket's unexpected and untimely passing. CJ Noket served on many FSM Supreme Court appeals when our constitutionally appointed Justices were unable to serve due to conflicts. In addition to being the Chief Justice of the Chuuk State Supreme Court (CSSC), CJ Noket was

an important and integral part of our Court as well, and we will all miss him greatly.

CJ Noket accomplished so much as the Chief Justice of the Chuuk State Supreme Court. I remember when he first took over the leadership of the CSSC in 2006. The Court had been struggling with a lack of leadership and was encountering problems of corruption. As soon as CJ Noket took over as Chief Justice, he took strong and effective action to immediately prevent any more unethical conduct in his court. In a very short time he dealt with the problem and stopped it completely. I credit him for taking this action and setting his court's operations back on track. Only a man with strong leadership skills and the respect of his community could have taken this kind of decisive and effective action.

Recently, Chief Justice Noket had undertaken a new and important project to upgrade his court's facilities. He had renovated most, if not all, of the court's courtrooms, offices, and meeting rooms. When he opened his newly renovated court facilities those of us who were there marveled at the changes he had managed to make. It was like a brand new court building. It was only with his vision and expectations for the future of his court that he had managed to accomplish so much, so quickly, with so little.

For many years, CJ Noket had exhibited his leadership skills as the Federated States of Micronesia Attorney General, the Directing Attorney of Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) office in Chuuk State, and as a member and President of the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC). At the time of his passing he was serving as the President of the PJC.

As President, he worked very hard to help organize and conduct numerous training programs for the judges of our immediate area in the Pacific. He himself attended many training programs of the PJC, the National Judicial College (NJC), the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI) (run by the Federal Court of Australia and with funding support by New Zealand), the University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the FSM Supreme Court.



Chief Justice Noket understood the importance of continued legal education to help advance the skills of the judges and attorneys in the region. Especially those who like himself had not had the benefit of a formal legal education. He had himself benefited from these kinds of programs in being the first FSM citizen who had passed the FSM Bar Exam without having graduated from a law school. He was also the first FSM citizen trial assistant to be admitted to practice law before the Trust Territory High Court as an attorney by Chief Justice Alex R. Munson.

He was the FSM Attorney General at a time when I was the Legislative Counsel of the FSM Congress and it was during this time that I got to know CJ Noket well and I came to respect his actions as the Nation's top law enforcement officer. Even though he and I might have disagreed at times, I always found that his actions as the Attorney General were sound and fair. He was always a very level headed leader and always carefully considered both sides of an issue before making a decision.

I think it was CJ Noket's various experiences that made him such an effective leader for his court and his beloved State of Chuuk. He had worked for many years in both the executive and judicial branches of his state and the national government, he had headed the MLSC office in Chuuk for many years, and he was a high traditional leader. All of these experiences helped to hone his skills as an effective leader and judge for the State of Chuuk and the FSM.

I will be one of his many friends who will miss his leadership and sense of humor dearly. Very simply, things will not be the same without him. To his wife Anna and family, and the people of Chuuk, my Court and I, express our sincere condolences and we share in your sorrow over the loss of a great judge and leader.

China donates masks, protective suits, gloves, & \$50,000 to the FSM's COVID-19 response

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 21st, 2020 the Honorable Livingston A. Taulung, Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs, received His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China (China) on behalf of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), at a FSM National Government warehouse. The purpose of the meeting was for China to formally handover approximately 10,000 medical face masks, 200 sets of protective clothing, and 1,000 pairs of medical gloves, in addition to a \$50,000 cash donation, to assist the National and State Governments in tackling the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This is the second wave of assistance from China, as the National Government had previously taken receipt of \$100,000 of financial support and an additional \$150,000 equivalent in donations of personal protective equipment for first responders. It was noted that China had also donated \$20,000 of assistance to Pohnpei State directly, as a sign of the Great Friendship between the FSM and China.

In the discussion between Secretary Taulung and Ambassador Huang, it was noted that, through the Great Friendship between the FSM and China, additional assistance will be forthcoming. Ambassador Huang advised that, when a vaccine is available, the people and Government of China will ensure that the vaccine is given to the international community, including the FSM.

"Our people will benefit from this," Secretary Taulung said. "Rest assured that we will be delivering these supplies fairly to all of our States. I know that our Great Friendship includes the relationship between the FSM and China, as well as our States and China's Provinces.... This gift of assistance reflects the FSM-China Great Friendship. As you know, developing countries have challenges not only in terms of human resources but also in terms of financial capacity. The assurance from your President with regards to this continued assistance is welcome, and we want to extend our utmost appreciation for that. Furthermore...we appreciate China's willingness to develop a vaccine for this Pandemic, in addition to its promise to share it with our people."

"We really believe that this Pandemic is a global humanitarian crisis," Ambassador Huang said. "The virus respects no borders, and global cooperation and solidarity is the strongest weapon to fight it."

The FSM and China have had nearly 31 years of Great Friendship, based on the bedrock of the One-China Policy and a mutually shared commitment to respect and common development.

...Pohnpei workshop

Continued from previous page

In summary, the basic principles of ethical conduct expected of each individual Pohnpei Government employee were stressed during discussions in line with the guidelines provided in the Codes of Ethics law enshrined in the 9 PC 8-101 to 8-132 of the Code of the State of Pohnpei. POPA also shared with the participants copies of its own Employees' Code of Conduct statement and encouraged those that do not have one yet to develop and implement something similar but in conformity with their mission statement, work ethics, integrity and core values.

Payroll is the largest single expenditure category item of the Pohnpei State Government. The government spends an average of approximately \$17.5 million or nearly 50% of its budget annually to compensate for the services of its employees or workforce members in recent years. Participants were encouraged to improve monitoring and strengthening of the payroll processing system to ensure all time full compliance with all payroll relevant laws and procedures.

Those who facilitated the workshop from the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) included Ms. Alice Etse, Audit Manager, Ms. Sophia Pretrick, CID Advisor and Mr. Pehres Pedrus, Staff Auditor III.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
For Group Life Insurance
[RFP NO.001]

FSM Group Life Insurance Program Group
c/o Rencelly Nelson
College of Micronesia-FSM
P.O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941
Phone: (691)320-2480/2481
Fax: (691)320-2479

GENERAL PURPOSE: The FSM Group Life Insurance Group referred to herein as "Group" is requesting proposals from qualified Insurance Companies ("Companies") desiring to provide life insurance benefits to the FSM Group.

- 1. The Company must have provided similar life insurance plans to at least two (2) organizations similar in size in terms of number of employees the FSM Group.
2. The Company must maintain an office within the Federated States of Micronesia with sales representatives in all the four (4) states.
3. The Company must be licensed to conduct group life insurance business in the Federated States of Micronesia.

BACKGROUND:

The FSM Group is consisted of government entities, quasi government entities, and some local governments within the Federated States of Micronesia. The FSM Group currently has approximately 4,000 employees and has provided life insurance benefits through Individual Assurance Company (IAC). The current life insurance benefits include:

1. Basic Term Policy

- Basic life insurance coverage
• Accidental Death and Dismemberment - Disability Waiver of Premium
• Living Benefit Rider

2. Dependent Plan

- Spouse
• Children
• Disabled dependents (no age restriction)

Currently, entities have the options to purchase basic life coverage at 1X, 1.5X, 2X, 2.5 X, or 3X, or 4X the employee's annual salary. Employees have the options to purchase dependent coverage in the amount of \$3,000 for children and \$10,000 for spouse

TERMS OF COVERAGE:

Life Insurance Coverage shall be proposed for three (3) years from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023 with an option for annual rate renegotiation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

The following minimum qualifications have been established as a basis for determining the eligibility of a Company. No proposal will be considered unless sufficient documentation is provided in the proposal to determine that the Company meets the following requirements:

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

Proposals must be sealed and hand delivered or e-mailed to the Vice President of the FSM Group. The delivery of the proposal prior to the deadline is solely and strictly the responsibility of the Company. Proposal must be delivered to the location listed below. The FSM Group will not be responsible for delays caused by delivery services or for delays caused by any other occurrence.

Interested Companies must submit their proposal no later than 3:00 p.m., local Pohnpei time, Friday, July 1, 2020 to:

Ms. Rencelly Nelson
C/O
College of Micronesia-FSM/National Campus
P.O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Tel: 691-320-2482

SCHEDULE:

The following is the anticipated schedule for this project:

DATE DESCRIPTION

Table with 2 columns: DATE, DESCRIPTION. Rows include: June 1, 2020 Bid Announcement; July 1, 2020 3:00 p.m. Deadline for Proposal Submittals; August 31, 2020 Proposal Evaluation and Selection by FSM Group begins; October 1, 2020 Notice to Proceed

REVIEW RIGHTS:

The Board reserves the right to modify the schedule during the RFP process with at least five (5) days Written Notice by e-mail to the Companies.

Society for Human Resources Management (FSM Chapter) was incorporated May 23, 2019. During its first official meeting held February 2020 in Kosrae, this mission statement adopted.

Empower our people and advance the human resources profession in the FSM through ethical leadership in building resilient organizations, engaged employee teams, and effective human capital capacity.

Current membership include the human resources and other personnel from FSM government, state governments, and other agencies such as FSM Telecommunication Corporation, Pohnpei Port Authority, VITAL-FSM Petroleum Corporation, College of Micronesia-FSM, COM-Land Grant, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, FSM Development Bank, Kosrae Utility Corporation, Kosrae Housing Authority, and Yap Public Service Corporation to name a few. We are inviting HR professionals, Business

Professionals, and those who are willing to serve in this new organization to support our mission.

If you are interested and wish to know more about the organization and its activities, you may contact any of the officers.

- Dwight Edwards, FSM National Government
• Lover Haimin, FSM Development Bank
• Marleen Ngirametuker, VITAL
• Zorro Donre, Pohnpei Port Authority
• Elizabeth Phal, Yap State Government
• Rencelly Nelson, College of Micronesia-FSM

We can all help stop it at the start

*Royal Australian Navy
Maritime Surveillance, FSM*

On the 28th of May members of the FSM Maritime Wing and Australian Defence Force staff wore black to express their support against violence to women. CPO Craig Hoskin, the Australian Technical Adviser to the Maritime Wing said " As a father and grandfather to young girls it is important that we all work together to stop violence against women both here in FSM but also around the world.

As parents, and as influencers of young people, we want the best for kids. We want them to have positive experiences, healthy relationships and opportunities to learn. We want them to understand right and wrong. We want them to respect others, and respect themselves.

We do our best to set a good example, but sometimes, without meaning to, we

might say things that excuse disrespectful behaviour in young people. It's important we understand the cycle of violence. Not all disrespect towards women results in violence. But all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour.

You never know when a situation might come up for a conversation with young people about respect. It could be a proactive, preventative conversation, or it could be that you've seen an incident that needs addressing. It's not always going to be easy, but it's a conversation worth having. Every time we speak out against disrespectful behaviour, we're one step closer to stopping the violence against women.

The Australian Defence staff and members of the FSM Maritime Wing will continue to wear black on Thursday to show their support for this important cause.



FFA continues to monitor fishing amidst COVID19 situation

Forum Fisheries Agency

22 May 2020

HONIARA: As Pacific nations face the threat of coronavirus to their health and economic growth, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has taken action to continue to monitor and control fishing of the world's largest tuna stocks.

A key tool in FFA Member's efforts for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing in Pacific nations is observers, placed on board fishing vessels to verify catches, transshipment of fish at sea, and compliance with other key rules.

However, worried of the threat of observers catching and spreading the coronavirus, FFA's 17 member countries decided to suspend the mandatory requirement for use of observers until further notice, a decision later endorsed by the Western and

Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

FFA Director General Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen said: "Stopping the use of observers onboard fishing vessels during the coronavirus crisis does not mean that illegal fishing will go unchecked.

"Right now, FFA continues supporting Pacific countries with other tools such as the Vessel Monitoring System, surveillance operations and data analysis."

"FFA member countries have responsibilities for the safety and health of observers, who are their citizens, often traversing international borders and regions, and to uphold national border control and shutdowns.

"This is the primary reason that the use of observers has been suspended, and in the meantime other monitoring, control and surveillance tools will help ensure that fishing

US and FSM begin negotiations on expiring provisions of Compact of Free Association

Secretariat for the Joint Committee on Compact Review & Planning (JCRP)

Negotiators representing the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia met by video conference today for the first session of negotiations on the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association between the two nations.

Both sides expressed regret at being unable to meet in person because of current circumstances but pledged to make the most of the virtual meetings until face-to-face meetings can resume. They welcomed the resumption of talks and expressed a desire for a speedy and successful conclusion to the negotiations.

Calling 2019 "a historic time in the relationship between our two countries," US co-negotiator Ambassador Karen Stewart highlighted the steps that led to the start of the current talks, beginning with the May 2019 meeting between President Donald Trump and President David Panuelo in Washington, D.C. This was followed by the historic visits later in the year to the FSM by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, and a US interagency team.

U.S. co-negotiator Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs of the Department of Interior, underscored the shared history, shared values and mutual ties that bind the two nations together. He pointed to several examples of this in programs such as Pell Grants and most recently the joint efforts with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistant Secretary Domenech explained that the US had set out an ambitious timetable for the discussions and stressed that the US/FSM bilateral relationship is "strong and here to last."

Stating that the FSM "commitment to

vessels are monitored and that action can be taken if required," said Dr Tupou-Roosen.

Vessels detected fishing that are not licensed and on the FFA Vessel Monitoring System (a live database tracking vessels through automatic satellite locator devices) can still be boarded and inspected to confirm activities are in accordance with the law.

Necessary social distancing and protective equipment is to be used by maritime officers to ensure safety of these inspections.

Chair of the Officials Forum

mutual security is enduring and that the US-FSM strategic partnership reflects the common values of our two countries," FSM Chief Negotiator Falcam stressed the importance to the FSM of maintaining and improving the special and longstanding relationship it shares with the US. He welcomed the prompt start to negotiations and pledged his delegation's best efforts to meet the ambitious schedule proposed by the US, reminding that both the FSM Congress and the US Congress would need to approve the delegations' work once agreement is reached.

The Compact of Free Association was implemented in 1986. Financial provisions of that original agreement expired after 17 years and were renewed through the Amended Compact of Free Association in 2003. A number of key economic support provisions and U.S. programs and services are scheduled to expire in 2023 unless extended or renegotiated. Other elements of the Compact relationship have no expiration date and remain in effect.

During the meeting, delegates paused to remember and express condolences at the untimely passing of longtime US diplomat in the Pacific, Ambassador Matt Matthews. The FSM also extended condolences to the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and gratitude to the US for their support to the FSM in combating the pandemic.

Both sides agreed that early discussions would focus on federal programs and services and noted the cooperative work that had been done by both sides in the past few months. Work on this and other topics will take place in technical discussion to move the process forward in advance of the next formal bilateral meeting, tentatively scheduled for the end of June 2020.

Fisheries Committee, Eugene Pangelinan, said that continuing fishing was a priority for Pacific Island countries, where licence and access fees are a major source of government revenue.

"Our intent is to do everything we can to minimise disruption of fishing operations in a manner where we can still monitor such operations, despite the COVID19 situation.

"This will help limit any negative economic impacts of the coronavirus situation in the Pacific," Mr Pangelinan said.

- Pohnpei-based position
- Attractive expatriate package
- Join the principal development organisation in the region



The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Finance & Administrative Officer in its Micronesia Regional Office (MRO). This position will be located at its regional office in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

DESCRIPTION

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 26 country and territory members. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our unique organisation works across more than 25 sectors. We are known for our knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The **Micronesia Regional Office (MRO)** situated in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), is the main hub for SPC's projects and partnerships with the Micronesian members of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Republic of Palau, and the territories of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Guam. The MRO opened in January 2006.

The role – the **Finance & Administrative Officer** will provide efficient assistance to the Director-MRO in the overall operations of the office. To promote an environment conducive to teamwork and professionalism for the effective delivery of financial, administrative and programme support services.

The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. Advice to the Director MRO on the financial management of the MRO including the office budget, managing any audit or other financial risks.
2. MRO financial records are up to date and accurate, spending is monitored in accordance with SPC policies and requirements, and payment are made on time.
3. Advice to Director MRO to ensure effective and efficient office administration and program support.
4. Work with HQ to align MRO systems with SPC systems to improve efficiency and effectiveness of financial administrative service delivery.
5. Work as part of a small team, including supervision of a staff member.
6. Other duties as required.

For a more detailed account of the key responsibilities, please refer to the online job description.

1. Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in public administration, accounting, business, commerce or public finance.

2. Essential experience and skills

- At least 5 years of experience in public and/or private sector administrative and financial management.
- Demonstrated knowledge of accounting systems in a large organization.
- A proven track record in and commitment to mentoring, capacity development and transferring skills to local staff.
- Strong planning and organisational skills including the ability to manage a number of competing priorities.
- Experience with use of computerised accounting systems and Windows.

Closing date: 24th June 2020 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time

Job Reference: AL000291

Applicants can apply online at: <http://careers.spc.int/>.

For your application to be considered, you must provide us with:

- an updated resume with contact details for three professional referees
- a cover letter detailing your skills, experience and interest in this position
- responses to all screening questions

Please answer all of the screening questions, if you do not answer these questions your application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed at shortlisting stage.

Screening questions:

1. How do you go about prioritising your workload and managing competing demands? Please provide an example of a method or tool that you use to support this process and how you would apply the tool.
2. What do you see as the most challenging work in the role of FAO? What skills do you bring to the role to make you a strong candidate?
3. Please describe a situation where you've had to address a complex administrative or financial problem with work colleagues. In detail, clarify the steps involved including process you took to identify, address and resolve the problem. Please explain how you addressed the situation with the players involved, including your supervisor, and share the end result or outcome. Looking back now on this situation, would you have approached the matter differently and why?

**FSM Association of Chambers of Commerce
Employment Opportunity**

Open: June 1, 2020 - Close: June 30, 2020

Position: FSMACC Executive Director

Salary: \$16,000 to \$20,000 per year depending on qualifications

Housing: Available for recruit from other FSM States aside from Pohnpei.

Duration: One Year Contract, Subject to Renewal

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Follow-up and Implement decisions made by the FSMACC Board
- Meeting preparation supervision including the necessary technical services.
- Prepare the annual budget and work plan for the FSMACC for Board approval.
- Seek technical and financial assistance from donors and partners to enhance the development of the private sector in the FSM.
- Direct the implementation of the FSMACC Strategic Plan.
- Works to establish the FSMACC as a self-directed, autonomous organization that works closely with the government, private sector, and other partners.
- Coordinates the flow of information between State Chambers of Commerce and other partners.
- Some clerical duties required.
- Undertake all other duties as determined by the Board of Directors.
- In the conduct of duties, the Executive Director shall follow sound management, administrative and financial procedures and keep accurate financial records of funds made available and disbursed for FSMACC activities.

Reporting:

The Executive Director reports to the President of the FSMACC Board of Directors and will be working in close collaboration with the Secretary of the FSM Department of Resources & Development and his appropriate staff. The Executive Director of the FSMACC must also respond to inquiries and requests for assistance from the four (4) states chamber of commerce as needed.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Possess an AS or BA Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Political Science or similar fields is desirable, but not required; work experience can be considered as an alternative;
- At least 3 years of work experience in dealing with private sector, business and private sector development;
- A detailed knowledge of the private sector in the FSM;
- A good working knowledge of FSM business laws will be an advantage;
- Proficiency in public speaking and prior grant writing experience preferred.
- An excellent command of both spoken and written English, including an the ability to prepare clear, precise briefs and other papers for consideration by the Board of the FSMACC;
- An ability to produce high-quality work under time constraints and work to strict deadlines;
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, and Microsoft Access; and
- Possess a pleasant personality, hardworking, result oriented, team player.

Location: The FSMACC office is located in the FSM Department of R&D, Palikir Pohnpei.

Contact: For interested applicants, please submit your resume with three (3) Letters of Reference to: Mr. Redley Killion, P.O. Box 934, Weno, Chuuk State, FSM 96942 Scanned copies may be sent to redleykillion@yahoo.com and cindys.mori@gmail.com. You may also contact your State Chamber of Commerce Office for submission of application packets.

College of Micronesia-FSM

Follow us online:



www.comfsm.fm

College Opens Traditional Navigation Program

The College of Micronesia-FSM is scheduled to start a Traditional Navigation Program on June 1, 2020 at FSM-FMI in Yap in collaboration with Okeanos Foundation. The college is promoting alternative sustainable water transportation for the future of the people of FSM. The college in collaboration with Okeanos Foundation is recruiting ten students for "Traditional Navigation and applied Seamanship on offshore sailing canoes". Interested students must be citizens of FSM, high school graduates, and healthy individuals.



The program will be taught by Grand Master Navigator Ali Haleyalur of the Weriyeng School of Navigation. The applied Seamanship part of the program will be taught by Okeanos Grand Master Navigator Peia Patai.

Anyone interested in joining the traditional navigation program should contact one of the following:

Tiotti B. Teburea at tioti@comfsm.fm or Karen Simion at ksimion@comfsm.fm

PELL Grant Available This Summer 2020

Student who has exhausted his/her Pell Grant award in Fall and Spring (meaning student was carrying full time credit loads in both semesters) may be eligible to receive 150% of his scheduled Pell Grant. The student must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours to receive additional Pell Grant in Summer 2020.

Example 1: Any student who was enrolled as a three fourth time in Fall 2019 and full time in Spring 2020 still has remaining Pell Grant. If he/she registered for 6 credit hours he can still be eligible for his remaining Pell plus some from the 50% additional Pell. Their total Pell Grant will be approximately 112.5%.

Example 2: If a student enrolled full time in Fall 2019 and full time in Spring 2020. The student was awarded 100% of his initial scheduled Pell Grant. If the student register for 3 credit hours in Summer 2020 the student enrollment status is less than half time. Therefore, he/she is not eligible for additional Pell Grant.

For questions or to check eligibility please contact the Financial Aid Office at your campus.



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