

Police seek help to determine cause of death of Sekere woman as investigation continues

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 25, 2019

Pohnpei—Pohnpei residents are reeling after the remains of a young woman who had been missing for nine days were found on the afternoon of Saturday, September 21.

22 year old Michelle Layola was well known in the Sekere community. Her family says that the last time they saw her was on September 12. They said it wasn't unusual for her to disappear without notice for a few days at a time. Always before when that has happened, someone would call them to let them know that Michelle was with them and that she was safe. No call came this time. After four days of contacting everyone they could think to contact, her family filed a missing persons report with the Pohnpei State Police on September 16.

They put up posters wherever they could and hoped that someone would know something.



Pohnpei Police Officer Alvin Martin says that on September 21, 70 volunteers showed up to conduct a search on land adjacent to Sekere Elementary School. Officer Martin is also an officer of the Sekere Community Youth Group and was operating as a member of the community outside of his duties as a patrolman. "It was a community effort," he said, "not mine." Though the search was not organized by the Department

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President Panuelo and Mr. Ted Waitt shake hands

FSM Information Services
Blue Prosperity Coalition
Waitt Institute
Joint Press Release

NEW YORK—On September 25th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), signed on behalf of the FSM National Government a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Blue Prosperity Coalition to protect 30% of its ocean by 2030. Announced on the margins of the 74th United Nations General Assembly at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum, the MOU is the beginning of a partnership between the FSM and the Blue Prosperity Coalition working together to ensure the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improving the livelihoods of communities, and protecting the health of ocean ecosystems. President Panuelo will collaborate and consult with the FSM Congress and

relevant stakeholders in FSM to formulate the necessary legislative and regulatory measures to give effect and meaning to this MOU.

The MOU is the result of the President's meetings with Blue Prosperity Coalition in Washington D.C. in May 2019, and again upon his invitation to Mr. Ted Waitt, Founder and Chairman of Blue Prosperity Coalition, to visit the FSM in July 2019. "We are fortunate that we live in paradise," President Panuelo stressed during his Inaugural Address on July 29th, 2019. "We are blessed with clean water and air, fertile soil and healthy reefs, majestic mountains and captivating sunrises and sunsets. We can't take these for granted..."

See "FSMNG MOU" on page 4

People’s Republic of China celebrates 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations & friendship with the Federated States of Micronesia

Alvie B. Cabañez
The Kaselehlie Press volunteer

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the FSM, and the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese Embassy hosted a dinner reception at Mangrove Bay Bar and Grille on September 13, 2019.

The Embassy presented two videos. The first was on China-FSM relations and friendship highlighting the infrastructure projects, connectivity, trade and investment cooperation, and the facilitation of people to-people exchanges brought by the partnership.

The second video was entitled “The Beautiful China 2019” which recounted China’s transformation from standing up, growing rich to becoming strong today.

His Excellency, Huang Zheng, reiterated four principles in order to maintain the long-term, sound and stable development of China-FSM relations and to continuously score new achievements. “China highly appreciates the stance of the FSM government in strictly adhering to the One China Principle and its leading role in safeguarding the One China Principle in the region. That is why the FSM is a leader in this neighborhood. Without this cornerstone and bedrock, the whole edifice of our partnership would collapse,” he said.

Aside from the One China Principle, H. E. Huang Zheng, emphasized that China and the FSM should always pursue

common development. “All countries ought to connect with each other to form a community with shared future. China regards FSM as an important partner in the pursuing of the Belt and Road Initiative,” he continued.

He closed his speech by proposing a toast. “To the prosperity of China and the FSM, to our people’s happiness, to our continuous achievements of exchanges and cooperation in various fields, to the lasting friendship between our two peoples, and to the health, happiness and success of all our friends here present this evening. Cheers!”

FSM President David W. Panuelo also delivered his message. “Since establishing diplomatic ties 30 years ago, our two Governments and Peoples have enjoyed a friendly and productive relationship. The One China Policy is the bedrock of the FSM’s overall bilateral relationship with China, as I have stated many times before,” he said.

“Our Nation cannot forget the strong Chinese support for the FSM’s membership in the United Nations in 1991, which was key support for international recognition when other friends were hesitant to take the lead in supporting our independent and sovereign right. For that, we respect China and are always grateful for your sincere support,” the President continued. His Excellency and his lovely wife, Ms. Yingguang Zhao welcomed the distinguished guests ranging from FSM government officials, diplomats, to Chinese compatriots. The atmosphere was festive, embellished by the flags of the two nations, selected wines, and a wide-



array of delicious foods courtesy of Ms. Mary Jean Dizon, owner of Kaselehlie Diner.

The guests went home with a gift bag packed with a t-shirt, a USB desktop fan, a polo shirt, and a Chinese Embassy pin.

Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 21st Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia; former FSM President’s Emmanuel Mori and Joseph J. Urusemal; His Excellency Robert Riley, US Ambassador to the FSM; and various members of the 21st Congress of the FSM were present during the event.

The event was hosted by Second Secretary Wu Yibo, Political Affairs officer of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the FSM.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

KPress is looking for dedicated correspondents in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. We will pay you for articles and collection of ads. Contact us at the numbers or email above.

Congress approves national budget and certain nominations

Congress Public Information Office

September 27, 2019

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – Following weeks of intense and detailed hearings with the national departments and offices, the 21st Congress passed a budget for the National Government for fiscal year 2020 and confirmed nominations for the diplomatic missions of Federated States of Micronesia.

The Congress passed Congressional Act (CA) 21-48 to approve a budget of \$ 62,063,148 for operations of the FSM National Government for fiscal year 2020 which starts on October 1, 2019 and ends September 30, 2020. According to CA 21-48, the National Government budget is apportioned as follows:

- Executive Branch - \$ 23,430,412;
- Legislative Branch - \$ 6,295,860;
- Judicial Branch - \$ 1,724,023;
- Public Auditor - \$ 895,420;
- Agencies of the National Government - \$ 3,067,198;
- Special Programs - \$ 442,173;
- Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - \$ 14,141,639; and
- Capital and Human Resources Development - \$ 12,066,423.

Along with the national budget, the Congress also attended to the President's nominations for the Nation's diplomatic missions and for his Cabinet.

For the Nation's missions overseas, the 21st Congress adopted Congressional Resolution (CR) 21-60 to confirm Akillino Susaia as the Nation's Ambassador to the United States of America based at the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C. Also for the Embassy, the Congress adopted CR 21-55 to confirm Jackson T. Soram to serve as the FSM Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S.

Earlier in July, the Congress had addressed the FSM Embassy in Japan and adopted CR 21-31 which confirmed John Fritz as the Nation's Ambassador to Japan as based

at the FSM Embassy in Tokyo. Also for the FSM Embassy in Japan, the Congress had adopted CR 21-30, to confirm Roger S. Mori as the FSM's Deputy Chief of Mission to Japan.

The Congress had also in July adopted CR 21-36 to confirm Wilson Floyd Waguk to serve as the FSM Deputy Chief of Mission to the Nation's Embassy in Fiji.

And for the FSM's mission to the United Nations, through CR 21-56, the Congress confirmed Jeem Lippwe to serve as the Deputy Permanent Representative for the FSM Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Rounding out the FSM's overseas mission, the Congress adopted CR 21-32, for Teresa Filepin to continue as the FSM Consul General to Guam. Along the same lines, the Congress adopted CR 21-57, for Joe B. Enlet to continue as the FSM Consul General in Portland, Oregon.

For the President's Cabinet nominations, the Congress adopted CR 21-35 and confirmed Kalwin Kephias to continue his role in the new Administration as the Secretary for the Department of Education. Similarly, through the adoption of CR 21-26, the Congress confirmed Ginger Porter Mida to also continue her role as the Nation's Post Master General.

During the July Special Session, the Congress had confirmed CR 21-15, for Andrew Yatilman to continue his role as Secretary of the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management. And also during the same session, through CR 21-16, the Congress confirmed Dr. Rufino Mauricio to continue his work as Director of the National Archives, Historic and Cultural Preservation Office.

With the exception of the nomination for the Secretary of the Department of Foreign

Affairs which was deferred to the next session of Congress, most of the Cabinet nominations that were submitted for action during the 2nd Regular Session of the 21st Congress were defeated. The defeated nominations are for:

- Secretary for the Department of the Finance and Administration (CR 21-50, Eugene Amor);
- Secretary for the Department of the Health and Social Affairs (CR 21-58, Livingston A. Taulung);
- Secretary for the Department of Transportation, Communications and

Infrastructure (CR 21-59, Rob Solomon); and
- Secretary for the Department of Justice (CR 21-61, Joses R. Gallen, Esq.).

The Second Regular Session of the 21st Congress completed its work on the nominations and the national budget and adjourned sine-die on September 27, 2019.

According to law, the next regular session of the Congress will be January 10, 2020 unless a special session is called sooner.

Caroline Islands Air flight crash lands in Ta

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

According to social media posts, the only sources available to us, the five passengers and the pilot of the Caroline Islands Air (CIA) flight that crash landed on Ta, Chuuk last week walked away from the crash with no injuries.

The responsible FSM Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure employee, after having seen our messages, did not respond. CIA's phones went unanswered when we called.

Left only to photographic evidence provided by Dabuniom Dabres of the plane as it ended on the runway, it appears that the plane attempted to land with the right wing dipped

below the horizon.

FSM sources have provided no comment on the crash or what recovery efforts will be undertaken.



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

October 14, 2019

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

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

18 boats participate in annual Blue Nile Fishing Tournament



Pohnpei Fishing Club

We had a good turnout and a good day out fishing. Everyone thought it was going to rain all day, but in the end nobody got drenched and no one had to build an ark. The winds came from a totally different direction though, so a lot of people got to fish on the Madolenihmw side of Pohnpei for a change.

18 boats registered and all returned safely.

We want to thank our sponsors Blue Nile, WESTCO and Ambros, Inc. (Budweiser) for their support. There were a lot of cash prizes and gift certificates awarded.

Oliver Hawley was the big winner landing an 84 pound yellow fin which was by far the big fish of the day. He won \$600.00 and a bottle of whiskey.

All of the other winners are listed below.

Point Big Fish All Boats

Oliver Hawley	Yellowfin	84.0	\$600.00	whiskey
Kojak Sienes	Grand Trevally	22.5	\$400.00	\$25 MB-GC
Dane Nighswander	Wahoo	22.0	\$300.00	\$25 MB-GC
Resihna Suldán	Barracuda	18.0	\$200.00	\$25 MB-GC
Francisco Kosmas	Barracuda	16.0	\$100.00	\$25 MB-GC

Big Fish Category

Wilbur David	Yellowfin	9.5	\$100.00
Wilbur David	Skipjack	16.0	\$100.00
Snyther James	Barracuda	15.0	\$100.00
Marvey Spencer, Jr.	Mahimahi	11.5	\$100.00

Lady Angler

Resihna Suldán	Grand Trevally	9.0	\$150.00	\$25 MB-GC
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Junior Angler

Marvey Spencer, Jr.	Grant Trevally	14.00	\$100.00	\$25 MB-GC
Dane Nighswander	Skipjack	13.00	\$50.00	\$25 MB-GC

The weigh in was at Mangrove Bay. Thanks Mangrove for supporting us. A lot of people turned up to watch the weigh in. The Fishing Club supported the Pohnpei Public Library, and thanks to Uta, Maggie and Ardy for selling hot dogs. Check out the library, it has seriously upgraded its children's library.

Also thanks to everyone who helped out, including Bill, Wilmar, Virginia and Cel, along with the boom truck guys and the other helpers. We can't operate without volunteers.

All in all it was a good tourney and it appeared everyone had a good time. We had a Team Guam entered to make it an international tourney.

Next tourney is True Value in October.

...FSMNG MOU

Continued from front page

that's why I invited Mr. Ted Waitt and the Blue Prosperity Coalition to visit the FSM to meet with myself and FSM State Leadership."

"Among other outcomes, the National Geographic Society will be conducting a research expedition across all four FSM States next year, including producing a film on the FSM to be shown to a global audience," the President continued in his Inaugural Address. "It's exciting, my fellow citizens, and we'll be announcing the details of our work plan at the United Nations General Assembly in September this year."

The signing of this MOU on September 25th is the formal announcement of the Nation's partnership with the Blue Prosperity Coalition.

While FSM's marine ecosystems include some of the healthiest remaining populations of globally threatened species, its territorial waters face mounting pressures from a host of sources, including climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, published on 25th September 2019, revealed the extent of the crisis facing humanity as the ocean and its services begin to show signs of collapse. The severity of the findings demonstrates the importance of action and the need for partnerships, such as this one, in order to protect the environment from the global climate crisis.

"The latest IPCC report on the Ocean is a wakeup call about the urgency of action. Protecting 30% of our waters by 2030 is essential to mitigating climate change, building ocean resilience, creating safe havens for threatened species, while at the same time ensuring economic resilience," President Panuelo said at the MOU signing event on September 25th.

"We rely on our ocean for jobs, food, and our way of life. A healthy ocean is essential to our islands' prosperity and this partnership doubles down on our commitment towards protecting our waters now and for future generations," President Panuelo continued.

On behalf of the Blue Prosperity Coalition, Mr. Ted Waitt, Founder and Chairman stated: "There is no question that we need to urgently increase the scale and speed of ocean protection through strategic and collaborative engagement. By taking these proactive steps to manage their waters, the Federated States of Micronesia is actively working towards a healthier marine ecosystem, food security and climate resilience, while sustainably growing the ocean economy."

The Blue Prosperity Coalition brings world class planning, legal, advocacy, strategy, and scientific expertise to help governments achieve marine protection while sustainably developing their ocean economies. Founding members include the Waitt Institute, National Geographic's Pristine Seas, Oceans 5, Ocean Unite, Dynamic Planet, and the Waitt Foundation. This includes fisheries management, coastal development, and tourism, depending on government priorities, stakeholder consultations, and scientific studies.

...Sekere Death

Continued from front page

of Public Safety, Pohnpei detectives gave a briefing to the searchers before it commenced.

The volunteers searched for several hours and found nothing.

Officer Martin said that in the afternoon he helped to clean the grounds of the Pentecostal Church where he is a member. As he was taking his nearly two year old child home he saw a dog walking on the sidewalk carrying something that looked suspicious to him. He looked and wondered but drove on to his nearby home. He considers it divine intervention that as he entered his driveway his car got stuck in mud, something he said almost never happens. He took that as a sign that he should pursue the dog.

"We had asked God to give us the body," Martin said.

On being chased, the dog dropped the item it was carrying and ran away. On closer examination Martin recognized the smell as human decomposition. He called for assistance from neighbors who volunteered to help him search the cleared "driveway type" area from which he had seen the dog emerge. Approximately 50 feet from the main road they found a skull and a few other bones with clothes next to it. They found the remains in dense foliage to the side of the cleared area over a small rise in a rock strewn area with unstable footing. Officer Martin notified the police department. The family came to the scene to aid the police in determining whether or not the clothes belonged to Michelle. They confirmed the fact.

Due to flooding and scavenging by dogs, most of Michelle's remains are yet to be recovered. On September 25, her family members and friends continued the search for her remains and uncovered a few small bones that might once have been a part of her body or may belong to an animal. The family buried the few recovered remains in a gravesite on their property in Sekere. They erected a small memorial in the place where her remains were first found.

Investigators are looking into a rumor that Michelle was last seen getting into a red car. Michelle's sister said that wasn't the last time she was seen. Investigators say they are working on a timeline of events to aid them in their investigation.

Because Michelle was epileptic, the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety has not yet ruled out the possibility of death from natural causes. Pohnpei Police Chief Hermis Edmund admitted that the circumstances of where she was found are suspicious to him. "But we don't want to jump to any conclusions," he said. "We need to have evidence."

In that regard, the State government has decided that it needs help and is currently in the process of working through diplomatic processes through the National Government to request the assistance of a forensic pathologist based in Guam to assist in the investigation. The family has agreed that if a pathologist is able to come to help, they will allow Michelle's scant remains to be exhumed if it will help them to find out what happened to her.

Lt. Pelep of Pohnpei's Criminal Investigation Division said that the Police Department also

needs the help and cooperation of the public as the investigation continues.

Many residents of Sekere expressed a deep concern for their community and for the safety of their loved ones. "I worry about my kids when they walk to school and back," said one longtime resident. "What's to keep a friendly looking person from stopping and telling one of my kids that they look tired and asking if they want a ride home and then we never see them again?" Many parents are telling their children to be cautious, but parents worry as some recent crimes in their community have given them a right to do.

On July 28, a man abducted an eight year old girl from her home and raped her while her family slept. Police arrested a person of interest who vehemently denied involvement. Detectives say that because the eight year old victim's physical description of her attacker didn't match the physical characteristics of the suspect, they released him and the investigation still continues.

Over time, usually because of the actions of a few ne'er-dowells, the community has not had a particularly good reputation in general, but those who know Sekere and have lived there know that it has always been a tight knit community with more positive to say for it than the actions of a few reflect. While not implying causation or blame, more than one resident commented during interviews that the community dynamic has recently begun to change as longtime residents move away and new residents who aren't yet quite as connected to the community move in.

Spokesmen for both the Sokehs and Pohnpei police departments say that the number of arrests they have been forced to make in Sekere have recently been on the increase. Chief Edmund said that a majority of the arrests have been for underage drinking and for public drunkenness. Both departments say that they have increased patrols in the community. "It's our 'Red Zone'", said one Sokehs Police Officer. Both departments say that they have stepped up their patrols in Sekere.

Officer Martin said that he has been telling the large youth group in Sekere that they should live as examples to and be inclusive of new residents.



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A small memorial at the site where Michelle's remains were found

Request for Expressions of Interest Consultancy Work for the FSM Adaptation Fund Project



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PO BOX PS-69
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941 Phone: (691) 320-8815 Fax: (691) 320-8936**

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received a grant from the Adaptation Fund to implement the “Enhancing the Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Communities in the FSM” project. A portion of the grant will be used to fund activities and tasks that will enable strengthening of policy and institutional capacity for integrated coastal and water management at national and state level.

The FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) now invites qualified consultancy teams to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the assignment. EOI’s should include a letter of application supported by a Curriculum Vitae, and at least three (3) references.

The Services (as detailed in the Terms of Reference) include the desktop review of relevant policies and regulations, stakeholder consultation reports, the development of required policies and regulations and Submission Documentation for approval of proposed Legislation/Regulation/ Policy/ guidelines at both the National and State level of the FSM Government. The Consultancy Team will report directly with the FSM Adaptation Fund project manager and the Secretary of DECEM.

The selected consultancy team must complete all activities and submit the deliverables within 200 person days over a period of nine (9) months. The payments for services is based on the payment schedule in the Terms of Reference.

The consultancy team must include the following experts (1) a Legal Expert (2) Environmental Expert and (3) Policy and Institutional Framework Expert and each expert must meet all criteria in the Terms of Reference.

To obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference for the assignment or to obtain further information, please contact the person below.

Mr. Richard Moufa,
Project Manager,
Project Management Unit
Department Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management,
FSM National Government,
Email: richard.moufa@gov.fm
Telephone: (691)320-8814/8815

Interested consultants may also download a copy of the Terms of Reference by visiting the following Link:

https://decem.gov.fm/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FINAL-ToR-Consultancy-for-Policy-and-Institutional-Review-V15527_CF5712.docx3938-2.pdf

Or visit the DECEM website at decem.gov.fm

Expressions of Interest should be submitted electronically to Mr. Richard Moufa at the email address given above no later than October 25, 2019 at 1600 hours, local (Pohnpei) time.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Division of Customs & Tax Administration**



PUBLIC NOTICE

Tax is a Compulsory contribution to National Revenue levied by the Government on workers income and business profits to fund public services such as roads, hospitals, schools, public safety, and other public services that our Government provides.

Our role is to:

Collect Tax and Duties on behalf of the FSM National Government

Provide quality services to all our Tax Payers

Facilitate Trade and Travel

***Our services are at our Field Offices in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap, as well as at our HQ office in Palikir, Pohnpei*

October 2019 event

Tax returns (Business Gross Revenue Tax and Wages & Salary) for the Third Quarter are due from October 1 to October 31 2019. Businesses have to file their activities for the month of July, August, and September 2019

Tax Education and Awareness in Pohnpei
(Elementary and High Schools)

FSM CTA, Pohnpei Field Office will be having an Education and Awareness Program in Schools around the Island. This program will start in October 2019 with our Public schools and will end in March 2020 with Private Schools

Salvador Jacob
Assistant Secretary
FSM Customs and Tax Administration



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites proposals from Consultants to provide consultancy services as Knowledge Management / Information Technology Specialist for the SPC Micronesia Regional Office – Pohnpei.

A more detailed description of the work is set out under the Request for Proposal document, which can be downloaded from www.spc.int/procurement.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submissions should be entitled: RFP 19-071 – KM / IT Specialist

Method and deadline for Submissions:

Submissions must be submitted electronically to procurement@spc.int before 18 October 2019, 4.00 pm Pohnpei time.

Questions and Answers

All queries or request for information must be submitted by email to procurement@spc.int before 11 September 2019, 04.00 pm Pohnpei time.

New JICA Technical Cooperation for FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs aims at Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis

Mr. Marcus Samo, Acting Secretary of National Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) and Mr. Shinji SHIBATA, Resident Representative of JICA FSM signed the Record of Discussions (hereinafter referred to as R/D) between the two parties on August 23, 2019 setting in motion “the Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region”. The implementation of the project starts on the date of signature and ends on the 28 of February 2022.

This project is one of six sister Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) elimination

projects being implemented throughout the Pacific Region including other countries such as Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tuvalu. By collaborating with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Pacific Program Elimination Lymphatic Filariasis (PacELF), the LF Elimination Project is expected to be a huge contribution to people’s health in FSM.

The FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs has collaborated with JICA and WHO in the movement to eradicate LF from the FSM since

2001. JICA has donated test kits and medical supplies with all equipment passing inspection upon arrival by FSM Immunization program. The test kits were and are still being utilized during campaigns and surveys throughout FSM. With this new project, JICA continues its support in contributing to healthy lives and wellness in FSM. JICA recognizes the health sector as a priority issue in the FSM and will continue to cooperate with FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs and provide support in this area.



*Marcus Samo, Acting Secretary of
FSM Dept. of Health with
JICA Rep Shinji Shibata*

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (P161969)

Assignment Title: FMIS SPECIALIST

Reference No.: FM-DOFA-64898-CS-INDV

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received financing from the World Bank to support development activities within the FSM. The current and pipeline portfolio includes Projects in the sectors of Energy; Fisheries; Information and Communication Technologies; Public Financial Management Strengthening and Maritime. To support the preparation and implementation of World Bank Financed Projects the Government of FSM is strengthening its capacity in core cross cutting functions including financial management, environmental and social safeguards and procurement by establishing a Central Implementation Unit (CIU) within the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA). To this end the Government of FSM is seeking to engage an FMIS Specialist to support the World Bank portfolio.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include:

1. Plan, Design, Supervise, Organize, Direct, Co-ordinate, Control, Install, Configure, Manage and Optimize IP, Data Center, and Cloud System;
2. Supervise, Operate and Maintain Power and Air Conditioning System at Data Center and Disaster Recovery Center;
3. Supervise, Operate and Maintain Access Control, IP Surveillance System, Automatic Gas/Fire Suppressing System, Water Detection System, Monitoring System and other Environmental System at Data Center and Disaster Recovery Center;
4. Communicate with the stakeholders, vendors, suppliers and mobilize required resources to them;
5. Liaise with the stakeholders to analyze future requirement, prepare network and system upgrade plan, test and evaluate new technologies and participate in product selection;
6. Supervise and Conduct all types of Tests and generate reports;
7. Providing supportive documentation; including procedural documentation and maintain strict compliance of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP);
8. Perform Security Monitoring to identify possible security risks, take steps to mitigate the security risks, perform and supervise network firewall policy;
9. Prepare Backup Policy and perform and supervise backup operations, perform disaster recovery tests and report to management, and implement the Business Continuity Management (BCM) plan;
10. Maintain and operate different servers & applications, upgrade Operating System/application and apply available patches, provision resources to the customers;
11. Troubleshoot and repair hardware and software failure;
12. Monitor Service Level Agreements (SLA) with network/systems vendors;
13. Transfer skills and knowledge to government staff to be able to manage the network/systems; and
14. Perform other related duties as assigned by the Secretary, DoFA.

The Department of Finance and Administration now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc. and the

details of two references). Applicants should specifically address the selection criteria below.

The criteria for selecting the Consultant:

Qualifications and Experience Required Mandatory

1. Professional certification in networking, security, programming languages and database management system (DBMS); (Common certifications are Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA), Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP), Microsoft Certified System Administrator (MCSA), CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+);
 2. A university degree in ICT or other related fields, or a minimum of the immediate past five years in closely related work experience;
 3. Minimum of proven 8 years’ specific experience of various networking systems concepts including email, firewall, client-servers, network security, network protocols, cloud- computing, database management (such as Oracle, MicrosoftSQL, MySQL etc) and virtualization (such as VMware or Hyper-V or other server virtualization);
 4. Familiar with a range of operating systems and programme - Microsoft, UNIX, Linux, and Oracle.
 5. Proven experience in coordinating, cooperating, presenting complex technical and other issues;
- #### Desired
6. Knowledge in the use of new (disruptive) technologies is a plus; and
 7. Specific experience in the supervision and implementation of financial management information systems;
 8. Experience in using report writing tools;
 9. Experience in Pacific Island Countries is a plus.

Duration and Location

The FMIS Specialist will be based in Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia for an initial period of Twenty-Four (24) months, subject to extension on satisfactory performance.

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

Further information including Terms of Reference can be obtained by enquiry to the email address below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered through email to the addresses below, with the above reference number in the subject line, **by 11th October 2019.**

Attn: Beulah Daunakamakama (Mrs) Program Manager,
Central Implementation Unit, Investment & International Finance
Department of Finance & Administration Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Email: worldbankpni@gmail.com and cc:
Jane Mukiri, Procurement Specialist E-mail: jcmukiri01@gmail.com



U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

2019 5K COLOR RUN

"GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable"

Spanish Wall Softball Field
October 12, 2019 | 6:00 AM

Live Music by: Kazual

FREE REGISTRATION, T-SHIRT AND SUNGLASSES!

FREE ENTRANCE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

President Panuelo & President Trump renew the May 2019 historic visit on the margins of the 74th UNGA

FSM Information Services Press Release

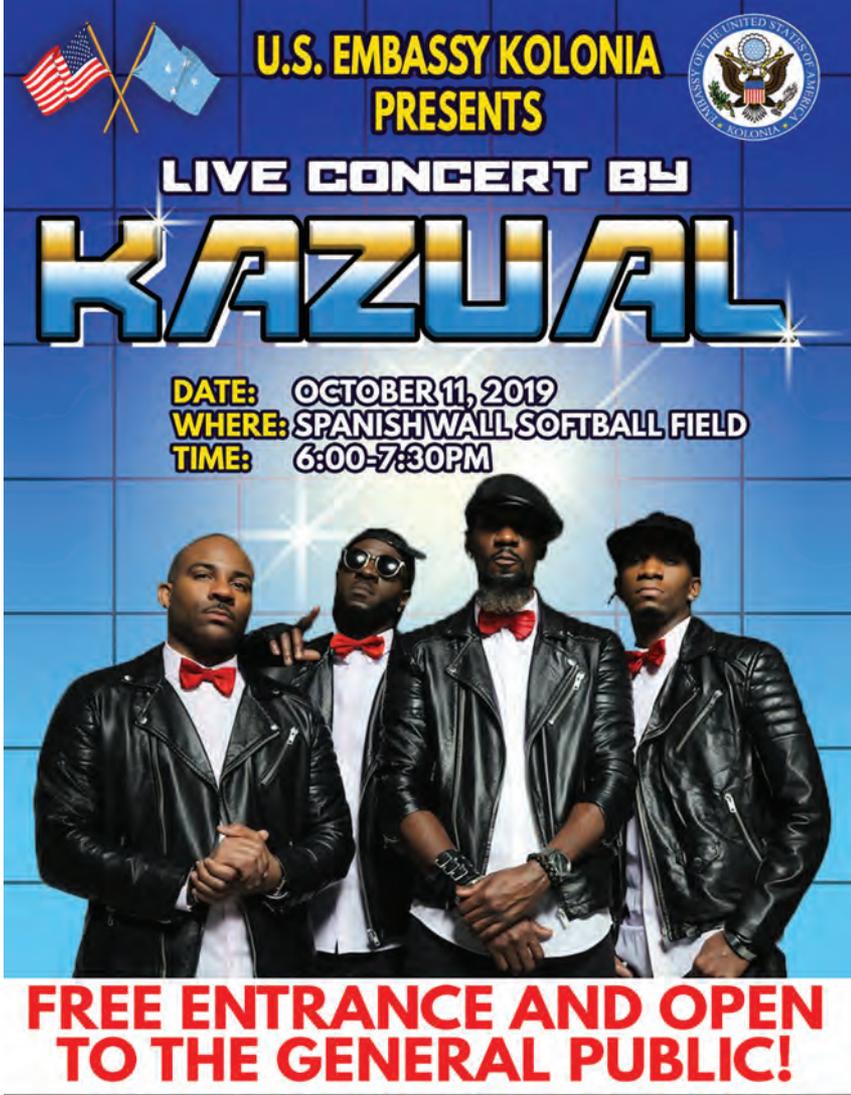
NEW YORK—On September 24th 2019, in the evening on the occasion of the opening of the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) attended with First Lady Patricia Edwin a reception hosted by His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, and First Lady Melania Trump.

Association, as Amended. President Trump reiterated that the FSM and the U.S. are the closest of allies, and that if given the opportunity he would enjoy visiting the FSM one day.

The FSM National Government is working with the U.S. Government to organize a bilateral meeting when President Panuelo visits Washington, D.C. in October 2019 to discuss the timeframe for the negotiations for the Compact of Free Association, as Amended.

President Panuelo thanked President Trump for sending the Honorable Michael "Mike" Pompeo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State, to the FSM on August 5th, 2019, to discuss the renewal of the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free

Citizens interested in learning more about the negotiations in their current state are encouraged to visit the website of the Joint Committee on Compact Review & Planning (JCRP) here: <https://jcrp.gov.fm/>



U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA PRESENTS

LIVE CONCERT BY KAZUAL

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2019
WHERE: SPANISH WALL SOFTBALL FIELD
TIME: 6:00-7:30PM

FREE ENTRANCE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!



U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA PRESENTS

LIVE CONCERT BY KAZUAL

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2019
WHERE: YAP STATE SPORTS COMPLEX
TIME: 5:30-7:00PM

FREE ENTRANCE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

College of Micronesia-FSM
Invites you to
Cocktail FUNDRAISING & RAFFLE DRAW

October 25, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Grand Prize

\$5,000.00

- 1st Prize **Round trip Ticket Honolulu / FSM**
- 2nd Prize **Flatbed Truck**
- 3rd Prize **Brand New Generator**
- 4th Prize **Brand New Mini Refrigerator and MANY MORE!!!**



Guidelines

- (a) To be able to enter the gate to the event, an individual must present a minimum of 5 tickets to the cashier. Tickets will also be on sale at the gate.
- (b) A ticket holder of a booklet (25 tickets) can bring five (5) additional guests to the event
- (c) Tickets will go on sale no later than May 31, 2019 / **Ticket Price is at \$20.00 each**
- (d) More surprises at the event (Round Trip Ticket to Guam / FSM)

Hurry and Buy your Tickets now!!

*For Ticket Inquiries Contact:
 Amy Santiago at (691) 320-8766*

Proceeds of this activity will go to the College's Endowment Fund

COMET DATES 2019

College of Micronesia-FSM Entrance Test



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Chuuk Campus

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FSM-FMI

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 Phone: (691)350-5244
 Fax: (691)350-5245
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 Fax: (691)370-3193
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19th FSM Judicial Conference

FSM Supreme Court

The 19th FSM Judicial Conference was held in Colonia, Yap from August 19th to 22nd, 2019. The FSM Judicial Conference is an event that the FSM Supreme Court began in 1994 and the venue of the event rotates among the four states. Its purpose is to provide a forum whereby judicial officers and court staff would have the opportunity to come together to learn and share their experiences with one another and discuss issues that the judiciaries and stakeholders within the FSM are currently facing. For eleven consecutive years (1994-2005) the Conference was held annually and in 2006 to 2008, the Conference was not held due to limited budget. From 2009 to 2019, it has been on a Biennial basis.

This Year's judicial conference attracted close to fifty participants. Participants included Justices of the FSM Supreme Court, the four State Supreme Courts,

municipal and land courts. Prosecutors, public defenders, and individuals from many different fields also participated in the conference. The topics that were covered during the four day conference included Human Trafficking, Environmental Law, Climate Change, Access to Justice and Enabling Rights reports for the FSM, Customs and Traditions in Courts, Evidence, Implicit Bias, and Court Security.

"Opportunities like this are rare, where we have all of the Courts in one place at the same time." said Chief Justice Dennis K. Yamase. "I urge that we talk among ourselves, share issues that are facing our respective courts and then collectively, as a Court family, we can address these issues together. The topics that we are covering this week are current issues that are important not only to the National Court and all the Courts within the FSM, but also important to the FSM National Government and all the state Governments



and this nation as a whole. Most of these topics and issues are impacting the people we serve."

This Year's conference was made possible with the collaboration of the FSM Supreme Court and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of

Appeals and its Pacific Islands Committee, and the Yap State Court which is the host State Court for the 19th FSM Judicial Conference. The next FSM Judicial Conference is currently proposed to be held in 2021 and the venue will be in Chuuk.

Care Micronesia Foundation launches the FSM Inspirational Women's project

The Care Micronesia Foundation

Through an Australian Direct Aid Program grant, the Care Micronesia Foundation received funding to create an FSM Inspirational Women's project to highlight the successes that many women across the FSM have done and to inspire the next generation of young girls to dream big for their future and work hard to reach their goals. The project was contracted to Micronesian Productions to create a video and a book. A committee of 5 women from each state were selected to nominate 10 women for the project and then voting occurred to rank the top 12 women. The top two women from each state were interviewed for the video and the rest were selected to be highlighted in the book. A total of 30 women are spotlighted in the project and they represent a great diversity of accomplishments from education, to occupation, to community leadership.

According to Ms. Shelyane Lohn, the book project manager from Micronesian Productions, "The greatest challenge for us was getting women to agree to participate. This project was the first of its kind and I think some women were a bit leery of joining the project. They kept saying that others were more worthy." The collection of photos, favorite sayings, and inspiration quotes that went into the project came from those women who were truly inspirational and agreed to participate.

As far as the video, Mr. Mavrick Does was the video editor and had his own challenges to face. The grant didn't allow for Micronesian Productions staff to travel to the other islands to interview the women from Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae, so we had to find local videographers to do this for us. Mr. Does stated that "We ended up creating a good network of videographers in the other islands, but we lost control of the quality of the sounds and the ability to ask follow up questions, so we had to rework the video three times to get something we were happy with. It took about two months longer than we anticipated, but we're happy it turned out pretty good."

The Care Micronesia Foundation had an official launch ceremony with the Australian Ambassador to the FSM, Mr. George Fraser, and presented the Embassy the video and gave them a box of books to hand out. Each state women's organization was also given 100 copies of the book to give out to help inspire more women to work hard and help them find inspiration to reach their goals. The Care Micronesia Foundation is hoping to continue to work with the women's organizations in FSM to make an annual award to highlight more women each year and amend the book (the online version) to continue to do the work of celebrating and honoring the successes of women in the FSM.

The inspiration for this project came from the fact that Micronesian Productions is working on an Early Leaders of the FSM book which highlights all of the past Presidents, Vice Presidents, Speakers of Congress, Vice Speakers, Floor Leaders and Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and only one woman ended up being in the book. Executive Director Mr. Patrick Blank said "With all the work that has been going on at our organization and in the country on creating gender equity, we felt it was better to publish this project first. The Early Leaders book is a great resource for the history of the FSM Government leadership, but it doesn't reflect all the

hard work and accomplishments that the women in the FSM have done, so we wanted to start with this project first. It's not an historical product, since we hope to keep it alive by adding more pages to the electronic version each year and have it more of an album of accomplishments to gets larger and highlights other women who are also very accomplished in many different areas."

Very soon the video will be launching on YouTube, and you can find it from a link from the Micronesian Productions Facebook page as well as one for the book.



Australian Ambassador George Fraser and Executive Director of CMF Mr. Patrick Blank help to launch the FSM Inspirational Women's project

5th Western Pacific Tuna Tagging Cruise

NORMA

The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) Oceanic Division participated in the 5th Western Pacific Tuna Tagging Cruise to collect critical information for the assessment of tuna species. The tuna tagging cruise began in July from Solomon Island port and entered FSM port in the month of September. NORMA fisheries observer Athanasio Emaengilipy participated on a 24 day tagging cruise. Over 10,000 yellowfin and skipjack tuna have been tagged since the beginning of the tagging cruise.

The tuna tagging research is to obtain information on the growth, movements, natural mortality and fishing mortality of the tuna. Tuna tagging involves the capture, tag and release of large numbers of tuna with numbered plastic dart tags, and the documentation (time, location,

fishing method, fish size) of subsequent recaptures of these fish by the various types of fisheries across the region. Tagging is carried out mainly using the pole-and-line fishing method, in which fish are caught, tagged and released in a matter of seconds.

Four types of tag are used by SPC:

- Archival tags and satellite tags to measure a range of environmental parameters,
- Sonic tags use in monitoring the behaviour of tuna around FADs;
- Conventional tags (commonly used) to monitor movement, growth and fishery interaction studies.

Please report tuna tags found to NORMA office and you'll receive a cash reward from the SPC office. There are 3 colored tags. Orange tag \$260, White tag \$100 and Yellow tag \$10. If it's an orange or white tag found we'd like the whole fish with the tag.

Our Tuna is our Future! **WANTED** **Better Science is better Management!**

NEW CASH REWARD

Found a fish with a tag? Now, if it's orange or white, we'd like the whole fish!

- Leave the tags in the fish.
- Place the fish in a freezer! Do not let the fish defrost!
- Contact SPC by email.
- Bring the fish to the closest fisheries office for collection of samples.

Observers:

- Take a picture of the fish with the tag still inside the fish on top of a deck table.
- Measure the fish accurately.
- Fill the tag recovery form.
- Seek permission from the captain to place the fish aside.
- Contact SPC and your observer coordinator immediately!
- Collect samples if you can, or keep the fish frozen at all times!

Note the information below:

- Date found
- Tag number
- Species
- Fork length (as shown above)
- Date and position of catch (if found in a well: note the well number)
- Catcher/vessel name + gear type
- finder name + contact details
- observer name

NEW REWARDS

ORANGE TAG + archival tag + whole fish
\$260 for the finder, \$50 for the observer

WHITE TAG + whole fish
\$100 for the finder, \$50 for the observer

YELLOW TAG
\$10 for a tagging cap or a tagging shirt

To receive the reward contact the local fisheries office. If a tag is given to you by someone else, please inform us.
www.spc.int/tagging-carolines@spc.int

Prior to the 2019 annual Maritime Security Cooperation talks between the FSM and Australia, President Panuelo receives Commodore Stephen Woodall

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On September 12th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received Commodore Stephen Woodall, Australia's Defense Pacific Envoy, in a courtesy call prior to the 2019 Maritime Security Cooperation (MSC) talks between the FSM and Australia.

"We continue to enjoy very good relations with Australia in many aspects of cooperation," President Panuelo began, noting that in addition to receiving diplomatic training in Australia that one of his first trips as a Foreign Service Officer was to join former and 2nd President of the FSM, His Excellency John R. Haglelgam, to Perth (in Western Australia) to test the Pacific-class patrol boats currently in use in the FSM. "We thank you for the two Guardian-class patrol boats we'll receive, the first in early-2022 and the second in mid-2022, and the...air surveillance component [in partnership with the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency]."

The President advocated for improving boat registration and safety compliance, in part because the cost of surveillance and search and rescue operations are measurably expensive, and in part because the lack of said programs are incalculably expensive when citizens are lost and not found, or found when it's too late.

President Panuelo also requested for additional review on intelligence-sharing. "We know that Australia has very high standards with vessel inspections and locations...if the [MSC] talks can review our protocol and intelligence on knowing what boats are coming into our country, and review the background of the boats before we actually give permits of entry... this cooperation on intelligence is an important one," the President said, while also re-advocating for the FSM to host the upcoming Pacific Fusion Center, in part to enhance the reimplementation and strengthening of the Micronesian Transnational Crimes Unit (MTCU).

"Clearly [Lieutenant Commander Lauren Milburn, Australian Maritime Surveillance Adviser] has passed my notes to you, because those are most of the things that I'm kinda banging the drum on!" said Commodore Woodall. "Firstly, can I thank you for allowing us to have a...technical adviser in your country, living and working

with your people. It's a great privilege and not one we take lightly."

"We thank you for your continued support," Commodore Woodall continued, describing how the Pacific Patrol Boat program has served the FSM for 30 years, and how Australia is "actively looking at opportunities" to expand the usage of the patrol boats for a broader range of security activities, including cooperation with aerial surveillance programming, and the MTCU, among others. "There's a lot of areas where we can [improve services]," Commodore Woodall said, providing examples such as knowing when a yacht officially arrives in the FSM's exclusive economic zone, and whether it transmits that its next port is in another country or somewhere within the FSM.

President Panuelo, for his part, continued to advocate for his request to keep one of the three current patrol boats after Australia asks for them back for decommissioning. Commodore Woodall and the Australian delegation attending with him advised that the primary rationale to return the vessels is that, as they age, maintenance costs escalate (e.g. new parts have to be purpose-built, as they're no longer produced en masse).

While the Australian delegation maintained that the President should keep asking to keep one of the Pacific-class patrol boats, they also suggested that President Panuelo might find it more fruitful to request a third Guardian-class patrol boat (two are planned to replace the three Pacific-class patrol boats currently in use, the first to arrive in early-2022 and the second in mid-2022).

"Thank you so much; I know this is going to be a productive meeting, and wish you a good meeting tomorrow," President Panuelo said. "Thank you for visiting our country, you know you're welcome to come back, Commodore, and all of you. It's been great working with Australia in the area of maritime surveillance." "We look forward to continuing that relationship in the future," Commodore Woodall replied.

The meeting concluded with the Australian delegation presenting the FSM National Government a scale model of the Guardian-class patrol boat, which presently serves as a symbol of what's to come and in decades will serve as a memento of the Nation's ongoing friendship, and partnership, with Australia.

Zhongshan performers present an evening of China's Lingnan Culture in Pohnpei



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 19, 2019

Pohnpei—In conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the FSM, visitors from Zhongshan presented a performance of China's Lingnan culture. The packed evening performance held at the Kolonia China Friendship gym was sponsored by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the FSM and the Micronesia-China Friendship Association (MCFA).

The performances got off to a very late start because an invitation only reception sponsored by MCFA ran nearly an hour over time. Guests at the reception were treated to speeches, a demonstration of tuna loining, and a plentiful banquet.

After speeches by Ambassador Huang Zheng, FSM Vice President Yosiwo George, and a representative from the touring group, the performance began with two examples of the colorful and acrobatic Dragon and Lion Dance presented by the Zhongshan Shaxi Polytechnic Institute. The program said that "the lion dance is a traditional Chinese dance performed on big occasions for good luck as it is believed that the lion is an auspicious animal. In Chinese culture, the lion symbolizes power, wisdom and superiority. People perform lion dances at Chinese festivals or big occasions to bring good fortune and chase away evil spirits."

Three short Kung Fu demonstrations were next on the program—a demonstration of three section cudgel, butterfly sword, and the iron wire form, the most representative boxing method in southern China.

The tight and impressive Zhongshan Acapella Choir was the focal point of

the evening's performance. The eight members sang nine Chinese songs and four songs in English in tasteful style.

The performance was presented by the Zhongshan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Bureau of Culture, Broadcasting, Television and Tourism of Zhongshan.



President Panuelo signs Executive Order to enhance the Department of Justice's capacity to serve the Citizens of the FSM

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On September 16th 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo signed a Presidential Order amending Executive Order No.1 (April 2008) to reorganize and expand the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Division of National Police, and to the Division of Immigration & Labor, and to formalize the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Division of the Department of Justice. This release intends to explain what exactly the FSM National Government is doing, and why, with regards to this reorganization, focusing firstly on the FSM National Police, secondly on the Division of Immigration & Labor, and thirdly on the Anti-Human Trafficking Division.

FSM National Police

The Division of National Police (i.e. FSM National Police) within the Department of Justice is being split into two separate divisions: the Division of Investigation and Protective Services, and the Division of Border Control and Maritime Surveillance. This is primarily to improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability, as while all who serve in the FSM National Police are sworn to protect and serve the people and Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, this is accomplished in different ways depending on one's assignment.

The Division of Investigation and Protective Services is responsible for the direct investigation of criminal acts, and the protection of people and property that fall within the jurisdiction of the FSM National Government, including the 24/7 security of the President, foreign dignitaries, and airports.

The Division of Border Control and Maritime Surveillance enforces Titles 18 and 24 of the FSM Code i.e. they will be conducting surveillance operations and security patrols over all of the ocean-space that the falls within the Nation's jurisdiction, including conducting search and rescue operations, and exercising the security and protective functions of Customs and Quarantine.

In short, the former Division of National Police accomplishes the same tasks as before—but the road going ahead is to do so in a way that will improve the quality and efficiency of the work of the Nation's noble men and women who choose to serve and protect the people and Government.

Division of Immigration & Labor

The Division of Immigration & Labor is also split into two separate divisions: the Division of Labor, and the Division of Immigration and Passport Services. This is primarily to improve the Nation's capacity to build and uphold its commitment to meeting the Nation's labor demands, and to improve the Nation's capacity to regulate entry into the FSM and enhance the processing of passport

applications and renewals.

The Division of Labor will be responsible for reviewing foreign labor application permits, coordinating with the FSM States with respect to meeting their labor demands, managing and regulating the outward movement of labor from the FSM to other countries, and reviewing labor contracts, including the investigation of complaints and violations.

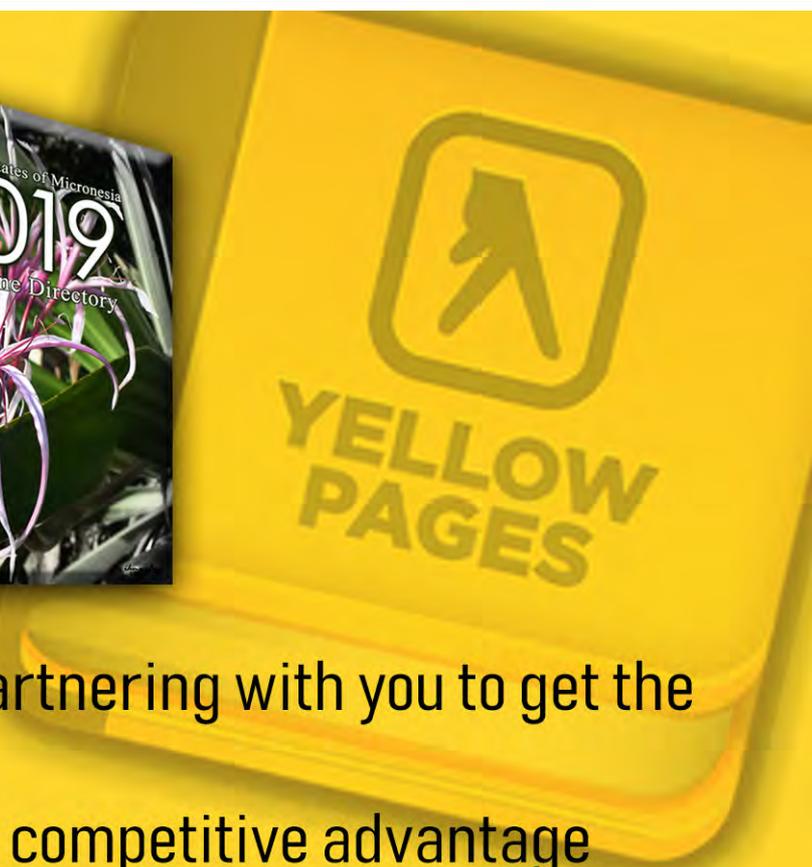
The Division of Immigration & Passport Services will regulate the entry of foreign citizens (legally titled "aliens"), manage and supervise the Border Management System (this is essentially a database of who comes and goes, including where they're from, what they're doing, how long they're staying, etc.), and to maintain the security and quality of FSM passports, including ways to improve the processing of passport applications. The FSM National Government notes that, particularly at its Embassy in Washington, D.C. and its Consulates in Portland, Honolulu, and Guam, passport services are increasingly important and requested by citizens. It is the intention of the Panuelo-George administration to place immigration staff at the FSM's consulates in Guam, Honolulu, and Portland to better serve the Nation's citizens.

Division of Anti-Human Trafficking Services

In July 2019, President Panuelo advised the attendees of the Anti-Human Trafficking Conference that "We will send a message from the FSM to the world...if you've come to exploit our youth, you've come to the wrong country. ...We are unified and singing the same song in our work together to prevent and end the evil of human trafficking." The Division of Anti-Human Trafficking Services is a new division in the Department of Justice, and is a result of the FSM National Government's efforts to ensure that every man, woman, and child in the Nation can enjoy a safe life in the paradise in our backyards.

The Division of Anti-Human Trafficking Services, which will be headed by an Assistant Secretary designated by the Secretary of Justice, will investigate reports and complaints involving, or possibly involving, trafficking in persons or related offenses. The Division will coordinate with the National Policy in investigation, including the interviewing of witnesses and the gathering of evidence. Further, the Division will conduct public awareness campaigns, with the ultimate goal of eradicating human trafficking from the Nation so thoroughly and completely that future generations of citizens will learn about trafficking as a problem solved long ago.

Citizens and stakeholders are encouraged to read the Presidential Order in full, which can be found here: https://gov.fm/files/Presidential%20Orders/September%2016%202019_-_PO_for_DOJ_reorganization.pdf



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Office of the Pohnpei Election Commission

P.O. Box 1180

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Commissioner's Office

Tel: (691) 320-3469 Fax: (691) 320-8907 Email: pohnpeielection@yahoo.com

TIMETABLE

For November 12, 2019

PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE POHNPEI ELECTION CODE	IMPORTANT DUE DATES (DEADLINES)	EVENTS/ACTIVITIES
Legal Residence 10 PC §1 – 103(6)	Close: Nov. 12, 2018	A person registering to vote may only be designated as his or her legal residence if the person was born in the local jurisdiction or he or she has actually resided in the local jurisdiction for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the next election.
General Election – when held 10 PC §6 - 102	November 12, 2019	General Election for the Governor, Lt. Governor and the Legislators shall be held simultaneously every four years, on the second Tuesday in November .
Time for filing Nomination Petitions 10 PC §5 – 111 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: July 5, 2019 Close: Aug. 14, 2019	In the general elections, nominating petitions for candidates to elective office shall be filed with the Election Commissioner no more than one hundred (100) days or less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of the election.
Request for Absentee Ballot Off Island 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: June 15, 2019 Close: Oct. 3, 2019	Request for absentee ballots shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than one hundred fifty (150) days nor less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election.
Request for Absentee Ballot On Island 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 Close: Nov. 11, 2019	Request for absentee ballots by reason of Travel shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
Voting by Confiner Voters 10 PC §6 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 November 11, 2019	Any registered voter qualified to vote at any general or special election who is physically present in the state but who is confined or hospitalized because of illness or physical disability as will prevent him or her from attending the polls shall request for an absentee ballot with the election commissioner not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
Marking and returning of absentee ballots: 10 PC §6 – 117 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	October 3, 2019	Not less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election, the election commissioner shall send to persons who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot outside the state and who request the same, a ballot envelope, affidavit and a covering reply envelope.
POSTMARKED ballot envelope	November 11, 2019	The ballot envelope and the affidavit shall be enclosed and sealed in the covering envelope and shall be postmarked NOT later than MIDNIGHT on the day before the election.
Absentee ballots Must be received	November 21, 2019	Absentee ballots must be received by the Election Commissioner prior to the close of business, no later than seven (7) working days after the election day.
Substitute Candidate 10 PC §5 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Five (5) days after a vacancy is declared	If a candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor or other singular elected position dies, withdraws or disqualified after the deadline for filing nomination petitions resulting in either not candidate or an unopposed candidate, substitute candidate may be nominated following the same procedure as the candidate who died, withdrew or was disqualified.
Recount 10 PC §7 – 101(3)	One week (7) days after certification date	Petition for recount must be filed within one week (7) days of certification of the result of the election.
Run-Off Elections 10 PC §6 - 103	December 10, 2019	Runoff elections shall be held 28 days after the date of the general election. In a runoff election, there is no write in ballots

President Panuelo signs Executive Order enhancing the Office of Overseas Development Assistance & Office of Compact Management

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On September 20th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) signed a Presidential Order “streamlining the functional duties and effective supervision and monitoring” of the Office of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and the Office of Compact Management (OCM). The key idea is that the FSM National Government is committed to strengthening and centralizing all solicitation, use, and monitoring of overseas development assistance through ODA and OCM.

The FSM National Government is routinely humbled by the generous support from its development partners, friends, and allies, including the peoples and Governments of the United States of America, the People’s Republic of China, Japan, Australia, and more. That said, it is the view of the FSM National Government that the utilization

of overseas development assistance, including the coordination of such efforts, would be better served through a more rigorous and transparent enforcement of a centralized office whose primary reason to exist is to tap effectively upon suitable and viable sources of funding to support State projects and development programs, and implement long-term strategic planning and resources for national and state needs.

Thus, the President has ordered that ODA shall have the responsibility of actively carrying out solicitation functions and activities, in order to finance priority projects and programs under the ODA Policy. ODA shall monitor funding opportunities, and share information in quarterly reports to the Office of the President.

All ODA-related information, including the amount of grants awarded to the Nation, the usage of the grant funding, and allocation amongst the states, shall be relayed to the Office of the President, and in particular, to the new position of the Special Assistant on ODA Matters.

The role of this Special Assistant includes taking stock of the Strategic Development Plan, and handling overseas development assistance in a manner that would pursue greater cooperation and collaboration between the FSM National Government and the FSM State Governments, and in collaboration with all development partners.

OCM will maintain its current functions and responsibilities, including greater coordination of its activities with the Office of the President and ODA, but will be headed by the new position of Special Assistant for OCM. This is being done to increase OCM’s capacity to be transparent, effective, and accountable, particularly in light of the increasing importance for the review and negotiations regarding the Compact of Free Association, as Amended drawing closer.

Citizens and development partners are encouraged to read the Presidential Order in full, which can be found here: https://gov.fm/files/Presidential%20Orders/PRESIDENTIAL_ORDER_Streamlining_ODA_OCM_SIGNED_Sep_20_2019.pdf

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, Sears Brands, LLC, of 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179 USA, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:

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Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for Sears Brands, LLC, of 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179 USA, as follows:

Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
2875 Michelle Drive, Suite 170
Irvine, California 92606
United States of America
Telephone: (714) 283-1155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

Emilio Eperiam
Pohnpei Election Commissioner
Pohnpei State Government
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

June 6, 2019
Date

His Excellency David W. Panuelo meets His Excellency Antonio Guterres, discusses United Nations Multi-Country Office & Strengthening FSM-UN Solidarity & Partnerships

FSM Information Services

NEW YORK, New York—On the margins of the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Climate Action Summit on September 23rd 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), was received by His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN). The purpose of the meeting was to reemphasize the total solidarity between the FSM and the UN, and to discuss the upcoming Northern Pacific Multi-Country Office (MCO) to be hosted in the FSM.

The meeting began with Secretary-General Guterres highlighting the UN’s complete and total commitment to reversing the negative trend of climate change, which—along with protecting the ocean—is very high on the UN’s agenda. The Secretary-General made it exceptionally clear that the UN is a friend to the FSM, committed to solidarity and support.

“Thank you so much, Secretary-General Guterres, and your team. I don’t know where you get the energy from, but I watch you all day working and from morning until now you still look fresh!” President Panuelo began. “On behalf of our delegation and our Government of the FSM, we thank you.”

“[While flying to the Pacific Islands Forum] I read the Time Magazine and learned more about the work that you’ve done, and on behalf of our Government and the Pacific...we thank you for being a champion for [tackling] climate change. I know it’s a tough job and a big challenge, but being together...we can reverse the trend [of climate change],” the President continued.

The discussion then turned to the upcoming Northern Pacific MCO, of which some citizens may rightly inquire: what is an MCO?

For numerous reasons—logistics and finances among them—the UN maintains MCOs in several countries which, for the purpose of UN programming, act as regional headquarters. The MCO presently based in the Republic of Fiji serves as the hub for servicing ten countries in the Pacific, including all five sovereign nations in the Micronesian subregion.

The FSM, with its brothers and sisters the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the

Republic of Palau, have advocated for developing a new MCO in the Northern Pacific to serve the Micronesian subregion. The UN is in full support of this development, and the Micronesian nations have agreed by consensus that the FSM will be the host.

“I thank you [Secretary-General] for all your efforts in helping the Pacific and [the Micronesian subregion]. I know it’s been a long effort for many people...so I think the focus [of the Northern Pacific MCO] will be directed to the five independent countries [of Micronesia], and so...my deep thanks to you for your foresight; thank you for that,” President Panuelo said.

Secretary-General Guterres again reiterated that the FSM can count on the UN for its solidarity and sincere partnership, noting that with upcoming conferences on oceans and biodiversity that there are many opportunities to accomplish great things for the people of the FSM and the world at large.

The FSM National Government extends to all nations what it seeks from each: peace, cooperation, friendship, and love in our common humanity. The Nation recognizes that the UN fundamentally exists to promote and protect these same values, and the FSM is proud to call the UN its partner, ally, and friend in tackling global challenges like climate change and in promoting the ideals of human rights, education, health, and empowerment, among others.

The 74th UNGA is the first that President Panuelo has attended in his capacity as the public servant in the highest office. While it’s common practice and protocol for leaders to call on the Secretary-General, it is also a distinct honor and privilege to be afforded the opportunity. The FSM National Government is grateful that it has such a close relationship with the UN and the broader global community, and aspires to strengthen these relationships further.





Director's Office

Office of the National Election Director
 P.O. Box PS 156
 Federated States of Micronesia
 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691) 320-7805; Fax: (691) 320-7534; Email: ned@mail.fm

TIMETABLE

For November 5, 2019 Constitutional Convention Election

This Timetable is based on the Revised National Election Act of 2005

Sections	Dates	Definitions
Appropriation (9FSMC) Sec. 107	September 26, 2019	40 days prior to a Special Election, Congress shall appropriate a sum adequate to defray the administrative and contingent expenses of conducting National Election.
Open and close of absentee request by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2) a	September 16, 2019 October 1, 2019	Request to vote absentee ballot by mail must be received by National Election Commissioner (NEC) not more than 50 days but not less than 35 days before Special Election Day.
Closing for filing Nomination Petition (9FSMC) Sec. 202 (4)	September 26, 2019	The name of any candidate shall be printed on an official ballot only if, at least 40 days prior to a Special Election the nomination paper is filed in the office of the National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state concerned.
Last day to appoint various boards and Counting and Tabulating Committee members (9FSMC) Sec. 302 (3)a		The National Election Commissioner (NEC) of each state with the approval of the National Election Director shall appoint election board and tabulating committee members on or before January 2nd of each election year.
Designation of Special Polling Places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (2)	September 21, 2019	Not less than 45 days prior to a Special Election, the National Election Director (NED) shall designate the locations of the special polling places, (one in Guam and one in Honolulu)
Printing of official ballots (9FSMC) Sec. 503 (1)	October 1, 2019	The National Election Director (NED) shall complete the printing of the official ballots no later than 35 days before a Special Election.
Request to vote at the special polling places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (3)	October 26, 2019	Request to vote at a special polling place must be received by the National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state of registration not less than 10 days prior to a Special Election.
Last day to send absentee ballots by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2)b	October 6, 2019	The National Election Commissioner (NEC), shall, at least 30 days before a Special Election, mail an absentee ballot to any absentee voter who has requested an absentee ballot in accordance with this section.
Closing of Registration and Voter ID	October 6, 2019	No person shall be entitled to vote in any National Election, or to be listed upon the National Voter Register, or upon any Signature List, who fails to register to vote with the National Election Office or State Election Office at least 30 days prior to Election Day.
Absentee for Travelers (9FSMC) Sec. 606 (1)b	October 6, 2019 November 4, 2019	Not more than 30 days and not less than 1 day before the Special Election; a voter must submit in person a written request to cast a ballot prior to traveling.
Preparation of signature lists (9FSMC) Sec. 303(7)	October 16, 2019	National Election Director (NED) shall prepare signature lists from National Voter Register for each of the polling places not later than 20 days prior to each election.
VAAPP Requests (9FSMC) Sec. 604(1)d	October 29, 2019	National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state of registration receives the written VAAPP requests at least 7 days before the Special Election.
Posting of Signature Lists of SPP (9FSMC) Sec. 605(4)	October 30, 2019	No later than 6 days before a Special Election, National Election Commissioner (NEC) shall post at the National Election Offices in their states signature lists of each special polling place in their state.
Posting of Signature Lists for Guam and Honolulu (9FSMC) Sec. 605(5)	October 30, 2019	No later than 6 days before a Special Election, the National Election Director, or his designee, shall post the Special Polling Place Signature lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible place in each location to be set out in the regulations promulgated pursuant to this title.
Constitutional Convention Election Day	November 5, 2019	The election of delegates shall be held during a special election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2019.



Ioanis Sahn
 Acting Director
 FSM National Election
 Federated States of Micronesia

Date 8/12/19



Ramp & Mida Law Firm

Suite 2W Varner-Boylan Building No.2
Nett, Pohnpei FM 96941
Phone (691) 320-2870
www.rampmida.fm

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