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Chuuk files suit against the FSM National Government

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 17, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—On February 4, parties in Chuuk filed a law suit with the Supreme Court of the FSM Chuuk State Trial Division against several Chuuk and FSM figures and departments over the distribution of Compact Infrastructure Program (CIP) funds directly to Chuuk municipalities rather than through the Office of the Governor (CA 2011-1000). Specifically the civil action refers to allotments issued by the National Government directly to Tolensom and Udot Municipalities. Udot representatives received \$114,362.72 and Tolensom “representatives” received \$107,465.80.

The heart of the civil filing centers on the National Government’s decision to give CIP funds directly to the municipalities rather than channeling that money through Governor Simina’s office as the allottee.

Part of the question of Chuuk’s civil action against the FSM seems to revolve around who the duly elected “representative” of Tolensom is. Is it Amanto Marsolo, as Chuuk State believes, or Kisauo Esa as the FSM National Government believes? Both Marsolo and Esa have called themselves the Mayor of Tolensom, Faichuuk.



File photo of Governor Wesley Simina taken during gubernatorial debates in 2009

FSM National Government sources say that “numerous court cases” have said that Esa is the duly elected Mayor of Tolensom.

The FSM Government issued the CIP allotment check to Esa and the plaintiffs said, as part of their February 4 court filing that they want that money back.

The CIP funds for Chuuk, according to FSM National Government sources, were funds that went unspent during the original Compact of Free Association with the United States. FSM National Government sources said that during the first Compact, funds given to the FSM by

the United States Government were not regulated in the way that they are under the Compact as amended. Funds then, for the most part could be used as the FSM saw fit to use them, and Chuuk and the FSM agreed to spend some of that money in Chuuk municipalities.

According to the Chuuk State filing, on January 10, 2010 FSM’s Presi-

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Song Ja Cha guilty of all charges in “Blue House” sex trafficking

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

This article was derived from the reports of Laurie Matthews and Erin Thompson of the Pacific Daily News; Jennifer Naylor Gesick of the Marianas Variety; and Mindy Aguon of Guam’s KUAM news. PDN Managing Editor, David Crisostomo; and Marianas Variety, Editor in Chief Jon Anderson were also instrumental in providing information for the article.

February 17, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—Jurors in the Guam District Court deliberated for a day and a half before returning a verdict of guilty at 11:50 this morning on all counts against Song Ja Cha, the former owner of the “Blue House Lounge” in Guam. Cha’s attorney Howard Trapp said that he will move for a new trial and failing that his client will appeal the decision of the jury.

Song Ja Cha, 67, and her husband, In Han Cha, 58 were indicted in June of 2008 by a federal grand jury on one count of conspiracy, eight counts of sex trafficking, one count of sex trafficking of a minor, nine counts of coercion and enticement to travel for purpose of prostitution, one of those counts involved a minor, and a forfeiture allegation. A forfeiture allegation means that since Song Ja Cha was convicted of all of the crimes of

See “Blue House” on page 4



Artist rendering of Song Ja Cha by Dominador “Jhun” Clavecilla

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International oil prices to drive increased pump prices in FSM

FSM Petroleum Corporation

February 10, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—International oil prices have continued to increase steadily from record lows of \$55/bbl in January 2009 to well over \$115/bbl in January 2011. Market analysts expect a return to prices that regularly exceed \$120/bbl.

In regional markets, Shell, Mobil and 76 have continued to increase prices at the pump. Over the last two months, prices in Guam, CNMI, and Palau have increased over 35 cents per gallon at the pump.

Guam : Regular gasoline now sells for \$4.08 a gallon for self serve, \$4.30 a gallon for full service, and diesel for \$4.15 a gallon.

Saipan : Regular gasoline now sells for \$4.34 per gallon and diesel for \$4.42 per gallon.

Since July 2010, prices in the FSM have remained stable, with prices at the service stations around \$4.20 a gallon for regular fuel and recently \$4.10 a gallon for diesel.

“We have cushioned the impact of rising oil prices as long as we can, and we are not able to sustain it much longer. This month our fuel cargo has cost over \$4.2million, approximately \$1million dollars more than this time last year.” says the Chief Executive Officer, Jared Morris.

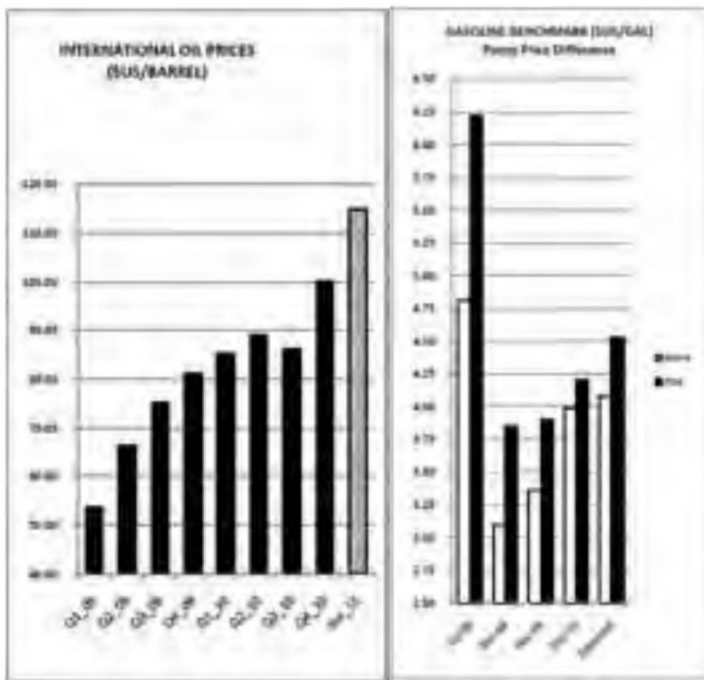
The FSMPC has been supplying fuel since July 2008, when pump prices were at a record high of \$6.22 per gallon for regular fuel in FSM,

with Guam around \$4.80 per gallon. A comparison of pump prices continue to be the consumers preferred choice to benchmark how competitive domestic supply arrangements are relative to other countries.

“When we assumed the operations from Mobil, the price difference between Guam and the FSM was approximately \$1.41 per gallon. Structural cost reduction programs were implemented to decrease pump difference to an average of \$0.85 per gallon in 2009, and a further sustainable decrease to approximately \$0.45 per gallon at the end of 2010. A price increase for gasoline and diesel at the pump is expected within two weeks as the difference of only \$0.20 per gallon between Guam and the FSM is unsustainable for our operations at the present time.” says Mr. Morris.

Based on the sustainable pump difference between Guam and the FSM for 2011 of between \$0.45 and \$0.55 per gallon, residents can expect to pay up to \$4.55 per gallon for regular gasoline and diesel as price increases are implemented over coming weeks.

These increases have been passed on to power utilities, and electricity tariffs are expected to rise significantly due directly to the higher average cost of buying oil which is now over \$115/bbl as opposed to \$90/bbl for the majority of 2010.



Yap candidate for Congress schedules a public forum for all candidates

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 17, 2011

Colonia, Yap—Saying that “times are changing,” Larry Raigetel, one of the four candidates for Congress in Yap has made what may have been an unprecedented move for Yap politics to schedule two public forums. He has invited all of the candidates to join him in meeting the public on Friday, February 25th and Friday March 4th at the Colonia Community Center. Both events are to be held at 2:00 in the afternoon.

The flier invites members of the public in Yap to “Meet Your Candidates” for a public discussion and general question and answer session on topics that might interest them as they make their choices for the two FSM Congress seats.

The other candidates for Congress are Vincent Figir and incumbents Joseph Urusemal and Isaac Figir. Raigetel is running for Yap’s two year seat in the FSM Congress.

“I believe that it is in the best interest of our voting constituents and the people of our great State of Yap to be afforded the opportunity to share

See “Yap forum” on page 5

Pohnpei DPS source says that fugitive has been re-captured

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 17, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—A highly placed source at the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety said late last week that Stephen Laurdine, who escaped during a police interrogation regarding an early morning attack of Merselina Brown on January 10 was recaptured earlier in the week. Laurdine is also accused of the November 17 early morning attacks against SDA student missionary teachers.

The police source said that detectives are working on the potential of charging Laurdine’s parents who allegedly harbored the fugitive, their son in their home near the SDA school.

The Police source said that Stephen Laurdine is also suspected of at least seven burglaries.

The police source said that he wasn’t yet sure whether or not charges would be filed against any parties regarding the receipt of stolen goods from the burglaries Laurdine is accused of committing but that the department is working in that direction.

The **Kaselehlie Press**
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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Chinese government donates computers to Pohnpei police

Press Release of the
Pohnpei Department of Public Safety

Pohnpei, FSM—On Friday, January 2011, a turnover ceremony was held at the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety Training Center transferring five laptop computers donated by the government

of the People's Republic of China to the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety.

The computers were conveyed by His Excellency, Ambassador Zhang Weidong of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM and received by the Di-

rector's Representative, Chief Joe Roby and the staff of the Division of Police and Security.

The computers will be used for training purposes in order to upgrade the knowledge of the Police regarding computer systems which will be in place for the Division of Police and Security.

"The Division of Police and Security this year will be utilizing a new computer system which will transform the manual operation system to an electronic computer system," Chief Roby said. He concluded by saying that this is the first time that the Chinese Government has made such a generous donation of computers to the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety and that the donation would enhance the capability of the Police in dealing with public needs.

Present at the ceremony were Lt. Patrick Carl, Captain Benido Optaia, Chief of Police Joe Roby, Captain Hermis Edmond, His Excellency Ambassador Zhang Weidong, Counselor Qin Jian, and Deputy Chief of Police Tony Pernet.



Police Chief Joe Roby and Ambassador Zhang Weidong sign papers for the transfer of computers from China to the Department of Public Safety

"V-Day" celebrated in FSM to end violence against women and girls

By Marstella Jack

On February 14, 2011 thousands of "V-Day" benefit events took place around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. In Pohnpei, COM-FSM organized 2 V-Day events with local volunteers to produce Ensler's infamous "The Vagina Monologues." According to the official V-Day website, www.vday.org, the FSM is the ONLY country in the entire Pacific to have held V-Day events in 2011.

The two events were held at 1pm at the National Campus and at 6pm at the Pohnpei Campus. The turnout was successful given that most of the estimated 115 people who attended the events were COM students. These are the young men and women who are the target audience in this endeavor so they can make the right choice to live in a future free from violence. At the end of the V-Day events, male audience members were invited (and challenged) to step forward and take a prewritten pledge: "On this V-Day, February 14, 2011, I pledge to always protect the woman or women in my life from violence and abuse." One of the courageous young men who took and signed the pledge is known within the local community as someone who grew up seeing his mother beaten black and blue by his father. If this movement increases in Pohnpei, there is a high likelihood that this young man will keep his pledge for a long time to come.

The Vagina Monologues were performed by full time COM Instructors from both

National and Pohnpei Campuses including Leilani Welley Biza, Mariana Ben Dereas, Delihna Manuel Ehmes, Resida Samson Keller, and Stacy Tadlock. Marstella E. Jack, Attorney at Law, performed a monologue at both events.

The only student was Lisa Christine Ditchen who gave a powerful and deeply moving reading of the monologue entitled "My Vagina Was My Village" about the experiences of Bosnian women who were systematically raped during the war in the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s.

Cecilia Sodre, Project Manager of the UN's Millennium Development Goals for the FSM read Eve Ensler's introduction to the monologue performed by Ms. Ditchen.

Tracey Resetar-Foster was the Master of Ceremonies for the 1:00 pm event. Stacy Tadlock was the MC for the 6:00 pm event.

The website describes V-Day as a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls, and supports anti-violence organizations throughout the world, helping them to continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), sex slavery, sexual harassment) against women and girls. V-Day exists for no other reason than to stop violence against women. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of Eve Ensler's play The Vagina

Monologues, and a variety of other events such as screenings of V-Day's documentary Until The Violence Stops.

Senator Magdalena Walter and Detective Hermis Hedmund were invited to speak at the event on the ongoing efforts that Pohnpei is undertaking in order to eliminate violence against women and girls. Senator Walter spoke on the pending legislative bill on Domestic Violence that she introduced in 2008. Detective Hedmund said that the police have undertaken several trainings with the New Zealand police to "incorporate stringent in-house guidelines on how to deal with a reported case involving domestic violence or violence against women".

There is hope that Pohnpei may see a "No Drop Policy" soon. [Editor's note: Ms. Jack did not define "No Drop Policy," in her article.]

Marstella E. Jack also spoke about the Resolution on Domestic Violence adopted by the FSM Women Conference in Kosrae last July, the recent launch of the 16 days campaign on Violence against Women by the Pohnpei Women Advisory Council, and the renewed commitment by FSM women NGOs to start working on DV awareness raising events.

V-Day is observed annually on Valentine's Day.

Many thanks should go to COM-FSM for endorsing this very powerful play, and especially to the producer Mr. Rohaizad Suaidi for his impressive Broadway skills.

ACTUARIAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

MiCare Health Insurance Plan is seeking for Actuarial Consultancy Services or groups who may be qualified to perform the following scope of activities:

General Duty: A Review of MiCare's Premium Adequacy including a study of expenses, income, membership and other essential factors relating to the operation of the Plan.

Specific activities include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Review expenditure trends during the past 4 years and compared it with the premium rates and other source(s) of revenue;
2. Review local medical services and referral utilizations in order to develop long-term-care insurance policies that would provide the noted trend in the occurrences of chronic ailments like heart diseases, diabetics, stroke, cancer, etc.;
3. Review the present Relative Unit Value (RUV) rates used for local and off-island providers;
4. Review current Chronic Refill program and make recommendations to reduce or eliminate negative impacts on MiCare operations, including an alternative pharmaceutical premium ;
5. Review possible inclusion of eligible FSM citizens residing in Guam, Hawaii and the U.S. with a higher Basic premium rate;
6. Review different premium structure for self-referred Supplemental Resident premiums based on travel costs and off-island medical costs in the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii.
7. Review current travel subsidy to members' referrals and suggest other ways of paying the increasing airline costs to the Philippines;
8. Perform other duties as agreed by MiCare and Consultant.

Cost and Terms of Payment.

Both parties will negotiate the costs of Actuarial Consultancy and the terms of payment upon submission of interests by the Consultant(s).

Closing Date to submit expression of interests

Any interested consultancy group or individuals may submit their interest now until February 28, 2011 or until filled.

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Please submit your statement of interest to:
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MiCare Health Insurance Plan
P.O. Box 2156
Kolonias, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia 96941
Email: nena@micareplan.fm

Aramas Kapw graduates nine

By Yasuo Yamada

February 7, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—Nikawad Madolenihmw, Micronesia Bound Inc. known by most as "Aramas Kapw" completed Course #169 and graduated 9 participants out of 14 that were originally registered at the beginning of the course.

The participants were subjected to a training course that lasted 22 days that covered several different topics including Mountain Expedition and Traditional Canoe making taught by Micronesia Bound's own community educator Mr. John Joakim and Mr. Wetsin Dikoi.

Participants gained hands on experience and outfield experience.

The parents present on graduation day proudly observed what their offspring had accomplished while they studied at Nikawad in Madolenihmw. The course would not have been so successful without the support of parents.

Micronesia Bound, Inc. would like to acknowledge State and local government officials for their time, effort and dedication in educating our youths of today who may become our leaders of tomorrow. Micronesia Bound would also like to thank the Chiefs and the Mayor of the Pohnpei municipalities for selecting the participants to represent them.

Present at the short ceremony for the awards was board President Walberg Hadley and Mr. Edward Prens, Public Relations Officer.



Front :(Left to Right) Hermis Jr. Makaya, Raynard Elwise, Boy Randall Peter, Noel Joel and Ray Hendy
Back: (Left to Right) Kaponno Ray Allen, Jeffrey Peter, Herson Tom and Marson Edward

... Blue House

Continued from front page

which she is accused, the ill gotten gains from the commission of those crimes will be seized by the United States Government. The indictment listed a total dollar amount of those gains of \$250,543.44.

Since the time of the 2008 indictment in Han Cha died.

The Cha's were accused in the indictment of paying one or more Chuukese recruiters to find young, skinny girls to leave their homes in Chuuk and travel to Guam ostensibly to work in a restaurant or in a store. The Cha's paid for their passports and airline tickets and promised that they would send the money the girls earned back home to their families. According to testimony during the trial once the girls got to Guam Cha withheld their passports and forced them into prostitution in her karaoke bar, the Blue House Lounge. Prosecutors said that the Cha's stripped all of the girls of their Chuukese identities by not only confiscating their passports but by giving them new names. For the young Chuukese girls, one as young as 16 when she was recruited, it seemed to be a matter of "go along to get along."

Victims testified of being beaten, dragged through broken glass, and intimidated by threats of arrest not necessarily for the

prostitution activities into which they'd been forced but because they owed Cha money for their passports and airline tickets. That threat must have seemed very real to the victims. Testimony revealed that Guam police officers often visited the bar both on and off duty.

Officer David Q. Manila who is now the subject of an internal investigation within the Guam Police department because of his court testimony said that he responded to calls to the bar as many as three times each week. He admitted to telling some of the victims that they needed to pay back the money they owed to the Cha's. He said that he refused on a number of occasions to "chase down" girls who had "run away" from the bar. Manila also admitted during his testimony that he had paid \$40 for two drinks for one of the girls while he was off duty. In return he had sex with the girl in one of the VIP rooms.

The young women said that if they didn't please the male customers, Cha, who they called "mama san," would withhold food. The girls all lived on the premises of the bar.

One of the victims testified that she lost her virginity in a VIP room at the Blue House Lounge to a customer who had paid the Cha's \$40 for drinks and who overpowered her.

See "Blue House (2)" on page 10

FSM Telecom is proud to announce the launch of its newest service



MyTV was recently launched in Yap and Chuuk.

The MyTV service employs Digital Video Broadcasting Terrestrial (DVBT), which is a digital wireless system that offers clear picture and sound, as well as convenient new options such as digital radio channels, program scheduling, reminder feature and more.

MyTV will be offered as a prepaid service.

For more information on this service, Contact your local FSM Telecom office.

Diplomatic Corps speaks at FSM National Economic Symposium

FSM Information Services

February 14, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei - On February 8, the second day of the FSM National Economic Symposium taking place last week in Chuuk, Ambassador Zhang Weidong of the Chinese Embassy and Ambassador Peter Prahar of the U.S. Embassy presented their views to the 180 registered attendants regarding what they believe could assist in the economic revitalization of the FSM.

"There can be diverse modes of development in the humanity's road to modernization," said Ambassador Weidong. He explained that China's way of development towards the goal of becoming "a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized and harmonious modern country," has to take into account the fact that China is a developing country, a country in transition, and a socialist country.

"The Chinese way of development is one of the many modes in the world and I don't want to say that it is the best, but it is the most suitable way to China," said Weidong. He stated he knew that FSM has its own dream on how it sees its future, and stressed that "we must work hard for that dream, we must work united for that dream, and work step-by-step to realize that dream."

Next, Ambassador Prahar took to the podium. "We all know why we are here," said Ambassador Prahar, "the FSM's economic performance has continued to disappoint all of us. I think it is fair to say that all of us are very frustrated."

Ambassador Prahar suggested the National and State governments focus their efforts on considering impediments to growth that can be changed, as opposed to those over which we have little control and which are inherent to all Pacific Island economies, including: the

relatively high costs of energy and transportation, small domestic markets, and frequent natural disasters.

"The impediments to growth that you can overcome are largely the result of human choice," said Prahar. He then went on to list six suggestions or areas in which changes would most likely spur private-sector led growth.

First, tax reform. "The FSM needs to reform its tax system to improve efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness and to encourage investment and increased business activity," said Prahar.

Second, land registration and titling reform. The Ambassador admitted he knew this was a sensitive area, "but I am also sure everyone realizes that no sensible investor, domestic or foreign, wants to put his money into improving someone else's property," said Prahar, "an investor needs security of title, lease, or easement."

His third suggestion emphasized the need to operate public utilities on a commercially sustainable basis; and the fourth called for the maintenance of public infrastructure: roads, sewers, water systems, ports, schools, government offices, and medical facilities.

Fifth, the Ambassador asked for the "liberalization and harmonization of foreign investment regulations coupled with an active search for legitimate investors." And his sixth and last suggestion for an impediment to economic growth that the FSM has in its power to remove was that of the lack of an adequate education system.

"I think every businessman would agree that a skilled workforce is a requirement for a business to be successful on a sustained basis," said Prahar. "Teachers and principals must accept responsibility for the purpose of these institutions: teaching the young people who will create the future. If they do not accept a commitment to this purpose or if they lack the

two events is to provide all four of us the opportunity to share with the people what we stand for and to allow for Q&A from those whom we will represent. Word is getting around the island and there are excitements as well as criticism on this approach I am taking but let us not waver as we all know the importance of achieving a well informed voting public. My hope is that the other three candidates will see merit in this and come join me. But do know that with or without them, I will avail myself to meet people."

At press time Vincent Figir had confirmed his participation in the event.

Raigetel said in an email that neither Congress Speaker Isaac Figir nor Congress Chairman Joseph Urusemal will be participating in the events.

"Joe Urusemal called me prior to my travel to the outer island(s) and said he and Speaker Figir will not join as they think anyone can just go and see them at their offices for any questions and this is not Yapese way of doing things," Raigetel's email said.

skills to realize it, they do not belong. You need to move them out and make room for those who are committed and capable."

Throughout his speech, Ambassador Prahar even suggested a marketing slogan for the nation after the above-referenced reforms had been undertaken: "FSM: Open for Business."

Next Ieske Iehsi and Mark Heath of Micronesia Registration Advisers offered an outline of the work accomplished by MRA since its inception, including the recently licensed PermCore Insurance Company Ltd. - a global credit card brand originating from Japan.

Spensin James and Joe Habuchimai gave a summary of the major components of the College of Micronesia's Master Plan as far as what improvements they will implement in the areas of instruction, facilities and use of technology, long-term financial planning of college funds, as well as, improving the design and delivery of vocational programs.

The Center for Micronesian Empowerment (CME), represented by Gerson Jackson, Consul General of FSM in Guam; Michael Ghiglione, Executive Director of CME, and Jay Merrill, Secretary of the Board of Directors of CME, offered some inspiring statistics regarding the job training program they have created in Guam for Micronesians. "Eighty-nine percent of the 168 trainees have successfully passed the CME training program," said Ghiglione, "of these, 94% were successfully placed in full-time jobs in Guam."

The last presentation of the morning was given by Andrew Yatilman, Director of the Office of Environmental and Emergency Management. More details about this presentation will be forthcoming in connection with the final NES resolutions.

That same afternoon, and the following two days, the participants broke out into their assigned working groups to identify the constraints to FSM's economic growth in the areas of investment and trade, infrastructure, transportation, business regulations and logistics, and human resource development.

... Yap forum

Continued from page 2

through a dialogue and be informed of our individual platforms on which our candidacies are based," Raigetel said in a January 31 letter to the three other candidates. "I am aware that this kind of public forum is not generally the way of doing things here in Yap."

"I hope you will forgive me in saying that times are changing and so must we adapt to these changes. Democratic government and all its intricacies, is but a form of these changes. There is much at stake here and there are public opinions and concerns that deserve greater attention by anyone who strives to represent them in Congress," the letter concludes.

In an email "blind copied" to supporters and media outlets including The Kaselehlie Press Raigetel said, "I know a public debate may be too difficult to achieve at this time as it may require more in terms of facilitating it [than there is time left.] What I wish to accomplish through these

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Speaker Figir meets officials of China's Oceania Affairs

FSM Congress

February 4, 2011

Beijing, CHINA (FSM EMBASSY). - Speaker Isaac V. Figir of the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia has met with Director General Xie Fen of the North America and Oceania Affairs in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On January 31 2011, the Honorable Xie Feng, Director General of the North America and Oceania Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, along with key officials of the Ministry met with and hosted Speaker Figir and his delegation to a reception at the St. Regis Hotel in Beijing.

On behalf of the People and Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, through Director General Xie, Speaker Figir extended warm greetings and best wishes to the leadership and people of the People's Republic of China. Noting the importance of the FSM-China relationship, Speaker Figir expressed his appreciation to the Director General for all of the assistance and cooperation between the two countries.

Speaker Figir expressed his appreciation for the two passenger cargo vessels along with the many infrastructure projects and technical assistance that China has extended and provided to the FSM over the past years.

Having met with FSM students in Beijing

recently on Saturday evening, the Speaker also took the opportunity to thank the Chinese Government and registered his deep satisfaction towards the Chinese scholarship program extended to FSM students.

Speaker Figir noted the FSM-China Model relationship and reiterated to Director General his unwavering commitment and support of the "One China Policy." Having served as the former Chairman of the Committee of External Affairs of the FSM Congress in the past, Speaker Figir indicated that the relationship has reached a very mature stage and proposed that the two countries should look into other areas of cooperation that would deepen this relationship. Fisheries is among the areas of cooperation suggested by Speaker Figir.

In response to Speaker Figir's comments, Director General Xie extended his appreciation towards Speaker Figir's visit through China and informed him that China attaches great importance to its relationship with the Pacific Island Countries including the Federated States of Micronesia.

Director General Xie acknowledged the long lasting relationship between FSM-China and indicated that there is great potential for the two countries to explore economic cooperation in the area of fisheries development. Director General Xie expressed to Speaker Figir China's willingness to do its part to assist in facilitating economic development in the FSM. He further mentioned the possibility

of having periodic consultations between the two countries to plan and better coordinate the Chinese development assistance to the FSM.

Continued high level exchanges between the two countries are indicative of the importance that both sides attach to this bilateral relationship. In 2010, President Mori, Vice President Alik, and Vice Speaker Primo respectively lead delegations to visit China and its provinces during the Shanghai World Expo.

The Director General appreciates such visits and welcomes and encourages the continued people to people exchanges between FSM and China. Director General Xie informed Speaker Figir that while he has not personally visited the Pacific, he has nevertheless seen a glimpse of the Pacific cultures through performances and promotions done in Beijing by Pacific Island students studying in China and he is looking forward to a visit to the Pacific islands.

In honor of the upcoming Lunar New Year, also referred to as the Spring Festival, the Director General concluded the formal part of the meeting by reiterating his appreciation of the timely meeting and wished for further development of the bilateral relationship between FSM and China during the new year, the Year of the Rabbit. Rabbits are described to be energetic and fast, which Director General hopes to be reflective of both countries' growth and relationship.

US Peace Corps to work with SPC

07 February 2011, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) -The United States Peace Corps and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will allow for the placement of Peace Corps volunteers in SPC to assist in some institutional and organisational work.

In welcoming this arrangement, SPC Director-General Dr Jimmie Rodgers said that the MOU is an overarching understanding that will benefit SPC, particularly since the specialist volunteers will be working at SPC during a transitional period.

The volunteers will be engaged under the Peace Response Volunteers programme, and they come to the Secretariat with many years of experience in their fields.

'In signing this MOU, the Peace Corps and SPC are agreeing to collaborate on organisational strengthening in Fiji,' Dr Rodgers said.

Peace Corps provides volunteers with courses in local languages and cultures, as well as some technical training.

'We recognise that Peace Corps service is a life-defining leadership experience in an organisation with more than 50 years of existence and a volunteer service programme in the areas of education, youth and community development, health, business, information and communications technology, agriculture and the environment, all of which are development issues at the heart of the work that SPC carries out in its 22 member countries and in communities across the Pacific region,' Dr Rodgers said.

AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ARDS) INTAKE YEAR 2012

Opening Date: 22 February 2011
Closing Date: 31 March 2011

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2012 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

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Expression of Interest Forms are available at:
the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au
the FSM National Scholarship Office,
2nd floor AMCREC building, Kolonia, Pohnpei
Pohnpei Dept of Education, Scholarship Office, Mitaro Simina
Kosrae: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office, Alokua Sigrah
Yap: Dept of Resources & Dev, Scholarship Office, Brian Southwick
Chuuk: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office, Joyce Otoko
the COM Financial Aid Office, Pohnpei
the Australian Embassy, HE Building (next to Sea Breeze Hotel)

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Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Affairs makes first visit to the North Pacific



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 2, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM - Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Affairs, Richard Marles visited Pohnpei on February 2, 2011 as part of a familiarization visit to the region. This was his first visit to the North Pacific region and his first visit to the Federated States of Micronesia.

His visit to the FSM actually began on February 1 when he met with FSM President Manny Mori at the FSM Consulate in Guam.

Traveling aboard an Australian military aircraft, Mr. Marles and his entourage which included Australian Broadcasting Corporation video journalist Sean Dorney traveled first to Palau, then to Guam, and Saipan before they arrived in Pohnpei. His final North Pacific destination on this particular trip took him to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

During his visit he arranged for a fifteen minute interview with The Kaselehlie Press. The interview wasn't nearly long enough to discuss all of the many areas in which the Australian and the FSM governments have interaction. Moments after the interview, Mr. Marles was off to the Pacific Islands Central School field to watch at least part of a soccer match and to meet with some members of the FSM Football Association.

According to a later press release Mr. Marles said the skill and enthusiasm on display at that event was impressive.

"Soccer is a great team sport that suits all ages and fitness levels and one of the strengths of this program is that it will develop game skills among school children, hopefully instilling a life-long love of the sport."

Supported by the Australian Sports Outreach Program (ASOP), the program will initially establish youth and adult soccer leagues in each of the four FSM states with at least four UEFA Level 1 qualified coaches in each state.

The aim is to have four state teams ready to compete in the next FSM Games held in Pohnpei later this year.

Later that evening he joined invited guests at a

reception at the home of Australia's Ambassador Susan Cox.

Our interview follows:

Many of us in the FSM are not familiar with the structure of the Australian Government. Can you please tell us what a Parliamentary Secretary is?

I'm a member of Parliament. I'm a member of the House of Representatives and represent an area which is based on the city of Jolong which is about an hour southwest of Melbourne in the State of Victoria. So I fill that role. As a member of the govern-

ing party I'm a member of the Executive Government as well. A Parliamentary Secretary is I suppose, to use the U.S. term a bit like an under-secretary, if you like. I'm an assistant Minister and my responsibility is in the Foreign Affairs portfolio and we've long, on the Labor Party side of politics, liked to have that role focus specifically on the Pacific, hence the title "Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs."

My role is really to work with the Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd in managing our relationships with those countries of the Pacific, of the Pacific Island Forum, but also to build relationships with the territories of that region as well.

How's the trip been so far? I know it's been a whirlwind.

Yeah, it always is and that is the unfortunate side of things but the Pacific's a big place and I'm keen to get to all of it. And look, it's been fantastic. It's my first time in this region, in Micronesia in the North Pacific and obviously it's my first visit to the Federated States of Micronesia. This is a remarkably beautiful part of the world and I'm sorry that it is such a short visit. But I think that one of the things that we are very keen to demonstrate on this visit is the importance that we place on our relationship with the Federated States of Micronesia and obviously the other countries in this region. We do see this as our neighborhood and our neighborhood in the sense, through the Pacific Island Forum is not one which stops at the equator; the North Pacific is very much a part of it as well and I think that there are lots of issues which are shared in common between all of the island countries of the Pacific, north and south of the equator, fishing being one and making sure that there's a good economic return from that resource. Climate change is obviously an issue that affects all of the countries in the Pacific. So it's been really good to engage with the countries about that but in the process, demonstrate the significance we place on our relationship with the countries of this region in particular the Federated States of Micronesia.

We interviewed Duncan Kerr when he was here and he said that he hoped that the Australian Government would be able to move forward on their response to climate change but that he was uncertain whether or not the political climate at that time was right. What direction is Australia moving in terms of its re-

sponse to climate change?

I suppose the first point to make is that we regard climate change as one of the really great issues of our age and something that the world simply must come to terms with. We would love to see an internationally binding agreement in relation to carbon emissions. We were very active in the lead up to the Copenhagen conference. The Prime Minister at the time, Kevin Rudd, now the Foreign Minister was a friend of the Chair along with the President of Mexico in the lead up to Copenhagen. So we were an active participant in that as we were in Cancun. So our international stance is very clear.

We also think that to get to the next level of specificity that the fast track climate change adaptation funds which have been promised by, if you like, the "global donors," are a really important resource for countries such as the Federated States of Micronesia; that we need to see that money flowing as quickly as we can. So today we've committed \$599 million globally as our contribution to the "fast track funds." \$160 million of that will come to the Pacific. We've already committed almost 80% of that, which is important in itself but we hope it has a larger importance in the sense of sending a message to the rest of those countries contributing to the fund that they need to get those funds flowing as quickly as possible.

The final point I'd make is that domestically in Australia we are doing what we can to try and place a price on carbon. The, what was then the Rudd Labor government now the Gillard Labor government, has put forward a bill to Parliament which would place a price on carbon within our economy. Unfortunately it did not get through the Parliament. We have now, under the leadership of the Prime Minister Julia Gillard initiated a process a process of dialogue with all of the significant players within our economy to try to "have another go at that," if you like and to make sure that we can get a price on carbon. We think that's a critical piece of microeconomic reform in Australia and the most important thing we can do to contribute to the global effort to reduce carbon emissions.

It's never economically popular though is it ...

No, it's not, well let me rephrase that, it's economically difficult is the answer to that question. Having said that I think that a lot of companies, we find, are saying to us that what they really want from us is to get certainty; that they can see that having a price placed upon carbon is the future and that they would like to see Australia reach a level of certainty and mechanism for placing that price upon carbon so that they can plan for their long term future within our country and under our laws. So I think that whilst it is of course difficult, I actually think that many in the economy understand the need for it and given that want to see movement on this as quickly, I mean to make sure we get the right answer, but within that framework, as quickly as possible. So I'm hopeful that we will get there. I mean we're going to get there but I think that what's important is that we make this move as expeditiously as we can and obviously we need to see that happen on a global level as well.

Moving on so that we can cover as much ter-

ritory as possible can you talk briefly about the Free Trade Agreement (Pacer Plus) and what might be in it for the Pacific as opposed to Australia and future trade interchanges and relationships?

We think the Pacer Plus is an important regional mechanism that we ought to aspire to and free trade has always been something that Australia has always believed in. We think that the countries of the Pacific engaging in the global trading system is one of the most important things that can occur in order to see the development of the countries of the Pacific. So in our view there will be benefit for these countries for participating in the global trade system. As much as anything, we want to allow, through the free trade agreement, the opening up of the Australian market, for example, to the products of the Pacific.

We also recognize though that in doing that there are a lot of mechanics and logistics which need to be in place in order for countries like the FSM to plug into the global trading system and so, if you like, the "Plus" part of the Pacer Plus agreement is to provide funding to allow that to occur around issues such as having good customs arrangement, quarantine arrangements, statistics, the keeping of statistics so that all the mechanisms that need to occur in order for countries like the FSM to participate in the global trading system can be done.

One of the things that your Ambassador Susan Cox has held dear to her heart has been the Policing Initiatives and policing development programs. How is that going in your view?

Well we were talking about that at the Micronesia Transnational Crime unit before meeting you this afternoon. Look I think that that unit and its connection with the broader Pacific Transnational crime network has been a fantastic program, well actually, a fantastic act of cooperation between not only the countries but a number of the territories of the Pacific in dealing with transnational crime. I think that there's a real impact that is occurring as a result of that. This isn't a place where people engaged in organized crime can hide anymore. Through these networks we are able to extend the global network of law enforcement to this part of the world. So I think that there is enormous value in that.

I don't think it stops there because I think that there is a, there's really a development side to this as well, both for the countries that are participating in this program but also the officers that do so are getting invaluable experience in dealing with issues of crime and what we're finding is that those personnel who have been placed within, here at the Micronesia Transnational Crime Unit but also the broader Pacific transnational crime network, when they return to their home police forces they are taking up very senior roles. I think the experience that they're gaining from that has been important as well so I think it's serving both a dual purpose of providing that network so that this is not a place where organize crime can hide whilst at the same time providing a real development assistance for the policing capability of this region.

See "Marles" on page 8

... Chuuk lawsuit

Continued from front page

dent Manny Mori issued a Presidential Order regulating the release of CIP funds for Chuuk State. Chuuk's lawsuit says, "The Presidential Order unilaterally rescinded and cancelled the Agreement to Establish Procedures for the Administration and Disbursement of Compact I funds for the Municipalities in Chuuk State signed by the former President (Joseph Urusemal) and the Governor of Chuuk State without the express or implied consent and no notice whatsoever from Chuuk State Government."

The February 4 civil suit was filed by Chuuk State Attorney General Jose Gallen on behalf of Amanto Marsolo in his official capacity as the Mayor of Tolensom Municipality, Tolensom Municipality, Wesley Simina in his official capacity as Governor of Chuuk State and on behalf of Chuuk State.

The suit names as defendants, a substantial list that includes: Kisauo Esa, Lorenso Faraway, Marcelino Elias, Rose Nakanaga individually and in her official capacity as the Acting Secretary of the FSM Department of Finance and Administration, Manny Mori in his official capacity as President of the FSM, Leonito Bacalando, Jr. individually and in his official capacity as Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice, Maketo Robert, individually and in his official capacity as the Secretary of the Department of Justice, Fabian Nimea individually and in his official capacity as the Director of the Office of Statistics, Budget, and Economic Management (sic), FSM National Government, FSM Department of Justice, FSM Office of Statistics, Budget, and Economic Management (sic), and John Does.

The "John Does" were people who have already received money from Esa after

he received the contested allotment for Tolensom from the FSM Government. Plaintiffs want that money back.

The suit against the National Government was filed on the same day that the Chuuk State Supreme Court handed down a ruling in another matter (Chuuk State Supreme Court CSSC-CA No. 114-2010) regarding interim elections in Tolensom, Faichuuk. The Chuuk Supreme Court, in addition to ruling against plaintiffs on every point of that law suit also ruled that there was a conflict in legal representation in that matter: "The Court further finds that the interests of plaintiff/third party defendant Marsolo and third party defendant State Election Commission present an un-waivable conflict for the office of the Chuuk State Attorney General's office. That office, along with all of its trial counselors and attorneys, is hereby enjoined from representing either party since such representation would be tainted by the present conflict of interest."

The plaintiffs in 114-2010 were Amanto Marsolo in his official capacity as Mayor of Tolensom Municipality and the Tolensom Election Commission. Defendants were Apret Muty, Sepio Bisek, et al.

Third party plaintiffs included Kisauo Esa in his official capacity as Mayor of Tolensom Municipality, Apret Muty, in his official capacity as chairman of Tolensom Municipal Election Commission. Third party defendants were Amanto Marsolo, and the Chuuk State Election Commission.

A hearing will take place tomorrow at the FSM Supreme Court in Chuuk at 10:00 in the morning to consider plaintiff's motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and Application for Preliminary Injunction on the issue. For a TRO or a preliminary injunction to be issued by the court four tests must be proved. Movants must prove "the likelihood of success on the merits of the party seeking injunctive relief; the possibility of

irreparable injury to the moving party; the balance of possible injuries or inconvenience to the parties which would flow from granting or denying the relief; and any impact on the public interest."

The motion for the TRO says, "There is no single iota of doubt that the Plaintiffs herein will prevail..." because of violations by defendants the suit says interfered in Chuuk State matters.

There might be some "iota of doubt" if the FSM Supreme Court rules as the Chuuk State Supreme Court did, that Chuuk State's Attorney cannot represent plaintiff Marsolo due to an unspecified but "unwaivable conflict."

Complicating matters further for Chuuk State's case is the fact that numerous courts besides the FSM Supreme Court have ruled on many other occasions that a matter that can be resolved by money damages does not warrant the issuance of a TRO.

From documents in the possession of The Kaselehlle Press that did not include the Executive Order issued by President Manny Mori on January 10, 2010, the remaining fund balance of \$2.3 million was to be split on a percentage basis (a percent of the "current fund balance" against the grand total of remaining funds) amongst 27 of the 40 municipalities of Chuuk that had not already either spent or overspent CIP allotments previously received.

No mention was made in Mr. Gallen's case on behalf of his clients of over \$3.6 million that was previously sent by the FSM National Government early in this century to the Chuuk State government that never went to the municipalities of Chuuk. That money seems to have disappeared.

The crux of the Plaintiff's case seems to be that sovereign powers that rightly belong to Chuuk State were usurped by the National Government.

... Marles

Continued from page 7

Did the Micronesian Transnational Crime Unit provide any specific examples of say, for instance maybe arrests, investigations they took part in?

Look, there's been...they did. There's been a number of success stories as I mentioned in terms of identifying people who have been engaged in crime elsewhere in the world who might be thinking that they can come to this part of the world to seek a safe refuge.

In relation to say, cannabis cultivation here on Pohnpei, there's been examples where the MTCU has been able to work cooperatively to recover some of that and also the mechanism for distributing the cannabis that's been grown and that. Money laundering, credit card fraud, all of these are areas which have been covered by the MTCU. What is clear is that this is a very busy unit which is doing really good work. And, you know, that's obviously a great benefit for the people who live here but actually I think it's a benefit for countries like Australia, and America and Europe for that matter in terms of making sure that these can never become a place that people can hide.

I actually think that MTCU and PTCN (the Pacific National Crime Network) of which it is a part, is one of the real success stories in Pacific cooperation. It is a complete sea change in terms what we're seeing now in terms of cooperation around organized crime in this region compared to what it was, say, 15 years ago. It's a big difference, so there's actually a good story to tell there.

You're also contributing to the local Pohnpei State and FSM policing initiatives, local community policing initiatives. Have you met with the State Police here?

Not yet but there is a contribution that is being made there through the Police Partnership Development program so hopefully we'll hear more about that.

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For more information contact: Ricky Jano, Remedial Management Officer, email: rickyj@fsmdb.fm or Nora E Sigrath, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, telephone: 691- 320-2840, fax 691-320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm

The President's FY 2012 Budget Requests \$474.4 Million to Support U.S. Insular Areas and Freely Associated States

FSM Information Services

February 15, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei (U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary) - President Obama has proposed a budget of \$474.4 million for the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) in fiscal year 2012. The current appropriations request includes \$59.5 million in discretionary funding, \$27.7 million in mandatory funding and a \$10.1 million transfer from the Department of Defense for vehicles and supplies for the transportation of civilian students on Guam. In addition, \$377.1 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations is estimated for 2012 for fiscal payments mandated by law to U.S. territories and Freely Associated States. The President's budget reflects many difficult budget choices, cutting worthy programs in order to fund the highest priority requirements, and advancing efforts to shrink Federal spending while being mindful of ongoing commitments.

The \$59.5 million slated for discretionary programs under the 2012 budget request will address a variety of technical assistance and facilities maintenance programs in the U.S.-affiliated island communities. The 2012 budget makes noteworthy investments to bolster energy security in the insular areas and address impacts anticipated as a result of the planned relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam within the Department of Defense.

"The 2012 budget request demonstrates President Obama's continued commitment to the well-being of the U.S. insular areas while remaining fiscally disciplined," said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta. "Among the strategic investments we are making, we are proposing to take big strides toward helping the insular areas

implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in assessments funded by OIA in 2010."

"In addition, the budget proposal reflects our commitment to addressing the impacts of the U.S. Marines' relocation to Guam," Babauta explained. "These funds demonstrate strong interagency collaboration in support of the President's commitment to a "One Guam" approach to managing the relocation and will be used to purchase public safety equipment and fund technical assistance projects that help the local government better serve the civilian community."

The 2012 budget proposal will also support efforts to control the invasive Brown Tree snake on Guam, assist coral reef conservation initiatives, and support the operations of the American Samoa Government.

Current mandatory appropriations of \$27.7 million will continue to be used to undertake capital improvement projects (CIP) that create economic opportunity in U.S. territories and improve the quality of life in those communities. With these funds, American Samoa is scheduled to receive \$10.1 million in CIP funding, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands \$9.5 million, Guam \$6.1 million and the U.S. Virgin Islands \$2.0 million.

Permanent appropriations for 2012 include \$145.0 million in payments to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Guam is slated to receive an estimated \$45.0 million in taxes collected in the territory via the IRS "mirror" code that are by law transferred to the Government of Guam to support its public safety, health care, education and other ser-

their brief introductions, Speaker Figir expressed his appreciation of the Chinese Government Scholarship and acknowledged the strong relationship that FSM has with China. Giving the students a brief background on the importance of the FSM-China model relationship, the Speaker encouraged the students to work hard in school so that they may contribute to the overall development of the FSM.

Speaker Figir underscored the fact that the nation's most important resource is its human resources and therefore expects and encourages each student to study and utilize their scholarship to the fullest.

The evening's dinner reception touched upon many issues of concerns for the students. While most of the topics and questions addressed school and scholarship related issues, other topics and issues of interest were discussed such as the upcoming FSM General Elections in March and especially the proposed constitutional amendments.

To close the formal part of the reception Speaker Figir expressed his appreciation of the occasion to meet with these FSM students in China by donating \$1,000.00 to the two FSM student organizations based in Beijing and Wuhan.

vices and operations. The U.S. Virgin Islands is scheduled to receive an estimated \$100.0 million for Federal taxes collected on distilled spirits in the territory that are by law transferred to the local government to support its operations. The budget includes \$232.1 million in payments to the Freely Associated States under the Compact of Free Association legislation including \$67.1 million for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and \$105.5 million for the Federated States of Micronesia.

On September 3, 2010, the United States and the Government of Palau successfully concluded their review of the Compact of Free Association and signed a 15-year extension agreement that includes a \$250 mil-

lion package of assistance through 2024. Under the agreement, Palau committed to undertake economic, legislative, financial, and management reforms. The conclusion of the agreement reaffirms the close partnership between the United States and the Republic of Palau. A legislative proposal was transmitted to Congress on January 14, 2011 for its consideration; therefore, OIA is not requesting current appropriations for Palau Compact assistance in 2012.

The Office of Insular Affairs strives to empower insular communities so they can overcome development challenges inherent to insular areas and seize upon economic growth and job creation opportunities as they arise.



MiCare Federated States of Micronesia

Medical Claim Audit

Scope of Services

MiCare Health Insurance Plan is seeking for a Medical Claim Audit Consultant or individual who may be qualified to perform the following scope of activities:

General Duty: Review claims processed and submitted by Fee-For-Services Providers in the Federated States of Micronesia to determine possible fraud and abusive activities.

Specific activities include, but are not limited to, the followings:

1. Review FY2010 reimbursement claims submitted by seven (5) private clinics in Pohnpei and two (2) Chuuk, and one Public Hospital in Yap State;
2. Identify any fraudulent and abusive activities involving the claim processing by the private clinics and hospital cited above;
3. The coverage of claim audit should not be less than 10%, and not more than 20%, of the total reimbursement claims submitted to MiCare in Fiscal Year 2010;
4. The claim audit should strictly adhere to scientifically approved methods of random sampling so that the audit result could be interpreted in the court of law as representative of the whole;
5. Audit MiCare Utilization review process to determine if standard claim review and processing are being followed;
6. Share any preliminary findings with the involved providers regarding identified fraudulent and abusive activities ;
7. Provide a preliminary report to the MiCare Board of Directors and the Administrator during an exit conference to be scheduled
8. Prepare a technical report on the findings and distribute such report to the Administrator (2 ea), MiCare Board of Directors (6 copies), FSM Audit General Office (2 copies), and FSM Attorney General's Office (2 copies).
9. Make specific recommendations to the Administrator on ways to improve the future audit claim activities;
10. Make specific recommendations on how to eliminate fraudulent and abusive claim activities by the providers and MiCare organization.
11. Perform other duties related to the implementation and completion of the claim audit activities.

Cost and Terms of Payment.

Both parties will negotiate the costs of Claim Audit Consultancy and the terms of payment upon submission of interests by the Consultant(s).

Closing Date to submit expression of interests

Any consultancy group or individual may submit their interest now until March 18, 2011 or until filled.

Address:

Please submit your statement of interest to:

Mr. Nena S. Nena
Administrator
MiCare Health Insurance Plan
P.O. Box 2156
Kolonias, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia 96941
Email: nmena@micareplan.fm

Speaker Figir meets with and donates to FSM students in China

FSM Congress

PALIKIR, POHNPEI. February 3, 2011 - Speaker Isaac V. Figir of the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia has met with FSM students studying in China and donated 1,000 to the FSM Students Organizations in China.

The FSM Embassy in Beijing has informed Congress in a press statement that on January 29, 2011, Ambassador Akillino H. Susaia hosted a dinner reception at the Golden Jaguar in honor of the visit by Speaker Figir and Legislative Counsel T. Lam Dang. Speaker Figir and Legislative Counsel Lam Dang, transited in Beijing after attending the 19th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Embassy took the opportunity to invite FSM students studying in China under the Chinese Government scholarship program to attend the dinner reception and to have an opportunity to meet with Speaker Figir and LC Mr. Lam Dang. A total of six students studying in Beijing and one from Nanjing were present.

After listening to the students from

... Blue House (2)*Continued from page 4*

The testimony of a Blue Lounge employee, Saknin Weria said that when one of the girls became pregnant that girl was forced to drink Pine-Sol and Clorox bleach and someone "jump on the stomach, do anything" to prevent that baby from being born. When that didn't kill the baby, Song Ja Cha and Weria took the girl to a clinic for an abortion. Later they took the other girls for birth control shots.

In emotional testimony on Valentine's Day, Song Ja Cha testified that she had paid for the Chuukese women's passports and for their plane tickets to Guam. She said she paid for the tickets because the women were poor and because when she traveled to Chuuk "she was reminded of her own youth in Korea," wrote Pacific Daily News reporter Erin Thompson.

One witness testified that Cha told them to drink so that they would be uninhibited but said that she treated the women like her own daughters and they would tell her that they loved her. She said that whenever a new girl came to work for her she would counsel them not to drink too much and not to "make love." She vehemently denied knowing that any sex was taking place in her bar. Just the same she said that sex may have happened without her knowledge.

Defense attorney Howard Trapp told jurors in his closing argument not to assume that all of the witness' testimony was true referring to the Chuukese girls who worked at the bar. He called their testimony "self serving words from a group of prostitutes who knew they were in trouble."

He argued that Cha is not physically imposing. "Mrs. Cha is not capable of beating the girls and overpowering them," Trapp said.

Apparently jurors did not agree.

News reports on the trial did not mention the physical size of Song Ja Cha's deceased husband and whether that factor was ever discussed at the trial.

Federal Prosecutor Jared Fishman told jurors in his closing argument, "Officer Manila and other officers were just tools in the defendant's scheme. The defendant used police as her weapon...by telling you the truth, he has everything to lose, but his testimony corroborates the victims' testimony...the only testimony that was not corroborated was that of the defendant. She has every incentive to lie."

The federal case against Song Ja Cha was in no way a "slam dunk." It is clear that jurors took their duty very seriously. At 10:00 yesterday jurors broke from their deliberations because they had some questions that were discussed in open court before their deliberations continued. The jury asked for a complete tran-

script of the trial testimony and also had questions about the definition of the word, "attempted." They received their instructions and broke at the end of yesterday without having reached a verdict.

The federal case was set back after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year reaffirmed a ruling of an earlier Hawaii federal court decision that physical evidence obtained by Guam Police Officers on the weekend of Song Ja Cha's arrest in January of 2008 was inadmissible. That court ruled in a decision that has now become a benchmark in federal law that the 26 and half hours it took Guam Police Officers to obtain a search warrant was unreasonable. During that time period, Officers barred In Han Cha who was not initially detained in the matter from entering his home for several hours, ostensibly concerned that Mr. Cha would destroy evidence. Several hours later they finally did allow Cha to enter his home with a police escort in order to retrieve his diabetes medicine. The courts ruled that the evidence must be suppressed because of a pervasive "nonchalant attitude" and slow work in the Guam Police Department.

While the grand jury indictment of the Cha's listed victims' names only as a series of initials, the ruling of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals listed the names of two of the victims as a foot note. Publishing those names here would only serve to further stigmatize the young Chuukese women who have already been traumatized.

The federal case relied mainly on the testimony of some of the victims, police officers and the testimony of two Chuukese citizens who have already been convicted of conspiracy in connection with the Blue House matter. Freda Eseun and Saknin Weria accepted a plea bargain deal from U.S. Attorneys in exchange for their cooperation in the trial of the Cha's. Eseun and Weria both pled guilty to one count each of conspiracy related to the charges against Song Ja Cha and her husband. One or both of them testified that part of their jobs was to keep the Chuukese girls in line by among other things, monitoring their telephone conversations to be sure that no mention was made of the prostitution activities.

News reports on the trial said that the federal prosecutor also made reference to wire transfers in the "thousands of dollars," to an unspecified recruiter in Chuuk. The news report said that one of the people he recruited on behalf of the Cha's was the unnamed recruiter's own daughter who was sixteen years old at the time.

The FSM Department of Justice was not immediately able to tell us whether or not they ever filed criminal charges against an FSM citizen related to ill gotten gains received as the result of human sex trafficking. FSM's Attorney General Maketo Robert did not immediately return a phone call to clarify whether or not the FSM has any laws regarding human trafficking.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on July 30, 2010 and December 6, 2010, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Lot No. 65189, land known as "Nemiror # 2", situated in Neauo Village, Weno Municipality, Chuuk State, with an approximate area of 2,500 square meters, as described in the Determination of Ownership issued on September 4, 1996 and registered as Document No. 4400 at the Office of the Registrar, Chuuk State Land Commission.

- There is no minimum bid amount for the parcel.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 17, 2011 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Ms Janet Sisam at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Weno, Chuuk on Thursday, March 17, 2011 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on September 6, 2010 and December 29, 2010, public notice is hereby given that the parcels described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 045-E-28, situated in Lohd-powe section, Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State, with an approximate area of 15,216 square meters, as described in the Certificate of Title issued on June 5, 2005 and registered as Document No. 20531 at the Office of the Registrar, Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure.

Parcel no. 068-D-16, situated in Mesihsou section, Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State, with an approximate area of 2,848 square meters, as described in the Certificate of Title issued on May 8, 1995 and registered as Document No. 14169 at the Office of the Registrar, Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure.

- There is no minimum bid amount for the parcels.
- Bids may be submitted for one or both of the parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 17, 2011 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Mr Ricky Jano at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Thursday, March 17, 2011 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO ALL PARCELS

- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount for each parcel.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the land, including all buildings, fixtures, equipment, and other improvements on the land, upon delivery of a cashier's check in the full amount of the bid payable to the "FSM Development Bank" no later than ten (10) days after notice is given. The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- If the winning bidder fails to remit payment within the required time, the award will be granted to the next highest bidder and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcel is offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to its condition whatsoever.
- Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Ricky Jano, Remedial Management Officer, email: rickyj@fsmdb.fm or Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm

Guest Perspective

Proposed constitutional amendments?

By **Former FSM President John R. Haglelgam**
Regent Professor at the College of
Micronesia-FSM National Campus

On March 8 of this year, you will be voting on two proposed amendments to the FSM national constitution. The FSM Congress passed these two amendments and the president approved them. However, these amendments will not take effect unless and until the voters approve them in the March 2011 referendum. One of these amendments proposes to delete section 3 of article III of the FSM national constitution. This section of the citizenship article prohibits FSM citizens from becoming citizens of another country. If a child is born in the United States to FSM citizen parents or one parent is an FSM citizen, he or she will hold dual citizenship until three years of his or her eighteenth birthday. At that time he or she will decide whether to remain FSM citizen or become a United States citizen. If he or she chooses to remain an FSM citizen, then he or she must renounce the US citizenship. I used the United States to illustrate a point here, but this will similarly apply to other countries in the world.

If you, as the holders of our country's sov-

eignty, ratify this proposed amendment, then the restriction against acquiring another citizenship will be removed, and FSM citizens can hold dual citizenship.

This proposed amendment is supposed to make it possible for the FSM citizens serving in the United States armed forces to acquire US citizenship without losing their FSM citizenship, so that they would be eligible to become officers. This sounds logical but it is impossible. The FSM citizens in the US armed forces would need to acquire US citizenship through naturalization and they must take the Oath of Citizenship. By taking that Oath, they would renounce their FSM citizenship in the following fashion:

Thereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of

the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

The three main pillars of the national sovereignty of our country are its identified territory, its organized governments, and its people. The last pillar is not just any people, but the citizens. The citizens must have undivided loyalty, unquestioned patriotism, and full commitment and readiness to pay the ultimate sacrifice for their country. I think dual citizenship will create a category of citizens that are partially loyal; somewhat patriotic, and questionably committed to their country. Since our country's sovereignty has already taken a beating under the Compact, it does not deserve any more battering by misdirected government policy.

The other proposed amendment will amend section 8 of article IX of the FSM National Constitution to make all members serve a four-year term. Currently, the four at-large members serve a four-year term and the others ten who represent single-member election districts serve two-year term. The two-year term members' claim that two years is too short for implementing their programs. This

argument is somewhat fallacious. The Congress' job is to legislate; not to implement programs. Constitutionally, implementation of programs is the Executive branch's job. In fact, a cursory examination of the records of the past two sessions indicated that more than 65 percent of the congressional acts are amendments to current laws, especially appropriation laws.

As voters, you must weigh the desire of the two-year members to lengthen their term against your right to evaluate their performance on the job. Election is a means of implementing voters' rights to examine the performance of their representatives and decide whether to grant them another term. For this proposed amendment, the issue you need to decide is quite simple. How often do you want to review your representatives' performance and renew their mandate? Perhaps the more frequent the better. It seems that a four-year term would be too infrequent.

Perhaps the motive for this proposed amendment is job security, but Congress has deviously hidden it under the wrapping of program implementation. What is at stake with this amendment is your constitutional right to review the performance of your representatives at a more frequent rate versus job security for the two-year members. As the holders of our national sovereignty, the preservation of your right should take precedence over job security for members of Congress.

Letter to the Editor

Pohnpei dump, cheaper to keep her?

Dear Editor,

After reading the article (K-Press, 7 Feb) about Pohnpei State Government officially designating 9.3 hectares of public land in Palikir for a sanitary landfill, I thought a bit about the time when I visited the proposed site about 14 years ago, in 1997, if memory serves correctly. Three consultants, Pohnpei EPA staff, myself, and perhaps one or two other people whose names I don't remember, took a boat around the northwest corner of the island and then entered a channel in the mangrove which took us to the remnants of a dock built in Japanese times. The dock was built to service a pre-WWII cattle ranch operating nearby.

After a short walk we were in the general area which is to be the new landfill. It is a very pretty section of relatively flat land along the coast, with low hills just inland. It was explained to me that the area's name was "Nandaku".

For a couple of reasons the site is preferable to the current dumpsite in Dekehtik. One reason is that it is not located in a mangrove swamp. (From a conservation perspective, mangrove swamps are very valuable eco-systems and should be protected, not turned into dumps.) Another reason is that the prevailing winds will take any smell or smoke out to sea, not to a com-

munity across the bay. Another advantage is that there is an ample supply of dirt nearby to use for cover material.

However, there are some downsides to relocating the dumpsite to Nandaku. One of these is the initial cost of constructing the site and the access road to it. The estimated cost listed in the PALIKIR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE REPORT (2002) is about \$3.25 million for the construction of the site, and between \$2 - 3 million for the access road. These are 2002 dollars so perhaps we need to multiply by 2 or 3 for the estimated 2011 dollar totals.

One downside for the residents of the affected sections of Palikir will be the big trash trucks rumbling through their communities. The schedule will be perhaps daily, or less frequent, depending on the container system utilized. If "roll-offs" are used, then these trucks will be about the same size as the container hauling trucks that deliver 20 and 40 foot cargo containers from the dock to stores.

An additional downside for nearby residents may also be smoke, smell, and vermin, depending upon the wind direction and the quality of the sanitary landfill aspects of the day-to-day operation. The present

See "Letter to the editor" on next page

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... Letter to the Editor*Continued from previous page*

dumpsite in Dekehtik could be operated as a sanitary landfill, if the state was willing to provide the funds necessary, year to year.

Another negative aspect of the move to Palikir, is the fact that there already is a dumpsite on Pohnpei – a place which has been receiving solid waste for more than 30 years, and therefore has been contaminated, as is any dumpsite to a certain extent. But, the site is not yet at capacity. (Take a visit to the “outer edge” of the Dekehtik dump to verify this). Based upon our observations over the past 14 years, our estimate is the present site can accept municipal solid waste for at least another twenty years. Why create another contaminated/polluted site on this small island, when there already is one?

Solid waste disposal facilities inherently have some nasty aspects about them, although there can be wide variation dump to dump. The Pohnpei dumpsite is not the same as a city or municipal dump in many other non-small island locations, just like Pohnpei is not same as Guam or Honolulu. As incorrectly stated in the Trash Audit report referred to on a recent K-Press front page (26 July 2010), there are no birds at the Dekehtik site, and “burn-offs” are not a part of our operating procedure. The dump, as it is presently operated, is not a hazard to ships or planes, and no adverse reports related to this issue have ever been received.

With regard to vermin, there are relatively few rats. From personal observation I can confirm that the most numerous vector at the dump is cats. However, the dump’s isolated location, far away from residences, keeps the chance of transmission of disease by these cats very low. During my term as the State Director of Health Services, there was never discussion of any disease emanating from the dump. Also, the foreign fishermen, who trade tunas for cats, seem healthy. So I, for one, am not certain for which disease(s) the dump site is supposedly the source.

That report further states that “Continued use of the existing dump is problematic because chemicals are leached into water and soil causing damage to terrestrial and marine environments, the dump attracts disease carrying ‘vectors,’ and it is an eyesore to tourists and others ...” Regarding the Dekehtik dumpsite, the report does not state the source of the information upon which these statements are based. No report has ever been received in my office indicating that dangerous chemicals are leaching in to the lagoon causing damage to the marine environment. I would expect to have been notified if such a situation was occurring. In the past PWMS has requested the government to conduct an independent pollution reading of lagoon waters adjacent to the dump, but I have not seen any results if this measurement was done. It would be a conflict of interest for PWMS as contractor for the state, to be responsible

for this testing.

There is very little “terrestrial” environment at the dump, since it was originally part of the mangrove swamp. However the people (including some of our employees) who harvest the papayas, bananas and other fruits and vegetables which grow along the perimeter don’t report getting sick from this consumption. As my research while preparing the FSM’s Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries (POPS in PICS) National Profile document indicated, there are relatively few dangerous chemicals imported into Pohnpei. There are no local heavy industries and no large plantations, so there is no need for importation of any toxic industrial or agricultural chemicals. The prohibited and restricted substances lists provided by the FSM and Pohnpei EPA, are appropriate, and so far, enforcement is working.

All in all, although it is a dump, the Dekehtik dumpsite is, by far, not the worst in the Pacific, and as a matter of fact, has in the past, been ranked among the best (see Marshall Islands Journal – 1 Nov. 2002). Nonetheless, let’s face it - a dump is like the “armpit” of the community. And who wants to have more armpits than necessary? ...or live next to one? Pohnpei island’s 35,000+ population only needs one dump. And, a viable system to eliminate the hundreds of polluting, illegal, mini-dump eyesores seen in many villages.

Another necessary consideration will be the on-going, annual cost of the operation necessary to regularly transport solid waste from Kolonia (where a significant portion of the island’s waste is generated) to the new site. The Palikir MSW Report suggests a price tag of \$250,000. Cost calculations in a proposal for round-the-island collection services that PWMS submitted in 2005 was in the same ballpark, after an initial year set up cost of about \$700,000.

The relocation of the dumpsite has been in the planning process for seventeen years now, since 1994. During the first part of part of this period the price of fuel had yet to perform the skyrocket that happened in the early years of the last decade. The planning at that time was based upon diesel costing between one and two dollars per gallon. Now, the costs of new site and access road construction, and closure of the Dekehtik site, will run into the millions of dollars. Last issue’s article explains that “The joint committee report prepared as a result of hearings on the matter of establishing a dump site in Lewetik, Palikir, Sokehs said that the principal motivation was to relocate the Dekehtik dumpsite that is currently one of the first things tourists and other visitors see after they get off of the airplane in Pohnpei.” So we’re spending millions of dollars, and exposing residents of the to-be-affected kousahpws in Palikir to heavy truck traffic and potential disease carrying vermin, to keep some tourists from being offended by traveling past the dump on their way into town from the airport? Is there an exit survey, conducted by the Tourism Office, that substantiates this information? Wouldn’t all of the rusted vehicle hulks and litter along the

roadside, or trash floating in the mangrove be more of a tourist turn-off?

I wonder how many of the readers of this letter remember the manner in which the Dekehtik dumpsite was managed before 1997? At that time it was not uncommon for half of the causeway road pavement, near the single lane access drive into the dump, to be covered with debris. If you were a good citizen and tried (in the rain sometimes) to drive into the dump to properly throw away a bag of trash, it could be a nasty endeavor – stepping into stinky, foot deep muck and then trying to turn your vehicle around or break your neck trying to back out. No wonder trash was tossed by the side of the road or just a few yards “up” the drive.

Privatization brought a “quantum-leap” improvement for a dumpsite visit. A packed coral surfaced access loop and a wide “working face” area made it easy to discard a bag of trash. PWMS employees assigned to direct traffic were actually tipped by some happy dumpsite “customers”! The improvements that made this difference in operation were not expensive.

Perhaps prior to the sudden rush to relocate the dumpsite, it might be wise to pause one more time (we are into the 18th year of planning, so one more pause can’t make that much difference) and see how expensive it would be to implement another “quantum-leap” improvement at the present site. Based on our local experience and expertise, I’m willing to wager that a “push back” of the present working face and the creation of a landscaped buffer zone alongside the causeway road, could completely hide the operation from any passing tourist, at a fraction of the millions of dollars slated for the relocation project.

The solid waste that is being spread at the Dekehtik site these days has not yet entirely covered a layer of trash deposited years ago. There is still more room. And, although as you drive by the dumpsite it looks big, it really covers only a very small slice of Dekehtik. Anyone who looks at an aerial photograph of the site will see this.

Three other thoughts prompt me to write this letter. One is recycling. Although the legislature put up \$50,000 in 2002 and 2003 to run can collecting contests in preparation for passage of a law to create a state recycling program, there has not yet been an effective recycling program which has actually reduced solid waste. Such programs can be effective and self sustaining if operated well. There are examples in other countries.

Legislation that could reduce the amount of trash that arrives on our shores would also help. There are many benefits, including health related ones, that the residents of Pohnpei could realize if there was better control of the way many commodities are imported.

Waste-to-Energy is a new improved version of the old incinerator heat-driven turbine system – burn trash to gen-

erate cheap electricity. The technology has the potential to nearly eliminate the need for a dumpsite by burning all carbon-based materials in the solid waste stream, which is the vast majority of our local waste. Units that are the right size for Pohnpei’s waste generation levels are available. I’ve seen photos of such a unit located on Kwajalein.

My purpose in writing this letter is to present some ideas that need more thought devoted to them. I am not the first individual to write a letter to the K-Press seeking reconsideration of the Palikir dumpsite plan, and I doubt whether I will be the last. I have experienced, first hand, the lack of government commitment that is directed towards the proper handling of solid waste. This is not unique to the FSM or Pohnpei; just look at some of our Pacific neighbors for more examples. Every year, the state government struggles mightily to find the funds to run the present dumpsite operation. The Palikir move will double or triple that cost. Local government commitment, evidenced by allocation of sufficient funds to support proper and reliable operation of the Palikir site, plus the collection/transport system, will be needed.

I wonder how many tourists have really complained about the dumpsite, and if their complaints warrant this multi-million dollar project? Is there a better option? How many armpits do we need?

Robert Spegal, MPH
PWMS

Public Announcement



Mr. Howard Rice has resigned from many years of honorable service to the College of Micronesia-FSM and now works under contract for Pohnpei State as Governor Ehsa’s Special Assistant. Any inquiries to Mr. Rice should be directed to his office at Pohnpei State

Letter to the Editor

Penta Ocean contractors

Dear Editor,

I would like the opportunity to provide the general public with an update on the crewmembers from the Philippines to show that Penta-Ocean Construction Co., Ltd. has been doing all that it can to ensure that this situation is settled in the best interest of all involved.

We recently received from the employment agency of the crewmembers, a company from the Philippines by the name of PAMSCORP, minutes of a meeting that took place on December 9, 2010 before the crewmen left the Philippines. The minutes confirm that the crewmembers opted to only handle the transit voyage of SPHB-INGAT to Pohnpei and then return to Manila. The vessel arrived on January 5, 2011 and, thus, the work was completed.

But because the crewmen allege that they have a right to remain and work in the FSM per the contract, On January 17, 2011 Penta-Ocean delivered a 10 day written notice of termination to each of crewmembers. Penta-Ocean has paid Skylite hotel for those the crewmembers' stay from January 5, 2011 through January 27, 2011. At this point, the crewmembers' work is over, and they have also been terminated.

On February 8, 2011, FSM Immigration and Labor delivered letters to the crewmen stating that they must make arrangements to leave the FSM "no later than fifteen days of receipt of this notice." Meaning the crewmembers must depart by February 22, 2011. In an effort to assist the crewmen obtain transit visas through the US Embassy, Penta-Ocean has been setting appointments for those meetings and are willing to pay for them; however, the crewmen have refused to attend all the appointments.

As of yesterday, February 16, 2011, two FSM Immigration and Labor officers proceeded to the Skylite Hotel to escort the crewmen to the US Embassy for their appointments for transit visas. The crewmen refused once again the fifth attempt of appointments with the US Embassy. That was the last opportunity to secure a transit visa before the required date to leave the FSM (i.e. by February 22, 2011) or face civil and criminal penalties for violating FSM laws.

Penta-Ocean has purchased tickets for all the crewmen to return home. We have also offered to the crewmen the opportunity to preserve whatever claims they feel they have through depositions

while allowing them to return home to their families and find employment.

The crewmen should also be aware that they have a duty mitigate their alleged damages, which means they must make efforts to find other employment. The only way to do that is return home to the Philippines. They cannot simply remain in the FSM and incur further expenses. By doing so any claim that they may have would be reduced by their own decision not to mitigate damages. The mitigation of damages also applies to the crewmen with the leg infection. It would be in his best interest to return home and seek better medical

care to treat his infection.

In the end, Penta-Ocean paid the crewmen for the work that was contracted for and completed. We at Penta-Ocean have furthermore made good faith efforts to ensure the crewmen return home by setting appointments with the US Embassy for transit visas and have purchased the tickets for their return home. However, the crewmen continue to remain despite the fact that FSM Immigration and Labor has issued a final notice to depart by February 22, 2011.

Sincerely,
Management
Penta-Ocean Construction Co., Ltd.

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- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Kia's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too!. Call: 320-2496

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	Pohnpei				Chuuk			
Monday	02/21		2/28		02/21		02/28	
	05:02AM	3.8	02:34AM	2.2	04:11AM	1.4	12:58PM	1.8
	11:04AM	0.5	06:40AM	1.8	09:51AM	0.4	09:29PM	-0.2
	05:11PM	3.9	01:27PM	3.5	03:40PM	1.4		
	11:22PM	0.5	08:38PM	0.9	09:59PM	0.2		
Tuesday	02/22		03/01		02/22		03/01	
	05:35AM	3.8	02:36AM	2.5	04:32AM	1.6	01:21PM	1.9
	11:43AM	0.8	07:33AM	1.5	10:32AM	0.5	09:25PM	-0.1
	05:40PM	3.4	02:03PM	3.8	03:30PM	1.1		
	11:45PM	0.7	08:53PM	0.7	09:41PM	0.1		
Wednesday	02/23		03/02		02/23		03/02	
	06:09AM	3.6	02:49AM	2.8	04:55AM	1.7	03:48AM	0.8
	12:25PM	1.2	08:09AM	1.2	11:14AM	0.8	06:46AM	0.7
	06:04PM	2.9	02:31PM	4.0	02:49PM	0.9	01:42PM	1.9
			09:09PM	0.6	09:21PM	0.0	09:16PM	0.0
Thursday	02/24		03/03		02/24		03/03	
	12:05AM	1.0	03:05AM	3.1	05:21AM	1.7	03:12AM	0.9
	06:49AM	3.4	08:39AM	1.0	09:10PM	-0.2	07:22AM	0.5
	01:20PM	1.6	02:57PM	4.1			02:02PM	2.0
	06:20PM	2.3	09:25PM	0.6			09:08PM	0.1
Friday	02/25		03/04		02/25		03/04	
	12:17AM	1.2	03:23AM	3.3	05:54AM	1.6	02:57AM	1.0
	07:46AM	3.1	09:07AM	0.9	09:11PM	-0.3	07:53AM	0.4
	11:55PM	1.5	03:20PM	4.1			02:22PM	1.9
			09:42PM	0.5			09:05PM	0.2
Saturday	02/26		03/05		02/26		03/05	
	10:11AM	2.9	03:43AM	3.6	06:57AM	1.5	02:57AM	1.2
	08:37PM	1.4	09:33AM	0.8	09:31AM	1.4	08:22AM	0.4
			03:42PM	4.1	11:30AM	1.5	02:40PM	1.9
			09:58PM	0.5	09:19PM	-0.3	09:06PM	0.2
Sunday	02/27		03/06		02/27		03/06	
	12:34PM	3.2	04:03AM	3.7	12:08PM	1.5	03:04AM	1.4
	08:26PM	1.1	09:59AM	0.8	09:17PM	-0.2	08:51AM	0.3
			04:03PM	3.9			02:58PM	1.7
			10:15PM	0.5			09:10PM	0.2

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What do you know about Pohnpei local foods and nutrition?

By Dr. Lois Englberger
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

For a number of years the Island Food Community of Pohnpei has been providing information on Micronesian local foods and nutrition and their many benefits and values. In this article we would like to give you the opportunity to check what you have learned. See the questions below.

We would like to point out that one great benefit of local foods is their health benefits but that not all the varieties are the same. Some varieties of bananas for example contain even more of some nutrients than other varieties. They are all healthy, but it is good to grow and eat many varieties of bananas and other local crops...because then you are more likely to get more nutrients and all that you need, as well as getting great taste and enjoyment!

You may ask how we know about the rich nutrient content of local foods and varieties. We know because we sent Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap banana, giant swamp taro, breadfruit and pandanus varieties and other foods to laboratories for analysis for essential nutrients. This was a great challenge as it was needed to send frozen samples, and it was difficult to keep the samples frozen, due to long transit periods. We sent to laboratories in Fiji, Switzerland, Australia, Hawaii, and US mainland, and the findings were conclusive. These foods and varieties are nutritional treasures. The findings also attracted interest world-wide.

So look here at these questions and see what you know! Would you also like to get a prize? Then write down the answers and submit to the Island Food Community of Pohnpei. We would like to give prizes to the entries with most correct answers. In our next issue we will provide the answers and winners names. Have fun!



see if you know the answers to these questions:

1. What is the State Banana of Pohnpei.
2. What Pohnpei banana has the most beta-carotene?
3. What color indicates that the flesh of a banana or other food is rich in beta-carotene and other carotenoids?
4. Which Pohnpei banana has more beta-carotene, Mangat or UtinMenihle?
5. Name five diseases or disorders against which beta-carotene and other carotenoids protect you. (see our IFCP posters for the answer)
6. Eating Karat banana causes the urine to be yellow. What is the vitamin in Karat that causes this?
7. What mineral is important for our blood and carries oxygen around the body, giving us energy and strength?
8. How much beta-carotene does rice contain?
9. What are two main causes of the diabetes that is so common now in Pohnpei and other parts of Micronesia?
10. What is the name of the banana variety for which a photo of the ripe bunch is presented here in this article?

SUBMISSION DETAILS: You can email, telephone or bring hard copy to the Island Food Community of Pohnpei. Our email address is: nutrition@mail.fm; our telephone # is: 320-3259; and our office is in the Botanical Garden in Kolonia. Entries must be received within three days of the release date of the paper. Be sure to give your name and telephone number. Thank you!

Fish, taro and vegetables in coconut cream

Ingredients for one serving

- 2 tablespoons fresh fish (cooked) or canned (can be mackerel, tuna)
- 4 tablespoons of giant swamp taro (mwahng) or soft taro (sawa), cooked and ground or mashed
- 4 tablespoons Chinese cabbage or chilli leaves (sele) or chaya or pele leaves, cooked and mashed
- 4 tablespoons thick coconut cream

Directions

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Cook the mixture for 5 minutes in a pot.
3. Cool and serve.

Note: This dish can also be used as an infant food from six months

Acknowledgement to the Secretariat of the Pacific Food Community for their 2006 Pacific Food Leaflet no. 4, Coconut.

K.P. Krazy Corner

Island Inspiration:

English 101:

think about it:

If it ain't broke don't fix it until it is

Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?

Why don't the psychics win all the lotteries?

Me Time:

Mama Says:

Daffy Definition:

Papa Says:

I can see clearly now the brain is gone

don't be so open-minded that your brains fall out

a padded cell without a door

Every morning is the dawn of a new error

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