

Undersea fiber optic cable lands in Yap Chuuk landing scheduled in the next few weeks



Photo by Anthony Tareg



Photo by Jeffery Adalbai

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

August 24, 2017

Yap, FSM—An undersea fiber optic cable to eventually connect Yap to Guam arrived on August 22. The Yap Spur Cable was landed in Yap into the beach manhole onshore at Gilman Village on the southern end of Yap proper through

a prepared seaward duct. Though the project is one of FSM Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure's (TC&I) projects, a crew from FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) was on-hand to receive the cable, which was laid and fixed on a prescribed route along and over the reef and out to sea.

A spokesperson at FSM TC&I said that a fiber spur will also be arriving in Chuuk within the next few weeks.

The infrastructure for connecting the cable to the FSM telecommunications system is not yet in place.

NEC is the contractor that has been laying the cable. A consultant for the project

wrote in an email that the first test results indicate that all is well with the cable. He called the landing at the beach manhole a "big milestone" toward getting fiber optic cable service to Yap's main island but wrote that the effort is not yet over.

See "Fiber Optic" on page 4

Pohnpei files nine new criminal charges against Chief Justice Rodriguez

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

August 24, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—Late this afternoon, the State of Pohnpei filed nine new criminal charges against Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court Benjamin Rodriguez. These new charges are in addition to the 13 criminal charges filed against him by the State in March. He is also defending himself against civil charges

filed by the State and an impeachment resolution passed unanimously by the legislature two weeks ago.

Six of the charges claim that two separate defendants paid bail bonds to the Supreme Court but that the money disappeared. The State alleges that neither transaction was deposited into the Pohnpei Treasury as was required. According to subpoenaed bank records for a Bank of Guam account that the State separately alleges was

maintained illegally by the Court, investigators could find no evidence that the funds had been deposited into that account either.

One of the defendants had paid a \$1000 bail bond, and the other had paid a \$100 bail bond. Since the money had not been deposited at the Pohnpei Treasury, they couldn't collect their reimbursement from the Treasury.

Two of the State's charges allege that in each

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Seabees lend a hand with Typhoon Maysak construction in Falalop

By Rachel Weinheimer
International Organization for Migration

August 11, 2017

Yap, FSM—On August 11th, a groundbreaking ceremony took place on Falalop, Ulithi Atoll, Yap, celebrating the arrival of 12 Seabees from the U.S. Navy, led by U.S. Army Captain Colin Westlake. The Sailors - made up of electricians, builders, plumbers and other specialists - recently arrived in Falalop to lend a hand as part of USAID's Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project.



According to LTJG James Wilson, the Seabee liaison officer in Micronesia, "This operation has been a year in the making. Coordinating between government agencies was a challenge but one that was worth the effort. The Seabees are now in Ulithi directly impacting a community with such a rich naval history."

Deputy Chief of Mission Joanne Cummings elaborated. "The U.S. commitment to the FSM is very broad - in humanitarian response as well as education, health, infrastructure, and many other areas. We are pleased to see the Seabees here in Ulithi, helping these communities complete their reconstruction and demonstrating the strength of our bond with Micronesia," she said.

The Seabees hit the ground running, and have already made significant headway on their current project, a shade structure adjacent to the airport in Falalop. Next they will tackle two additional buildings on the island - one cultural center for girls and one for boys. The Seabees are constructing everything from the ground up, working in close cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, USAID, Pacific Fleet, Pacific Command (PACOM), 30th Naval Construction Regiment, the International Organization for Migration, and the community of Falalop.

A brief ceremony was held at Outer Islands High

School, with representation from the U.S. Embassy, USAID, Yap State government, IOM and traditional leaders. Several of the speakers highlighted the unique relationship between the Ulithi Atoll and the U.S. Navy. The Seabees first arrived in 1944 during World War II, when the Ulithi Atoll became the primary naval base of the U.S. in the Western Pacific. Over 70 years later, the Seabees have maintained strong ties with Ulithi and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Senator Lazarus Ulith emphasized the past contributions of the Seabees:

"We remember that Seabees 'Can Do' from the old times...what I'm saying is from the heart. We will get Ulithi back from Typhoon Maysak."

The group in Ulithi is a detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3. A separate team of 16 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 are currently deploying to Chuuk to construct sanitation and classroom facilities at Chuuk High School as part of a 12-month rotation. The continued operations in the Pacific Command underscore the U.S. commitment in developing enduring relationships and strengthening alliances with communities throughout the region.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Sokehs signs “Sister City” agreement with Zhongshan City, Guangdong, China

By *Luan Gilmete*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 15, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—The Sokehs Municipal Government and Zhongshan City of Guangdong Province of the People’s Republic of China signed a sister city agreement on August 15 at the Sokehs Municipal Chamber.

The two Parties agreed to enhance reciprocal visits, strengthening mutual understanding and friendship as well as to seek common development and to facilitate exchange and cooperation in the sectors of tourism, culture, and business.

Representing the Zhongshan City at the signing ceremony were the Vice Mayor Lei Yuelong, his Deputy Director, the Deputy Chief of Foreign affairs and the Deputy Directors of the Bureaus of Commerce and of Sports and Education.

The representatives of the Sokehs Municipal Government were the Sokehs Chief Magistrate, the Speaker of Sokehs Municipal Council, Director of Sokehs Municipal Government Administration,

and the Sokehs councilmen.

Witnessing the ceremonial signing of the sister city agreement was his Honorable Marcello Peterson, Pohnpei State Governor.

Chief magistrate of Sokehs Municipal Government, Michael Liemen said that they look forward to a successful and prosperous relationship with Zhongshan City.

“We look forward to our people to people exchanges, and if in the future you have exchanges in the areas of sports and education, I do believe we have potential to offer in the sectors of economy, tourism, and culture.

“Mayors and officials of our two governments will come and go but this relationship will continue to grow and will be celebrated and appreciated in the generations from today,” he said.



The Vice Mayor of Zhongshan City Lei Yuelong said that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the establishment of friendly cooperation between the two Parties will allow for more Chinese to visit.

the signing wouldn’t be just a written agreement, but something that the people of both countries can celebrate and appreciate.

“The signing of the MOU today symbolizes the exchange and cooperation entering the new era,” he said. “We sincerely hope that we can enhance our ties in tourism, culture and business within the framework of the MOU so as to benefit the citizens of both sides.”

Yuelong said that Zhongshan City has been recognized and awarded as a National Civilized City, National Historic and Cultural City and China’s Happiest City.

Liemen said that he is excited to be part of this historical accomplishment and will do his best to utilize the establishment of the new relationships memorialized on the day. He said that he hoped



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CPUC COMPTROLLER POSITION August 2017

Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC) is the state owned corporation with the responsibility for power water and sewer service provision in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia. Currently providing power, water and sewerage services to the island of Weno - population 13,500.

CPUC is seeking applications from interested parties for the position of Comptroller. The successful candidate will work with the CFO and will take on a leadership role in financial decision-making that affects CPUC; The Comptroller will provide strategic financial input to senior management. While keenly overseeing the overall accounting process, the successful Comptroller will play a key role in developing and implementing financial procedures to improve and maintain the financial health of the company.

Qualifications & Experience

The successful applicant will ideally have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field (MBA preferred); other Professional accounting designation (CA, CMA or CPA) are preferred but not required;

Applicant must have 10+ years experience in a senior accounting/finance position;

Advanced computer skills, including proficiency in MS Office and other financial reporting computing tools;
Exceptional communication skills;
Results-oriented, strategic thinker and planner;
An attractive salary will be offered commensurate with skills and experience and will provide opportunity to reward performance.

Application Process:

Qualified and interested applicants should submit the following documents:
cover letter addressed to the CEO of CPUC;
detailed resume/Curriculum Vitae;
names, contact details and relationship of three referees;
one page summary explaining why you are interested in the position and why you are a suitable candidate for the position;

Post, addressed as follows:

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Weno,
Chuuk State,
FM 96942
Federated States of Micronesia Tel: 691 330 2400

Applications may also be sent by email - all documents should be combined in one single pdf file and sent to mark.waite@cpuc.fm with read request and Subject Line: CPUC Comptroller Position - [applicant name]

Applications close on Friday 30th September 2017

Eligibility/Other Requirements

The successful applicant will be required to obtain satisfactory police and medical checks, costs of which will be reimbursed by CPUC.

Yap Development Network

COLONIA, YAP FSM - The Yap Development Network continues to grow and create networks on Yap. The YDN was a concept developed by the Yap Chamber of Commerce and has been running for over a year. The next meeting will take place in Colonia, Yap on the 31st August with the Bank of Guam as presenters.

"The purpose of the Yap Development Network is to bring together the various organizations and departments, who are developing, funding and implementing projects across Yap. The main goal is information sharing with other interested stakeholders in order to raise awareness and reduce project duplication and resource wastage." YCC Executive Director Marie Laamar explained.

Each presentation details current and or past projects of various organizations that affect or operate in Yap. Subsequent presentations have been given by the EPA, Yap Visitors Bureau, Wa'ab Community Health Clinic, Marine

Resources, YapCap and Go Local; a campaign to promote local foods and improve health outcomes for people in Yap. The inaugural meeting of the YDN occurred on 3 May 2016. Presentations at the first meeting were made by the Yap branch of International Organization for Migration, College of Micronesia, the Historical Preservation Office, the Department of Youth and Affairs and the Yap Chamber of Commerce.

Feedback from participants and presenters has been positive according to Marie: "People have welcomed the information sharing. We are at the stage where participants and attendees suggest an organization or department to give the next presentation. It's a great outcome and one Yap Chamber of Commerce is very proud to have been part of."

For more information, please phone the Yap Chamber of Commerce on 691.350.8990 or email ycc_director@mail.fm.

...Fiber Optic

Continued from front page

He wrote that during the next few days, the cable ship Pacific Link will be laying the Yap Spur on the sea bottom and joining it with a branching unit on the cable system SEA-US which will carry digital traffic optically to Guam.

In the next two weeks, the remaining NEC crew and support divers will fix the cable system with the Beach manhole in Yap, and will install articulated cast iron pipe from the duct entrance to the reef and over to a depth of 20 meters.

The consultant said that during the next few months, a "front haul duct" from the beach manhole to the cable landing station needs to be constructed, the cable landing

station prepared, and equipment installed and tested.

The fiber optic project for the FSM will be funded by the World Bank but disbursement of those funds has not yet happened. A spokesperson for TC&I said that the FSM government is working on meeting the World Bank's conditions for disbursement of the funds.

During the most recent special session of the FSM Congress, Senators voted to overturn a presidential veto of one of its bills to provide FSMTC free access to the Yap spur of the cable.

Open, competitive access to the cables World Bank will be paying for is one of the conditions of disbursement. The FSM also needs to fully establish an open access entity, a process that is only currently partially complete.



Photo by Anthony Tareg

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Rotary Club of Pohnpei announces scholarship winners



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc. is once again announcing its scholarship winners for the school year 2017-2018. The Rotary Club fundraises throughout the year to raise money for this scholarship program. We also want to graciously thank Vital Petroleum for their generous support.

This year we awarded \$12,000.00 total in scholarships. The amounts ranged from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per student. It is hoped that these awards allow deserving students to buy books, computers or the other essentials of college life. We also support graduate students, and we are supporting this year our first PhD candidate.

The Rotary Club received over 60 applications for this scholarship. It was tough to choose winners with so many qualified applicants. We want to congratulate the following students who have been selected by our committee and to announce that these are our Rotary scholars for 2017-2018.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Andrew Musrasrik | Walla Walla | Engineering |
| 2. | Amelia Abello | Highline College | Global Pub. Health |
| 3. | Asmara Pretrick | Mt. Mary Univ. | Biology, Health |
| 4. | Blossom Moofai | St. Peters | Marine Biology |
| 5. | Darla Yatilman | Wheeling Jesuit | Crim. Justice |
| 6. | Eva Marie Abraham | UH Hilo | Business |
| 7. | Jalani Gootinmutngy | Univ. Scranton | Biology |
| 8. | Meeyoung Tawerilmal | Webster U. | Management |
| 9. | Nicole Yamase | UH Manoa | PhD, Marine Bio. |
| 10. | Shania Felix | Park Univ. | Biology Health |
| 11. | Tyana Musrasrik | E. Oregon | Sociology |
| 12. | Valerina Cantero | E. Oregon | Ecological Biology |
| 13. | Carisma Jano | Creighton | Journalism |
| 14. | Mioni Samo | Cardinal Stritch | Pre-Med |

We want to encourage all of those students not selected to try again next year. It was tough making decisions.

We wish all of our winners the best of luck and success in this school year. College is a big step for many students. The nation needs these young men and women to succeed and to return to the FSM with their knowledge and skills.

We also want to thank all of the people who participate in our fund raisers. Your generosity makes this all possible. Upcoming events include our annual quiz night on November 11, 2017 at Cupid's, and we are now selling raffle tickets for two United tickets, (separate drawing for each ticket) graciously donated by United Airlines, good for anywhere in Micronesia or Asia that United flies. Tickets for the raffle are only \$5.00.

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Interior, census launch 2018 enumeration of compact migrants in Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to determine distribution of Compact Impact funds

U.S. Department of the Interior

August 16, 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula has signed a Statement of Work with the U.S. Census Bureau to carry out the next 5-year enumeration of migrants from the Freely Associated States in Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and American Samoa, as required by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188). The next enumeration, which is the basis for allocating funds to help offset the economic and social impact of these migrants in the affected jurisdictions, will occur in fiscal year 2018 and be completed by December 2018.

“The law requires that we work with the Census Bureau to conduct this enumeration every five years as the basis for the distribution of Compact Impact funds,” said Pula. “I have reached out to Governors of Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI and American Samoa asking for their cooperation to ensure the enumeration is successful. We have also reached out to members of Congress.”

“We look forward to working closely with officials on Guam and in the CNMI as well as with the communities of Micronesians, Marshallese and Palauans living there to ensure the data are complete and accurate” said Karen Battle, Chief, Population Division, Census Bureau. “We have established an approach that is appropriate and ensures that data for all four jurisdictions are comparable during this round, just as it has been in the past. We can also ensure that we are committed to and bound by law to protect the privacy of individuals.”

Data on Compact migrants in American Samoa and Hawaii will be obtained from existing sources, namely 2010 Census figures for American Samoa where there are fewer Compact migrants, and the American Community Survey data for 2015-17 for Hawaii which will provide more current data. Field surveys will be conducted in Guam and the CNMI, following the same method as was used in the 2008 enumeration. Census and Interior officials will be visiting Guam and Saipan in the near future to make necessary arrangements to launch this important effort.

The table below shows enumeration

figures from 2008 and 2013. Under current law, the 2018 enumeration should be the last as the financial provisions under the Compact, including Compact Impact funding, expire in 2023.

U.S. Census Bureau Enumerations of Compact Migrants in Affected Jurisdictions

	2008	2013
Hawaii	12,215	14,700
Guam	18,305	17,170
CNMI	2,100	2,660
American Samoa	15	25

The cost of conducting the 2018 enumeration will be \$1,490,039. Of that total, \$617,451 will be funded by Compact Impact funding, set aside by the U.S. Congress through the Compact of Free Association for the enumeration. The remaining \$872,588 will be funded through the technical assistance program.

Under the Compacts of Free Association first approved in Public Law 99-239 (1986) and Public Law 99-658 (1994), and later amended in Public Law 108-188 (2003), citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are legal nonimmigrants allowed, for indefinite periods of time, to live, work and study in the United States without need for a visa. They also serve in the U.S. military and currently serve in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces in large numbers that are disproportionate to the sizes of their populations. The Compact agreements terminated the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, providing the U.S. with important strategic denial rights to the area in the western Pacific Ocean between Guam and Hawai‘i. In 1996, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, FAS citizens were deemed ineligible for federal public benefits. Thus began what has been a rising concern for the Guam and Hawaii governments that have directly borne the cost of public services related to FAS migrants, also referred to as “Compact impact”.

In a separate U.S. Census Bureau estimate using 2010-2014 data, there are approximately 41,380 citizens from the FSM, RMI and Palau living in the 50 States. The five States with the highest number of FAS citizens are Hawai‘i (17,205), Arkansas (3,625), Washington (3,430), Oregon (2,580), and Texas (2,090). These numbers do not incorporate the smaller number of American citizens who are of Micronesian, Marshallese, and Palauan ancestry.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy for the territories of the Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. On behalf of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunity, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

NORMA adopts paperless board meetings

FSM – The Board of Directors of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is supporting new measures at the Authority to adopt new technologies to improve on its ever challenging work to manage FSM’s oceanic fisheries resources.

“We recognize that the technology exists today to improve how we do our business and make NORMA decision making more streamlined and efficient while at the same time, being environmentally friendly. Many of our counterparts in the fisheries industry are adopting new technologies to become more efficient in harvesting our valuable resources and we on the management side must keep pace or even be a step ahead to ensure sustainability of our tuna resources, especially through better management and use of technology and access to relevant information and data.” Says Mr. Roger Arnold, Chairman of the NORMA Board of Directors.

One of the first measures to be implemented involves the Board members as they are shifting to paperless meetings by fully utilizing the internet and laptops provided by FSM NORMA as part of its World Bank-funded PROP Project. This helps with the Authority’s environmental goals as well as its effort to improve on information management whereby much of the Authority’s work and processes are being automated.

“The ability of staff to collect, process data and information and pass on to the Board can be greatly improved with these laptops,” says Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan, “and certainly more so when Board of Directors are from all four States of the FSM. The laptops will be used during official NORMA meetings, removing the need to print hundreds of pages each meeting and for communicating with our Board on a regular basis and maintaining better records of our business transactions.

While the Board has been conducting paperless meetings for most of this year, the laptops will be issued at their next meeting during a negotiations meeting with our bilateral partners.

Nena retires after 40 years of service to Micronesia Legal Services Corporation

By MLSC

August 14, 2017

Kosrae—Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) would like to congratulate Ms. Louisa H. Nena on her 40 Years of Service. Louisa was one of the pioneers for MLSC’s Kosrae Office when it opened its doors back in 1977. She spent the last forty (40) years there as a legal secretary, carrying out MLSC’s mission to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). She was very instrumental in the orderly establishment and current operations of our Kosrae Office. We will certainly miss her. MLSC would like to extend our most profound appreciation and gratitude for her years of commitment and dedication; and a warm congratulations on her retirement from MLSC!



...Rodriguez

Continued from front page

case, Chief Justice Rodriguez wrote out a check from the separately held Bank of Guam account to cover the reimbursements of the bail bonds. The charge for doing so is "concealment, removal or alteration of record or process".

Essentially the charges make the very serious allegation that Rodriguez, in his role as Chief Justice first stole the money, or allowed the money to be stolen. The accuse him of then using other funds that had been deposited in the Bank of Guam account to cover up the alleged theft. If the charges are true, the total amount missing from Pohnpei's coffers is not \$1100 that was not deposited into either account, but \$2200 by the time the reimbursement was provided to the defendants to which it was owed.

The State added a ninth count of "Obstructing Justice" when he allegedly barred staff members at the Pohnpei State Supreme Court from complying with instructions of a law enforcement officer in the lawful pursuit of his or her duties.

On June 30 Chief Justice wrote to the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) claiming that the court's administrator had been surprised when OPA delivered an investigation activity sheet "purporting to summarize discussions" between the administrator and OPA staff. His letter claimed that she had been surprised to receive the summary because "she had been under the impression that the meeting had been an informal exchange of information," rather than an investigation.

The letter said, "as long as your office is seeking information regarding our Bank of Guam account only for internal use as part of your usual job duties, I will happily instruct Mrs. Paulis to share relevant records and to prepare a statement which she believes accurately reflects her discussions. However, if this information will be provided to the Attorney General as potential evidence, I must insist that the Attorney General obtain this evidence through the discovery methods prescribed by the Pohnpei Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure."

Under a Memorandum of Understand between the Office of the Attorney

General, the Department of Public Safety, and OPA the law enforcement agencies have agreed to share information with each other in an effort to enhance the law enforcement efforts on financial crimes of each of the offices and departments. The agreement was designed to make it easier for Pohnpei's law enforcement entities to detect and to investigate financial crimes within the government. Of the three offices, only OPA has subpoena power and the power to compel a witness to testify.

The State alleges that the Chief Justice used his power as the administrator's supervisor to quash law enforcement efforts.

Today Governor Peterson confirmed by phone that he had appointed an impeachment tribunal consisting of three of the remaining Supreme Court Justices at the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

Since the passage of articles of impeachment at the Pohnpei State Legislature, Rodriguez has been suspended with pay from his duties at the Supreme Court pending the outcome of impeachment proceedings.

Just before press time for the August

14 issue of The Kaselehlie Press, one of Rodriguez's attorneys submitted a press release on behalf of Chief Justice Rodriguez saying that he would be resigning effective August 14. August 14 came and went but he did not resign. The Vice Speaker of the Pohnpei Legislature and several others called The Kaselehlie Press asking how we got the information on the announced resignation when neither the Governor's office nor the Legislature had received a resignation letter.

Today Rodriguez submitted a letter to the editor through the same attorney (see page 15). In it he claimed that he would now be resigning from his office on August 28.

He also sent a letter to Governor Peterson and Speaker Scaliem indicating his intention to resign on August 28. Governor Peterson said that the letter was delivered to his office by an employee of Micronesia Legal Services Corporation. The letter seemed only to announce his intention to resign on August 28. Just the same, though Governor Peterson said that "only Monday would tell", he is interpreting the letter as Chief Justice Rodriguez's official letter of resignation.

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The Expert must be familiar with insurance best practices, International Association of Insurance Supervisors standards, and the provisions of 37 FSMC and its regulations. Generally, the Expert will assess the completeness, soundness, viability, reasonableness, appropriateness, fit and proper, among other legal, regulatory, prudential requirements of applications and other documents. The Expert is expected to produce reports with specific findings, and on the basis of such findings the Expert will recommend to the Government whether or not to approve the application and/or requests, with or without conditions.

The Expert is required to assess completeness of the application and/or request, the applicant's or licensee's objective, risk profile, strategies and tactical consideration, organization and corporate structure, capital management, loss reserve adequacy, risk management, solvency margin, investment policy, fit and proper, asset allocation, underwriting criteria, nature, type and risk to be assumed, limitations, claims and loss history, deductibles, underwriting guidelines, surplus and reserve adequacy, insurance and reinsurance arrangements and agreements, among others. The Expert is expected to clearly outline the process, procedures, steps, and methodologies employed in the review and evaluation process in arriving at each finding and justification for each recommendation made.

Proposals should be received no later than 15 October 2017. Contract between parties is expected to be executed shortly thereafter. If you have any question, please feel free to contact us at the address provided above, or login our website to post your query. Thank you.

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4 pm to 8 pm

@ Rainbow Cliff Conference Hall

Wasa Lapalap Isipahu engaged in Island Food Community of Pohnpei Programs

By Mona J. Tara
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

August 22, 2017

Pohnpei—The Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) has been working for quite some time on a project they call D-HOPE (Decentralized Hands-On Program Exhibit). The D-HOPE project will culminate with the publication of a magazine that will be distributed throughout Pohnpei. The hope is that the exhibits and the magazine will lead to innovative activities leading to small scale entrepreneurship.

The last workshop of the project included the review and final draft of each profile and a mini-exhibit of the programs.

His Majesty Kerpet Ehpel, Isipahu, Nanmwahrki en Madolenihmw, who is the owner of Pohnpei's very center of culture, the Nan Madol ruins. The Nan Madol runis are one of the profiles for the D-Hope magazine.

IFCP sent an invitation to His Majesty through a fore-runner, Romeo Walter, Salapat who did a Sakarada on August 12 for a meeting. Later that day, IFCP was honored that Isipahu accepted the invitation



to attend a meeting on August 14 for the purpose of reviewing and finalizing His Majesty's profile for the D-HOPE magazine.

On Monday August 14, 2017, at River Side Restaurant, the IFCP Executive Director and staff were greatly honored to have the presence of His Majesty, Isipahu, Nanmwarki of Madolenihmw and Likend Madolenihmw, Mrs. Rihna Ehpel.

IFCP was also honored to have the presence of Iso Nahnken of Madolenihmw, Mr. John Adolph, and Iso Nahlaimw of Madolenihmw, Tadasy Shelten in this meeting. Also present at this meeting were Johnny Hadley Jr. representing the Director of the Department of Health Services, Mr. Nickolson Solomon, Director of Resources and Development, Mr. Romeo Walter also from Resources and Development, Pohnpei State Government.



After His Majesty reviewed the Nan Madol profile, he said that he really appreciated the project and activities of IFCP and would support the work. He suggested

See "IFCP" on page 10



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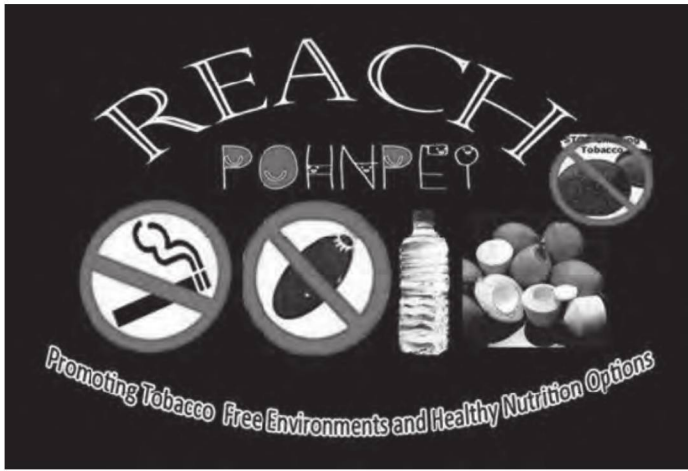
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How well is the public informed on Pohnpei State Tobacco Laws?



the Department of Public Safety have been tasked with educating the general public on the health effects of smoking and using tobacco.

Throughout the months of June, July and August, the Pohnpei REACH program conducted surveys at churches on

In November of 2015, the leaders of both the Catholic and Protestant churches in Pohnpei signed a Tobacco-Free pledge to prohibit smoking and the chewing of betel nut in all churches and within 25 feet from all entrances and exits. This pledge was also signed by Governor Peterson, who has fully supported this legislation. Since then, the department of Health Services and

Sundays to see if people were following the Pohnpei State Tobacco Clean Air Act (State Law 7L-104-11). This law states that it is prohibited to smoke, use tobacco, or chew betel nut within 25 feet of a church entrance or inside a church. The penalty can be a \$100 fine or 30 days in jail. Observations were done outside of both Catholic and Protestant churches before and after Mass to see if people

followed the law. REACH observers did observe people both smoking and chewing outside of churches but within 25 feet of the church building. Most people were unaware of the law and that there was a 25 feet boundary for smoking or chewing. As no signs are posted, there is nothing to remind them of this law and no one usually comments to them about their smoking or chewing.

In addition to the observations, 10 people at each church were surveyed about their understanding of the dangers of second hand smoke. Most people understand that second hand smoke is dangerous to our health, but not many people are fully aware of the smoke-free policy at the churches.

They understand not to smoke or chew inside the building but were not aware of the 25 foot boundary. This survey shows that more public education is needed on the laws and enforcement should be done to deter people from smoking or chewing betel nut within 25 feet of churches.

The REACH Program aims to help educate the people of Pohnpei on the negative effects of using tobacco and the positive effects of eating healthy, nutritious foods.

REACH is a national program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities.

...IFCP

Continued from page 9



that a photo of Isipahu in Nihn (traditional wear) at the Nan Madol Ruins would be more appropriate to be included on the Nan Madol page in the magazine. With all present being in agreement with his suggestion, IFCP was tasked to schedule a photo session.

The photo session was conducted on August 21, 2017 at 4 pm at the Nan Madol Ruins with His Majesty Isipahu in His Nihn en Isipahu by the well-known media editor and photographer, Mr. Bill Jaynes of The Kaselehlie Press. IFCP is very thankful and expresses our Kalangan Lap to Mr. Bill Jaynes for the very short notice request that he accepted without charging a fee.

IFCP would like to extend our special thank you to Wasa Lapalap Isipahu, Nanmwarki en Madolenihmw, Likend Madolenihmw, Isoh Koa, Pohnpei State Department of Health, Department of Resources and Development, The Kaselehlie Press, and FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs for funding support.

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- August 9-11, 2017 9am-4pm Fall Regular Registration
- August 14, 2017 First day of Instruction

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Access to Micronesia- Key to Tourism Development

South Pacific Tourism Organisation

23rd August, 2017

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

–Access and interline agreements between regional airline operators have been raised by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Peter Christian as barriers to what could be a thriving tourism industry.

H.E President Christian raised the issues during a discussion with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) Chief Executive Officer, Chris Cocker on Friday (August 18) in Pohnpei.

Mr Cocker accompanied Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor on a North Pacific mission this week, as part of the final leg of preparations for the 48th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Samoa, from September 4 (2017).

SPTO is one of the CROP (Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific) agencies with 17 Pacific members.

Mr Cocker updated H.E President Christian on global and regional tourism trends and developments, including

ongoing facilitation by SPTO to improve air access into the Pacific and continuing plans to sustainably develop the Chinese market for the Pacific.

“People to people connectivity are one of the key focuses of the Belt & Road initiatives with one of our major partners, China. There is a marketing campaign planned to increase awareness of the Pacific in the Chinese market in 2019,” Mr Cocker informed H.E President Christian.

H.E President Christian further raised that the Micronesian region needed transportation options which would be conducive and supportive of a sustainable tourism industry and sought technical expertise for a better understanding of the commercial operations of the aviation industry.

Mr Cocker also met with a representative of the National Chamber of Commerce, offering training and technical support which the SPTO provided for its membership but which could also be



beneficial for private sector development as a whole.

Mr Cocker said FSM had a lot of potential for niche markets, an approach which could maintain a balance between development and environment conservation. FSM is slowly becoming a destination for divers, particularly night divers.

The total visitor arrival for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in 2016 was around 24,000. Of the 1.2 billion tourists the UNWTO have estimated globally this year, the Pacific captured 2 million, 40 per cent of whom, visited Fiji.

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO QUOTE

PROVISION OF PICK-UP TRUCKS CONTRACT REFERENCE: PROP/NORMA/G10



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the procurement of three (3) 4WD double cab pick-up trucks.

FSM NORMA is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced vendors/suppliers to supply these pick-up trucks to be provided for use by FSM fisheries and food safety personnel in Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the World Bank Guidelines for Procurement of Works in Fragile and Small States in the Pacific, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible vendors/suppliers can obtain further information from and must also request a formal Invitation To Quote (ITQ) preferably by September 29, 2017 (Pohnpei Local Time) from the following email address.

Mr. Okean Ehmes
PROP Project Coordinator
okean.ehmes@norma.fm

Quotations in English in response to ITQs must be delivered to the address below at or before 5:00 p.m., 16 October 2017 (Pohnpei local time). Late quotations will be rejected and FSM NORMA reserves the right to reject any and all quotations submitted. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier or delivered by hand to the address below:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan
Executive Director
FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
Attn: PROP
FSM National Government
P.O. Box PS-122
Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181
E-mail address: norma@mail.fm and copy to okean.ehmes@norma.fm

FSM arrests first alleged violator of its expanded fishing exclusion zone

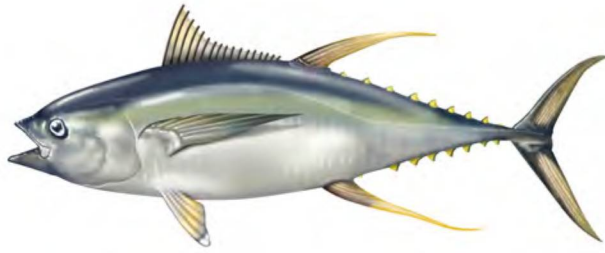
By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 21, 2017

FSM—The Federated States of Micronesia has filed a complaint for civil damages and forfeiture against a fishing company, a vessel, and the ship’s captain for allegedly violating the FSM’s new 24 mile fishing exclusion zone expanded from 12 miles. The enabling legislation to expand the exclusion zone was a drive to exclude 10 percent of FSM’s waters from fishing. The law is so new that the FSM Supreme Court couldn’t find it in its code. The FSM Department of Justice had to supply a copy of the relevant FSM code.

Defendants are Wang Sheng, Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzen) Company, Ltd. And the vessel Shne Lian Chang 881 along with all of the vessel’s “fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores and cargo.”

The complaint alleges that the defendants



fished on August 7, 9 and 10 within 22 nautical miles of Losap Atoll in Chuuk State.

The FSM has asked for the maximum fine penalty of \$50,000 for each of the alleged violations for a total of \$150,000. They have also asked the court to require that the vessel and all of its contents be forfeited to the FSM.

On August 21, the FSM stipulated to a bond agreement of \$165,000 for deposit to the court, to release the vessel and all of the fish on board. The FSM considered the amount to be a suitable bond until hearings can take place and rulings entered.

President Christian hosts the continuation of the 17th Micronesian Presidents’ Summit

FSM Public Information Office

August 15, 2017

FSM—The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia hosted the continuation of the 17th Micronesian Presidents’ Summit (MPS) in Pohnpei from August 1-2, 2017. The participants included the Presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, and the RMI Foreign Minister, representing the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. President Christian of the Federated States of Micronesia, as Chair and host of the Summit, welcomed the Leaders of Palau and the Marshall Islands to Pohnpei most especially to Palikir, the seat of the Nation’s Capital.

At the Summit, the Leaders continued to address and discuss pressing issues and challenges impacting the North Pacific Region, including common concerns in regards to the protection of borders and natural resources in the region. Among other issues, the Presidents discussed the need for regional harmonizing of labor

and immigration laws and regulations, the need for a Micronesian Regional Vocational Center, and the need to further strengthen and support the Micronesian Transnational Crime Units (MTCUs). Another issue that was placed on the agenda for discussions among the three entities is the subject of Air Space Management, which the Leaders have tasked the relevant and appropriate staff to look further into, and advise the MPS at its next meeting. Other important regional matters were discussed, and the Leaders called for further collaboration and coordination among the three countries. A Palikir Communiqué was produced and signed as an outcome of the meeting.

The Summit concluded on August 2, 2017, and the Leaders have agreed to have next Micronesian Presidents Summit (MPS) in the Marshall Islands early next year 2018. To that extent, the Leaders have also agreed to issue a letter of invitation for the other Micronesian entities, namely Nauru and the Republic of Kiribati to join the MPS as members.

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U.S. Embassy Kolonia Holds Second 5K Color Run to Commemorate International Youth Day

Kolonia, Pohnpei - The early morning of August 12 started off with music, rain showers, sunrise and a beautiful rainbow to kick off the 2nd 5K Color Run in commemoration of International Youth Day at the Spanish Wall in Kolonia. The U.S. Embassy joined the rest of the world in celebrating this day of focus upon the importance of youth in our society.

The United Nations General Assembly first established the annual International Youth Day on August 12, 2000. They chose this year's theme, "Youth Building Peace," to highlight and generate awareness of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth today. Ambassador Robert Riley described it in his welcoming remarks as, "The United Nations uses this day to focus on the issues challenging the youth of today and to support them in overcoming those barriers to achieve global peace, prosperity, and security. So, as we set off today, as we run and walk alongside our neighbors; as we steep in the dazzling sun, take in the lovely Pohnpei vistas, and are permeated with bright colored powder; as we approach and then attain the coveted finish line; let us all reflect on ways we can foster youth building peace."

Prior to the Color Run the U.S. Embassy launched a social media campaign on its official Facebook and Twitter pages showcasing some of Micronesian youths' take on some of the issues impacting youth. "I hope to see more of the youth of the FSM see their cultural identity as fuel for their passions towards making our islands a better place. Being away from home, my identity as a Micronesian has motivated me to excel in my education with the end goal of returning home and improving our islands. It is that burning sense of love for the FSM that the youth needs that will help strengthen peace and unity in our islands for the years to come," wrote Hitoshi Phillip Oue from the state of Pohnpei who is currently enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Ms. Sylvia Elias from the state of Pohnpei was selected as the guest speaker for the event and spoke of her challenges and successes. She recently graduated with a M.A. in Social Work from University of Hawaii through the Distance Education Program. She is currently the Office Assistant at the Upward Bound Program and also an advocate for the Family Safety Act, which will strengthen laws against domestic and family violence

in Pohnpei. During her speech she urged youth to take action, follow their dreams, speak out, challenge themselves, and become active members of the communities to build peace. She stated "Everyone should know today that youths can make a difference, we are able, we can contribute, we can provide, we can protect, and we can build peace in our society. Hear us and use us because we have a lot to offer and to learn. Let's celebrate International Youth Day every year to recognize the works and value of our youths in our nation."

Following Ms. Elias's speech, Youth 4 Change performed a flash mob to an original song entitled "HERE THE WORLD, HERE WE ARE; WE ARE READY NOW TO MOVE FORWARD; CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE, HEAR ME CALL; SONS OF PAST, NOW LEADERS OF FUTURE." The United Filipino Community of Pohnpei Zumba team kicked off the Color Run with a warm up dance to get people hyped up and ready to run. The FSM Boxing Association led the cool-down session following the run.

We would like to take this time to



congratulate the winners of the 2017 U.S. Embassy 5K Color Run and Raffle
Raffle Winner: Bradley Zarred (Prize: Mountain Bike)
Top Finisher's: Reloliza Saimon (Female) and Casey Henry (Male) (Prizes: Fitbit for each winner)
Masters: Darcy William (Female) and Charles Meeme (Male) (Prizes: Table Tennis Set and Badminton Set)
Prime: Casey Henry (Male) and Elina Sheperd (Female) (Prizes: Basketball and Volleyball Set)
Youth: Reloliza Saimon (Female) and Casey Henry (Male) (Prizes: Volleyball Set and Badminton Set)
12 & Under: Kiliboy Bicky (Male) and Jewel Desilva (Female) (Prizes: Basketball and Table Tennis Set)

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Letter to the Editor

Chief Justice speaks regarding impeachment-says he will resign

Dear Editor

In your last issue, you laid out the Articles of Impeachment that the Pohnpei Legislature recently adopted against me. I had decided not to respond to the articles of impeachment as I plan to resign from the position, effective August 28, 2017. Having said that, I am compelled to respond to the Kaselehlie Press to share my side of the story.

At the outset, I was never called by the Legislature to testify before the J&GO Committee even though I had, on a couple of occasions, personally and through my counsels, wrote to the Chairman and Speaker to allow me to testify so that the Committee is fully informed of the situation from both sides. Therefore, I think it is only fair that I respond to the articles in this medium. Thank you for allowing me the space.

If the Legislature had allowed me to respond, this is what I would have shared with them. As to Article 1 to 4, one cannot travel without the authorization of the Director of the Department of Treasury (DOTA) and Administration, and KP and all others including the Legislature is aware of this. To say that I had engineered my own official travel is highly misleading because all the travel authorizations were signed and authorized by the DOTA. A

Travel Authorization is not valid without that DOTA's signature. As the Public Auditor puts it, the DOTA can stop travels initiated by the Governor, Speaker and the Chief Justice if the travel is inappropriate.

Articles 5-8. If the DOTA has denied the requests originally, we would not have been in this predicament. Back in 2003 the Attorney General, the late Edwel Santos, provided a written opinion that the Chief Justice may use representation funds, for a purpose that was connected either directly or indirectly with the Chief Justice's position as head of the judiciary and the need to foster harmony amongst the Justices and staff of the court. In fact, that opinion was provided to allow the then Chief Justice Judah to use the representation funds to purchase "kanengen uhmw" to his brother John Johnny's funeral.

Articles 9 and 10. The Legislature has wide latitude in ensuring that the information provided to them is corroborated before making decisions because there is always 2 sides to the same coin. As to the allegations, I attended the National Association for Court Management conference in San Antonio, Texas along with 2 other chief justices from the FSM Court. Afterwards, I flew to Kansas City and drove to the University of Missouri to recruit legal interns for the court and as a result, 2 interns came to work for the court in the summer of that year. Had I been asked about those trips, the Committee would have found out they were official trips.

Articles 11-15, regarding the BOG account. Honesty is the best policy. My predecessor Mr. Judah Johnny opened up the account in 2002 and attempted to close the same account in 2009. The allegation that I opened up the account in 2009 is just one of those fake news. The Court cannot not deposit the proceeds of moneys paid by parties for surety, bail bonds, etc. since those are not state money - meaning they belong to those parties. That is why they are deposited into a separate account where the Court can easily recover them to return the parties. I wrote the Legislature earlier this year to authorize by law the establishment of an escrow account to address this. As far as the check exchanges, it includes all the justices, judges and staff of both courts, not only me. But that is water under the bridge.

Articles 16 to 19. The simple answer is, one can manage the money but cannot manage crimes. I am being removed from office based on my failure to supervise my staff. I think the phenomenon has occurred in all three branches in some form or another, it may include travel money, vehicles, fees, from top to bottom. Will other heads of branches be investigated, or was I singled out? The fact that one resigned and the process does not proceed, does not mean it is the end.

I am pleased to also share that the Public Auditor did another review of the court in April this year and found that the court has

implemented all the recommendations that was made from that office and took corrective measures to avoid oversights against misuse of public funds.

The Pohnpeians of the past have a saying in "kamwakelehda likin imwomw mwohn ahmw kamwakele likin imwen aramas tohrohr". The Governor and the Legislature has cleaned outside my house, would it make sense to do the same elsewhere. I had expected that at least 3 out of the 23 members of the Legislature to ring me up to learn more about the allegations but no one did. I was told that the unaccounted monies was a major factor in the decision making but it was not in the resolution and if the Legislature had dug a little deeper, they would have discovered that those monies are personal funds. Ones "pahnwel" is simply that, personal. No one brags about how many yams or pigs one has.

Lastly, I must thank a number of good people who trusted me throughout this ordeal. Although the action by the Legislature may have dismantled my house, I take solace in knowing that opportunities are out there and I have taken advantage of them. Mr. James (Jaynes) if you manipulate this piece in some way, then you are not doing justice to your readers because they deserve to know both sides of the coin. Thank you.

Benjamin Rodriguez



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The Rotary Club of Pohnpei awarding Erick Paul with the 2017-2018 Vital Scholarship, August 24, 2017.



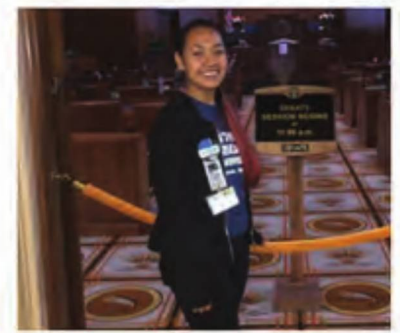
Jamilyn Mooteb
(Physics, St. Joseph's Univ.)



Erick Paul
(Business Admin-MBA, Chaminade Univ.)



Allston Abraham
(Accounting, Univ. of Guam)



Pamela Fredrick
(Computer Science, Eastern Oregon Univ.)