

# Mwoakillesse fisherman self-rescue by chance after 11 days adrift

By *Bill Jaynes*  
 The Kaselehlie Press

February 23, 2021

FSM—On February 9, Gretzki Albert and Raven Riddick Luhda set out from the shores of Mwoakilloa, an outer island of Pohnpei, for an afternoon of trolling. They could not have known that the journey would end up being one that could kill them.

They said that at about five miles off shore, their engine died and would not restart. The distance was too far to paddle back. Onboard they had two tanks of fuel that were worthless with a non-functioning engine, two 500 milliliter bottles of water, a tarp, and the few fish they had caught before their engine died. They spent the next 10 days drifting further and further away from their home battling the elements and the needs of their bodies.

For the first two days they ate the fish they had caught, but by the third day the remaining fish



had spoiled. Their small supply of water ran out by the second day. They survived the sun's strong ultraviolet rays by taking shelter beneath the tarp and swimming when it got too hot. They would only last a maximum of three more days after their water ran out. They cleaned out the under-seat storage as best they could. Rain filled the compartment giving them at least

some hope for survival, though their food was well gone by then.

On the seventh day they found what Pohnpeians call a "dipwap", a small nut, floating in the water. They eagerly shared the finger tipped sized nut. It gave them hope, even if small.



The sighting of three planes overhead also gave them a small amount of hope, though they later admitted regretting that the inside of their boat was painted blue, which made it

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## C-Star Apartelle again back in the Courts despite numerous previous rulings

By *Bill Jaynes*  
 The Kaselehlie Press

February 26, 2021

FSM—On December 11, 2020, Marianne Setik and Irene Setik filed an action at the Pohnpei Supreme Court against Feliciano Perman, the Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure, and the Pohnpei Supreme Court, again alleging that the sale of the C-Star Apartelle several years ago was illegal and fraudulent. That case has since been removed to the FSM Supreme Court as

case number CA 2021-002.

an expedited hearing.

Though Pohnpei Police evicted members of the Setik family from the property last week based on a Pohnpei Supreme Court ruling in September, today, Marstella Jack, representing Feliciano Perman, filed a motion on 2021-002 asking for a preliminary injunction barring members of the Setik family or their representatives from entering the property. The motion also asked for

The motion says that on February 22, 2021, Maureen Perman, daughter of Feliciano Perman, who was given her father's power of attorney, was cleaning at C-Star when Attorney Yoslyn Sigrah appeared and harassed her. According to Maureen's affidavit on the matter,

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# FSM Supreme Court throws out three criminal charges against Mark Deorio in Ipwal road project matter

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 15, 2021

FSM—The FSM Supreme Court, late this afternoon issued an order dismissing three of five criminal counts against Mark Deorio that the FSM Department of Justice filed against him.

The government charged Deorio with committing five crimes: obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function, conflict of interest, theft, unauthorized possession or removal of property, and deprivation of rights. In the charges, the government alleged that Deorio, having found a copy of a letter his wife had written to President David Panuelo who received it and made a notation on it for a cabinet official, took the letter and gave it to Norleen Oliver, Deorio's wife. The government alleges that action was criminal in the ways that it defined in its charges. The letter regarded the Congress approved special project to pave a road across land over which Oliver is trustee.

"The government has not pled sufficient facts to show how Deorio's alleged actions caused an adverse action by Oliver for which he should somehow be held criminally liable or what that adverse action was. Or, alternatively, the

government has not pled sufficient facts to show how Deorio's alleged actions directly, without any action by Oliver, interfered with the Secretary's or the contracting officer's duties," the Court ruled when dismissing the charge of obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function. The Court dismissed the charge "without prejudice", which means that if the government decides to do so it can resubmit it with deficiencies addressed at some later date if it chooses to do so.

On the charge of "conflict of interest" the Court essentially ruled that for this charge to apply, the accused must have acted as a public official to influence decisions regarding the road-paving project on his wife's land. It points out that Deorio signed off on the Project Control Document for the project, which is a function of his official position. "The government has not pled sufficient facts to show how Deorio's alleged actions caused an adverse action by Oliver for which he should somehow be held criminally liable or what that adverse action was. Or, alternatively, the government has not pled sufficient

facts to show how Deorio's alleged actions directly, without any action by Oliver, interfered with the Secretary's or the contracting officer's duties," the Court said when completely dismissing the charge.

The Court disagreed with Deorio's assertion that he could not be charged with theft because his wife wrote the letter and it was therefore his wife's property. It ruled that once the President received the letter it became his property and as such, the property of the government. It ruled that Deorio's belief that the letter was his wife's property is not grounds to dismiss the theft charge before trial. It ruled in the same way and for the same reasons for the charge of unauthorized possession or removal of property.

Ruling that the government did not name whose civil rights were allegedly violated by Diorio's actions and also that governments do not have civil rights that can be violated, the Court also dismissed the deprivation of rights charge against Deorio.

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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Supreme Court to consider constitutionality of FSM decision to close down borders during pandemic

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 26, 2021

**Pohnpei**—Representing 13 clients, Attorney Marstella Jack today filed a complaint for declaratory judgment at the FSM Supreme Court asking the court to consider the issue of whether or not President David Panuelo's action to close FSM borders is Constitutional.

The case names President Panuelo in his official capacity and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. Plaintiffs are Maria Ligoher, Lina Wilson, Merlance Amor, Darleen P. Alexander, Lorenzo David, Senolida Robi, Connie Julio, Memorina Yesiki, Herman Joel, Marcey Joel, Kimberly Lebehn, Dora Rasuo, and Victoria Braie, all of whom are citizens of the FSM who aggregately reside in each of the four FSM States.

All of the plaintiffs traveled to the United States or to the US Territory of Guam prior to March 2020 to attend to important family matters, or for medical treatment but were prevented from returning to the FSM because of President Panuelo's decision to close the FSM borders.

"The issuance of the said declaration was not based on any solid medical finding or fact," the plaintiffs' filing alleged. "Instead, the issuance of the declaration by President Panuelo was based simply on President

Panuelo's sheer unfounded fear of Covid-19, which was occurring not in the FSM, but in other parts of the World several thousands of miles away from the FSM, or completely outside of the jurisdiction of the Federated States of Micronesia."

The allegation is one that the plaintiff's will have to defend in a hearing along with their other assertions, including that the President's action to close the borders was unconstitutional.

Plaintiffs quote Article X, Section 9(a) of the Constitution of the FSM, which vests in the President the power to declare a state of emergency under certain conditions. "Specifically, Section 9(a) expressly directs that 'if required to preserve public peace, health, or safety at a time of extreme emergency caused by civil disturbance, natural disaster, or immediate threat of war, or insurrection, the President may declare a state of emergency and issue appropriate decrees.'"

Plaintiffs claim that none of those conditions existed then, and they don't exist as of the date of the filing.

"The Plaintiffs were never informed in advance of Defendant President Panuelo's decision to close down the FSM borders. Plaintiffs are entitled to be informed of the President's decision to close down the FSM borders in order that they may exercise their rights to travel back to their home states in the Federated States of Micronesia prior to the date of closure of the national borders, and thus, Plaintiffs were never given an opportunity to travel back to their home states in the FSM prior to the date President

Panuelo closed down FSM borders," the complaint say. The same holds true for several thousand other FSM residents "wrongfully" barred from return, the plaintiffs say.

The plaintiffs claim that the emergency powers vested in the President were not designed to protect FSM citizens residing within FSM borders against other FSM citizens residing outside of FSM borders. The power is intended to protect all FSM citizens and is not intended to be applied in a discriminatory manner.

Plaintiffs claim that Palau's example serves as an example of "less drastic alternative measures" that were available and could have been used by the President which would have protected the rights of FSM citizens residing outside of the FSM to travel freely back into the FSM. "The Government of the Republic of Palau did not close down their borders from their Palauan citizens travelling back to Palau simply because Palau leaders organized a successful quarantine program which enabled Palau's citizens to freely travel between Palau and United States of America, which is still keeping their country a free Covid-19 place," the complaint says.

The complaint was only just filed today at the FSM Supreme Court and has not yet been reviewed by the Court.

## Regional and international prices continue to rise

**The Vital Petroleum Corporation**

**Pohnpei, FSM** – The Vital Federated States of Micronesia Petroleum Corporation ("FSMPC") confirms to its valued customers that, as forecasted in previous releases, the trend in international oil prices has continued on an upward trajectory.

FSMPC Business Analyst Ms. Sancherina Salle said that pump prices in the FSM have not increased once in over a year: "The most recent activity in pump prices within the FSM were the two consecutive price decreases in April and May 2020.

The twelve-month comparison shared in FSMPC Press Statement 1-2021 offers a visual representation of the difference in trends between FSM and Guam retail prices. Guam prices reflect the volatility of international oil prices, while FSM prices have been less reactive."

FSMPC Chief Financial Officer Mr. Johnny Adolph stated, "We are satisfied that the price stabilizing mechanism within our pricing methodology has done its job well, and that even with an ongoing pandemic affecting world markets, our FSM customers have not seen an increase in our wholesale prices since October 10,

2018." FSMPC CFO Adolph continued, "We will continue to hold off any increases in wholesale prices; however, we may face the first increase within the next month or two. We do want to reassure customers that any necessary changes will be implemented at a gradual pace, and as always, thank our customers for their continued support and cooperation."



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## Wasa Lapalap Isipahu and Likend of Madolenihmw vaccinated against COVID-19

**US Embassy Kolonia**

February 26, 2021

**Pohnpei**—Wasa Lapalap Isipahu and Likend of Madolenihmw received the first dose of the COVID19 vaccine at Pohnpei Public Health February 26.

"We received the vaccine today to ensure we are protected against the virus and to help reach the goal of vaccinating 70 percent of the eligible population to re-open our borders," Isipahu said.



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## Advertisement – Consultancy for Project Coordinator – MICCO (FSM)

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Copies of the 'Request for Quotation' (RFQ) can be downloaded from the SPC website (<https://www.spc.int/procurement/micro-public-tenders/rfq21-021-consultancy-national-project-coordinator-mico>) under procurement notices.

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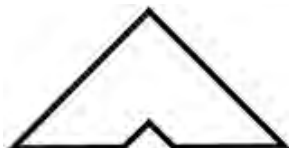
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Or by courier to:  
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Private Mail Bag  
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1. All proposals should reach SPC before 4.00pm (Fiji Time) on 17 March 2021.

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## ...Fishermen

*Continued from front page*

incredibly difficult to spot in the vast expanse of blue ocean. On the second day they saw a drone. On the third day they saw a Coast Guard plane. On the fourth day they saw what they said looked like a US Navy airplane. But still they continued to drift, buoyed both by their small boat and the sighting of the planes.

The US Embassy to the FSM said that the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) and aircrews aboard multiple HC-130 aircraft from Barbers Point, HI, joined the search for two missing boaters.

“The Coast Guard appreciates the support of the FSM National and Pohnpei State COVID Task Forces,” said Commander Allison Cox, response department head, Coast Guard Sector Guam. “Allowing our aircraft and cutter to conduct no-contact fueling, load stores, and lodging, vastly increased on scene search time by hours for the HC-130’s, and days for the Oliver Henry, which is a game changer for search and rescue and law enforcement effectiveness and support of FSM.”

The effort put in to locate the two men was massive in scale but significantly hampered by the boat’s top facing color of blue. Albert and Luhda continued to drift, but on the 19th of February, nearly at the end of their strength they drifted within sight of Sapwuahfik, another of Pohnpei’s outer islands and one of the closest to Pohnpei’s main island, approximately 105 miles from where they started in Mwoakilloa. Using the last of their strength, the two men paddled their boat to an uninhabited island in Sapwuahfik. Fortunately, Carter Sehpen saw them drifting in and then paddling to the island and rushed to meet them there. Local police officers took the two men to Pohnpei’s main island where they had family.

Carter Sehpen is now the owner of a small

fishing boat, given to him by two grateful young men who never want to see the boat again.

Five days later, sitting in the office of The Kaselehlie Press and telling their story in breathless terms, they were in excellent spirits. Having been fed and housed, their only visual residual damage was dark and peeling skin from sun damage.

As a result of Albert and Luhda’s ordeal, all of the seven boat owners in Mwoakilloa will receive EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon). If the two men had one of the devices onboard, they could have been rescued within hours rather than essentially rescuing themselves by chance 10 days later. Donald David, the President of a Mwoakillese non-governmental organization called Urmwka, Inc. organized a fund raiser to provide the EPIRBs, along with life jackets and stencils to be used to paint the names of each of the boats on the individual vessels. He said the organization was able to raise \$4000 in just a few days from donors both in Pohnpei and living in the United States.

David said that several months ago, his organization and the Pohnpei Fishing Club solicited the Pohnpei State Government to provide 300 EPIRBs to the 300 boat owners throughout Pohnpei’s main and outer islands. He said that SPC has committed to provide 40 of the life saving rescue devices as a match to Pohnpei’s efforts but that the government has yet to respond to the request. “We hope that the boys’ experience will motivate the government to make a decision to help,” he said.

Albert and Luhda freely admit that they made crucial safety mistakes, including having their boat painted blue, and they hope that others will learn from their mistakes.

James Wichman of the Pohnpei Fishing Club provided a boat safety graphic developed and published by SPC and asked us to publish it along with this article in hopes that boaters will take heed.

## COVID-19 vaccines now available for all eligible citizens (18+) in all FSM States

*FSM Information Services*

*February 22, 2021*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—As of February 22nd, 2021, all States in the Federated States of Micronesia

(FSM)—the State of Yap, the State of Chuuk, the State of Pohnpei, and the State of Kosrae—are offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for the eligible population, which includes all adults who are eighteen (18) years old and up. Citizens interested in receiving their vaccine need only visit their State’s public health office.

All adult FSM citizens are encouraged to get their COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible. All categories of adult citizens aged 18 and up—from first responders to teachers, grocery store workers to stay-at-home parents, fishermen to College of Micronesia-FSM students—are eligible to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The FSM National Government, operating in part on guidance received from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC), is seeking a minimum vaccination rate of seventy percent (70%) of the eligible population prior to the repatriation of any FSM citizens from COVID-19 affected jurisdictions. Ensuring that you and your family obtain the vaccine is crucial towards ensuring the Nation’s safety and the eventual return of the Nations’ stranded citizens.

For information on how you can get your COVID-19 vaccine, contact your State’s immunization program at the following numbers:

Yap State—+691-350-2114  
Chuuk State—+691-330-3945  
Pohnpei State—+691-320-3144/2217  
Kosrae State—+691-370-2125

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MUNRO LEYS

## C-Star

*Continued from front page*

on that evening Sigrah screamed at her though Sigrah was barred from having direct contact with her without her attorney present. "Using belligerent and...abusive language" Sigrah accused Perman of trespassing and accused Perman's father of "stealing the land". Sigrah told her that she had already called the police, who, despite the court already having ruled that the Setiks were trespassing, and previous requests from the Permans to enforce that ruling, told Perman to leave or she would be arrested.

On the next day, Perman's attorney, after having consulted with the State Attorney General and the Director of Public Safety told Perman she could go back to clean. But Sigrah came back at about 5 PM and barricaded herself inside the apartment Esther Setik was occupying and refused to come out. Perman's attorney called the Pohnpei AG and the Director of DPS and at around 9:00, police escorted Yoslyn Sigrah and her client from the compound.

That evening, Irene Setik posted threats against FSM Development Bank, it's attorney, Nora Sigrah, and against Feliciano Perman on social media and made thinly veiled threats, asking others to fight for her family members living in Pohnpei. The motion included Facebook posts from many who threatened to beat up, or otherwise harm the Permans and others involved in the civil action.

"Setiks' Attorney Yoslyn G Sigrah personally instigated these actions and participated in the Setiks' continued trespassing at the CStar premises," Perman's motion said. "Attorney Yoslyn Sigrah refuses to accept the controlling Appellate decisions of 2018 and misrepresented the status of the cases to her client Irene Setik, as evidenced by Irene Setik's Facebook posts."

The motion continues with a quote from Setik's February 23 Facebook post. "2015 FSM Development Bank auction our CStar Apartelle. Why? I never been informed or aware of this."

"Clearly Irene Setik was not informed of the sale of CStar premises because her attorney, Yoslyn G Sigrah, failed to inform her of this," Perman's motion for injunction and expedited hearing said. "Sigrah's failure to inform her client of the Appellate decisions resulted in the February 22-23, 2021 events at CStar and the filing of this (2021-002) meritless action."

Perman's motion continued with quotes from Setik's FB post:

"They think they own CStar...They stole it." . . . "They stole it in a unspeakable way."

"Someone pls beat her ass and put her ass in jail" . . . "I hope that bitch lady someone beat her up after these videos cus I know Someone will."

The motion also submitted as "Exhibit D", screen shots of various threats made by many members of the 7000 member Facebook page, "FSM Forum", owned by Kalio Edwin and administered by several others.

Though CA 2021-002 is a new case, it is related to civil filings that have stretched back nearly a decade regarding a mortgage collection action pursued by the FSM Development Bank for payment of the loan it provided in order to build the C-Star Apartelle. No FSM Supreme Court Justices were available to hear the initial case, either through conflict of interest or due to other reasons, and as is it is sometimes required to do, the Supreme Court recruited a judge from another jurisdiction to hear the mortgage default matter. Lourdes Materne, a judge from Palau heard the case up to the point where the mortgaged property was put out for sealed bid.

When the bids were opened, Perman's bid, one of Materne's relatives was amongst the submitted bid. Materne immediately identified her relationship with Perman and refused to announce the winning bidder because of that relationship, though all she had to do was announce that her relative had won. The FSM Supreme Court issued a writ ordering Materne to take the last step of announcing the winner so that the case could close. Yoslyn Sigrah, Setik's long standing

attorney asked for reconsideration of the writ, but the Court denied it.

On November 24, 2015, the land and building were sold to Feliciano Perman for his bid amount and the Court ruled that it was properly executed and on April 11, 2016, the Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure issued a certificate of title to Perman for the property. Sigrah filed three appeals to the FSM Supreme Court, all of which were heard and all of which were denied in 2018. Through their attorney, the Setiks continue to argue that the land sale was illegal and fraudulent and have not recognized any of the courts' decisions.

One of the most recent court decisions regarding the matter was an eviction notice issued by the Pohnpei Supreme Court on September 20 which gave the Setiks and family members 60 days to vacate the premises. Though the ruling was a "default judgment" based partially on the fact that the defendants did not respond to the legal action filed by Feliciano Perman, the ruling said that "it is not a matter of right to grant a motion for entry of default judgment... however, in deciding whether to grant a motion, a Court may consider various factors including the merits of plaintiff's substantive claim," which the Court said it did. It ultimately ruled for the eviction based both on the defendants' failure to respond in any manner over the course of the case which was initially filed in July of 2020 and due to presented evidence.

It wasn't until December 2, 2020 that Sigrah filed an answer to Perman's complaint that had been decided nearly four months previous. The answer came in the form of a motion to set aside the default judgment and allow additional time to respond to the complaint.

Nine days later she filed what became 2021-002, again alleging facts that have all been previously ruled on in various courts.

At press time, the FSM Supreme Court had not yet made any ruling nor had it yet granted an expedited hearing.

# Pohnpei's top high school grade earners take over executive spots for a day

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 23, 2021

**Pohnpei**—21 top high school grade earners had the opportunity to participate in Pohnpei's first ever "Student Take Over Day". During that day students took over the positions of government officials, NGO leaders, and other leaders.

During a ceremony at the end of the day, speakers stood in front a large Student Take Over banner saying "Employers, we want to take you over. Will you give young people a chance to walk in your steps for just one day to experience what being a leader and decision maker feels like?" And that is exactly what they did on Tuesday, February 23.

During his speech at the ceremony, Governor Reed Oliver said that the program was a trial run and that he hopes the Pohnpei State Legislature will consider passing a bill to make it an annual event. Each of the student participants also received recognition for their participation in the event.

Through Pohnpei's Public Information Officer, the Kaselehlie Press reached out to the Department of Education to explore the possibility of asking each student to provide a short narrative of their day for publication, but by publication time we had yet to receive a response. If that does happen, we will publish responses in future issues of the newspaper. Meanwhile, photos and captions of each student participant are published here.



*Collie Anne Abraham-MHS-Commissioner, Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Commission*



*Connor Boylan-CCA-Director, Department of Public Safety*



*Denny Ray Jonathan-MHS-Chief Revenue & Taxation, Treasury and Administration*



*Collie Anne Abraham-MHS-Commissioner, Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Commission*



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*Emralynn Paulus-MHS-Administrator, State Transportation and Infrastructure*



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*Janet Barnabas-NMHS-Manager, Social Security Administration Pohnpei Branch*



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*K'conAndon-NMHS-Pohnpei State Lt. Governor*



*Kevin Phill Silbanuz-OCA-Chief of Land, Department of Land*



*Lancelot Santos-NMHS-Director, Department of Resources and Development*



*Marie Ann Raugalyang-PICS-Chief Financial Officer, FSM Development Bank*

## Social protection programming for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low-income households entering pilot stage; program to be expanded in March & April

*FSM Information Services*

*February 18, 2021*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—In December 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—announced a series of social protection programming designed to safeguard the Nation's citizens against the detrimental economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. As of February 18th, 2021, the Department of Finance & Administration (DOFA) has begun piloting the application forms and questionnaires for support to low-income households in Pohnpei State's Municipality of U, and expects to expand the pilot to the States of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae during the week of February 22nd to 26th. The Department expects that the first checks for these programs will be cut sometime in the month of April, 2021.

Among the social protection programs include a cash transfer grant to approximately 4,500 low-income households outside of the formal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, a food security program for community groups and low-income households to enhance subsistence-living food production, community-based grants to strengthen awareness and prevention of COVID-19, and targeted assistance to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and survivors of gender-based violence, which would come in the form of medical bill waivers, utility subsidy, and gender-based violence prevention kits.

“Right now, [DOFA] is visiting the municipal government offices to outline the low-income household support program, and then work with each municipality on the best way to distribute

forms and collect the information back in the most expedient manner,” said the Honorable Eugene Amor, Secretary of Finance & Administration. “The idea is that any application form for a person or family needs to be signed off by the municipal government, which serves as validation that the person or family actually lives there. While these are FSM programs designed by President Panuelo, as they're funded by the Asian Development Bank, it's important that our foreign donors are as satisfied by our processes and procedures as the Office of the National Public Auditor.”

“We're testing to see if people can fill in the data right, and also to see if we're collecting complete information in order to make a determination as to eligibility for low-income support,” Secretary Amor said. “An important element of the pilot stage is to set up a computerized database where we can easily cross-check application data against social security and income tax data, to ensure that this program only goes to low-income households. We expect to expand the pilot in each of the FSM States next week—such as Utwe in Kosrae, Uman in Chuuk, and Tomil

in Yap—and are working to secure staff in the States so they can assist.”

Citizens who are interested in assisting DOFA for this purpose are encouraged to reach out to the Department by emailing them at social@dofa.gov.fm.

“The pilot stage is only testing the forms and application procedures,” Secretary Amor said, “But eligible applicants in pilot municipalities and all other municipalities throughout FSM would start receiving checks at the same time when check disbursement is ready to begin.”

Secretary Amor explained that the first checks for these programs will be cut sometime in the month of April, 2021. He indicated that just because some municipalities are piloting the forms doesn't mean that they will receive assistance faster than anyone else.

The cash transfer program to approximately 4,500 low-income households is intended to provide temporary cash relief for households outside of the formal labor sector, such as subsistence farmers and fishermen, and specifically such laborers who do not qualify for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program. Approximately six million dollars (\$6,000,000) is allocated for this purpose, and is expected to provide a one-time assistance of \$1,000 to each low-income household. Households are encouraged to use this assistance to enhance COVID-19 readiness by buying facemasks, sanitary needs, and other COVID-19 preventive items.

Other programs include the food security program for community groups and low-income households which is intended to provide subsistence livelihood training, and an equitable distribution of seeds, planting, and fishing materials, to vulnerable citizens at no cost.

Approximately two million dollars (\$2,000,000) is scheduled for this purpose. The National Department of Resources & Development (R&D) and State R&D Departments are establishing an implementation plan prior to the commencement of the program.

The community-based COVID-19 awareness grant is intended to strengthen awareness of COVID-19, inclusive of education on handwashing and social distancing, distribution of soaps, masks, and informational materials, and piloting a gender-based violence hotline in Pohnpei State.

Approximately two million dollars (\$2,000,000) is scheduled for this purpose. The National Department of Health and State Health Departments are preparing an implementation plan for this initiative.

The assistance program to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and survivors of gender-based violence is intended to provide temporary waivers of medical expenses not included under funding

from the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, electricity

subsidies to an estimated 2,000 low-income households with dependents who have disabilities, distribution of solar lamps to an estimated 5,000 households on remote

outer islands, and clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence kits and consultation options for survivors of gender-based violence. Approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) is scheduled for this purpose.

## Sokehs Rebellion Day celebration in combating COVID 19 and NCD



*International Organization of Migration*

*February 24, 2021*

**Pohnpei**—The Sokehs Municipal Government and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) sponsored an event for the 2021 Sokehs Rebellion Day. The event was held on February 24 at the Sokehs Municipal Government.

The 2021 Rebellion Day invited parents, students, youth, women's groups, and the public to participate in a fun walk, which started at 9 a.m. Safety information was given to all participants including identifying the water points. Sokehs Police Officers, one bus, and an ambulance escorted the participants during the walk.

The program of the Sokehs Rebellion Day opened with a prayer followed by two speeches from the Honorable Michael Lieman, Chief Magistrate of Sokehs Municipal Government and Mr. Herman Semes, Jr., representing IOM. In his speech, Chief Magistrate Lieman stated that the Sokehs Municipal Government has partnered up with IOM and this year's Rebellion Day

event was focused on COVID-19 and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), since Pohnpei declared a state of emergency for both.

Mr. Semes, Jr. added, “We are here to support the Sokehs Municipal Government's call to rebel against COVID-19 and to practice good hygiene. If we work together and make sure to wash our hands, wear mask, and to practice physical distancing, we will greatly reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19 between our friends and family.... the USAID is generously supporting IOM to implement a wide range of COVID-19 preparedness activities in FSM, for example, the COVID-19 Response: Strengthening Preparedness across the North Pacific project.”

The fun walk ended around 11 a.m. Roughly over 200 people attended the fun walk, showing the will and strength of the people to rebel against COVID-19 and NCD. Students who completed the Fun Walk also received notebooks and pencils donated to the Sokehs Municipal Government by IOM.

# We are the Pohnpei State FSM Girl Scouts!



By Abigail E. Alosima

February 20, 2021

We are the Pohnpei State FSM Girl Scouts. By working together, we have learned to help each other accomplish our goals, learn new things about our community, our culture and to be prepared for the future. We work together to develop a plan that is helpful for our community. Planning a meeting is not just about activities and arrangements (although those are

important too), it is about creating a safe place where Girl Scouts can grow, build relationships, take on responsibilities, and thrive.

The Pohnpei State Girl Scouts started on May 23, 2020. On the first day, we were both thrilled and anxious to have the chance to meet new people. After open remarks from His Excellency FSM President David W. Panuelo and U.S. Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor, we received badges and encouragement

to improve our community.

Since then, we have been doing many activities including the work of our firefighters, the importance of CPR and safety training, and the importance of local agriculture and plants. We learned about climate change, precautions for the COVID-19, making friends, treating each other equally, and we supported an anti-bullying campaign. We also organized an island clean up and food drive for the drought victims

in Kapangamarangi.

Being a Girl Scout means stepping out of your comfort zone to meet the needs of others. We have learned so much about leadership, teamwork, responsibility, respect, and communication. When it comes to calamities in our community, we always lend a helping hand by attending to their needs and more. Attending the Girl Scout allows us to enhance confidence, and to make a difference to the world!

# Join our team!

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- Infirmery Nurse (Chuuk)
- Electrical Technician (Head Office-Pohnpei)
- Mechanical Technical (Head Office-Pohnpei)



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- **Pohnpei-based position**
- **Join the principal development organisation in the region**



The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Implementation Advisor – EU FSM SEAM Project within its Micronesia Regional Office (MRO) located at its regional office in Pohnpei, Micronesia

#### Description

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

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

The role – the Implementation Advisor – EU FSM SEAM Project will provide support to the Project Manager in the delivery of European Union (EU) Sustainable Energy and Accompanying Measures Project for the FSM under thematic area 2, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE). As a member of the Project Management Team (PMT), this individual will have technical knowledge of the energy sector. The implementation advisor will also serve as the deputy project manager.

#### The key responsibilities of the role include the following:

1. Facilitate the successful implementation of the project as per the Action Outputs and Activities
2. Support the cooperation, facilitation, and delivery of stakeholder's engagement to the successful delivery of the project outcomes
3. Provide technical assistance to the policy planning, training and technical assessments and implementation of the energy services in selected States

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

#### 1. Qualifications

- A postgraduate degree from a recognised institution in a discipline relevant to project management and implementation, international development, and/or energy.

#### 2. Essential experience and skills

- At least 8 years in a similar project implementation position.
- Understanding of renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change challenges in the Pacific.
- Demonstrated capability for collaborating and working in an institution with integrated programmes and involving colleagues from different countries and cultures.
- Understanding the FSM policy, legal and institutional arrangements and commitments towards climate change and MDG targets.
- 5 years' experience in working within a regional or international institutional environment.
- Excellent computer skills across necessary applications.

**Closing date: 28 March 2021 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time**  
**Job Reference: AL000380**

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

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

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

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

#### Screening questions:

1. Please share your experiences in project management and what lessons have you learned through those experiences, in particular where it comes to working with remotely based staff and technical work in isolated locations. Please provide specific examples that demonstrate the skills you possess that are important to do such work.
2. This position will be responsible for facilitating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency initiatives in the FSM. Can you please explain any similar experiences in which you have assisted a developing country / country and what were the results/impacts achieved?
3. Can you describe what may be unique or different working in the context of the FSM and how you would address any foreseen challenges?

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## Chief Mailo crew and one passenger all test negative—Chief Mailo allowed to dock for reprovisioning

*Pohnpei Enginkehlap News*

*February 19, 2021*

**Pohnpei**—On February 17, 2021, the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force met and unanimously decided to conduct a re-test on all the MV Chief Mailo crewmembers and one passenger. The decision to conduct these tests were in response to a letter from President Panuelo to Governor Oliver to disembark one person from the MS Chief Mailo and bring in the vessel to provision and fuel.

The Task Force's understanding of the MS Chief Mailo COVID-19 situation was that one POSITIVE case still remained on board. A joint medical report confirmed the POSITIVE test as a historical case, no other tests were conducted after that. Task Force Medical Advisor, Dr. Rally Jim, confirmed that while the historical case remains POSITIVE, a risk of infection, however small, still remained.

On the morning of February 18, 2021, Dr. Rally Jim presented 11 NEGATIVE test results for COVID-19 for the crew and passenger of the MS Chief Mailo. With this information, Governor Oliver instructed Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) to accommodate President Panuelo's request of provisioning and disembarkation of one person, an FSM National Government Employee, and with the advice of Dr. Jim provide for a 7-day quarantine period with two COVID-19 tests before and after the quarantine period.

In a letter to President Panuelo regarding Chief Mailo, Governor Oliver stated the following:

"The medical team for Pohnpei State Task Force was consulted and its recommendation was to reconsider doing one last test for the crew to be sure because if the person to disembark remains negative, consideration can be given subject to quarantine requirements. It is always good to err on the side of caution. The request was heeded and late yesterday our health staff conducted another test onboard. This morning the results of the lab tests were reported by the medical team. I am very thankful to inform you that what was reported turned out to be much more than what was expected.

With humility, I want to thank you for your patience, Mr. President. The details on how to handle the needed services for Chief Mailo so it can be provisioned and depart will be coordinated by our medical teams, our transportation, and port authority personnel in accordance with the established procedures."

The MS Chief Mailo is scheduled to dock and provision at Dekehtik harbor today, disembark the one individual who will be quarantined and then depart.

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for receiving, storing, displaying, tracking, sharing, reporting, maintaining, managing, monitoring, and analyzing infectious disease data and information; educational online software services, cloud-based software services, software as a service (SAAS) services, and platform as a service (PAAS) services in the field of infectious disease testing; online software services, cloud-based software services, software as a service (SAAS) services, and platform as a service (PAAS) services for training in the field of infectious disease testing; providing Internet website portals and web-based software platforms for use in connection with infectious disease testing; providing Internet website portals and web-based software platforms for infectious disease data and information management; providing Internet website portals and web-based software platforms for use in the field of infectious disease testing; providing Internet website portals and web-based software platforms for receiving, storing, displaying, tracking, sharing, reporting, maintaining, managing, monitoring, and analyzing infectious disease data and information; providing educational Internet website portals and web-based software platforms in the field of infectious disease testing; providing Internet website training portals and web-based training platforms in the field of infectious disease testing.

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Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement

**POLICY MANAGER**

The PNA Office (PNAO) is a Majuro, Marshall Islands based agency responsible for the administration of the Vessel Days Scheme (VDS) for purse seine and longline fishing in the oceanic waters of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement and Tokelau. The Nauru Agreement is an agreement between eight Pacific island countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu) to cooperate in the management of their tuna fishery. Tokelau is an observer to the Nauru Agreement and a Party to the Palau Arrangement that implements the VDS. The PNAO enjoys diplomatic status in the Marshall Islands.

The PNAO is a small team of Pacific Island nationals from different countries with a culture rooted in the Pacific way of tolerance and regional interconnectedness - a way of doing things that is different to the way things are done in the west and in Asia.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the position ensures effective and efficient support in the development and implementation of fisheries management policies to support both sustainability of fisheries resources and the Parties' economic growth objectives.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Provide day to day strategic and technical advice on fisheries related policy issues to the Parties, CEO, PNAO staff, customers, and other stakeholders
- Contribute to policy discussions with analytical and innovative thinking that takes into account all available information on the resource, the economics of the Parties fisheries, and best practice fishery management
- Prepare and present as required, papers for technical meetings including the VDS Committee, Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, PNA, Palau Arrangement, FSMA, and US Treaty
- Support Parties on policy matters at meetings and in access negotiations
- Provide support for PNAO, CEO and staff in accordance with the PNAO Business Plan
- Liaise with industry and other stakeholders on relevant technical and policy issues
- Undertake delegated functions of CEO as requested
- Support the development and implementation of PNA office policies
- Support the development, review and monitoring of the PNA Strategic Plan, and the PNAO Business Plan and Annual Budget
- As a senior member of the PNAO team, provide leadership and mentoring to other staff
- Represent the PNA office and region internationally at conferences and forums
- Provide technical support and training for Party approved activities

**Requirements:**

- Degree in fisheries with relevant post graduate qualification would be highly regarded
- Minimum 5 years relevant managerial level experience
- Proven hands-on experience in relevant fisheries management policy development and implementation
- Working knowledge of government systems and agencies
- Comprehensive understanding of the applicable fishing industry, gear and other technology in the sector including current and developing fishing operations
- Excellent understanding of fishery governance including the regulatory frameworks and management measures of the tuna fishery
- Sound understanding of commerce and trade relevant to the sector
- Good computer skills in Microsoft Office, and sector related applications
- Demonstrated commitment to ethical business practices, fraud prevention, and a workplace free from harassment and discrimination with strong integrity, leadership, commitment to service, transparency, excellence and professionalism.

The successful applicant will be based in Majuro, Marshall Islands and will be offered a three-year contract and an attractive benefits package including tax free base salary, superannuation, relocation, travel, accommodation and education allowances.

**Eligibility for appointment to this position is in accordance with the PNA recruitment policy which offers preference to the eight PNA countries and Tokelau.**

**APPLY NOW**

Please visit our website: <https://vanguard.com.pg/vacancies/>

Follow the website instructions and forward the completed application form to Vanguard International highlighting your capabilities and experiences against the position essential requirements and an updated CV.

Alternatively, call us on (+675) 7500 7500 or email [recruitment@vanguard.com.pg](mailto:recruitment@vanguard.com.pg)

**Applications close COB Friday 05<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.**



**TUNE IN TO POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO**



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## FSM submits its formal denunciation to the Pacific Island Forum, beginning a one year exit period

### FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On February 17th, 2021, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) sent a diplomatic note to the Republic of Fiji in its capacity as the host for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIF). The note, which followed a convening of the Micronesian Presidents Summit (MPS), begins a one-year process for the FSM to formally withdraw from the PIF, starting on February 17th, 2021, and concluding on February 14th, 2022. The FSM intends, however, to remain a full member of each individual CROP agency, e.g. the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), et al. The diplomatic note may be found here: [https://gov.fm/files/Note\\_Verbale\\_\\_Statement\\_of\\_Denunciation\\_February\\_17\\_2021.pdf](https://gov.fm/files/Note_Verbale__Statement_of_Denunciation_February_17_2021.pdf)

President Panuelo spoke with the Presidents of the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands regarding the MPS' withdrawal from the PIF. "I've consulted with our Speaker of Congress, [the Honorable Wesley W. Simina], and other Senators. [A decision has been made] for our denunciation of the PIF." Citizens interested in reviewing the President's letter to Speaker Simina on this matter may find it here: [https://gov.fm/files/February\\_15\\_2020-Ltr\\_to\\_Spk\\_Re\\_PIF.pdf](https://gov.fm/files/February_15_2020-Ltr_to_Spk_Re_PIF.pdf)

President Panuelo and the other Presidents of the MPS spoke at length about their internal processes for PIF withdrawal. While there was discussion on the MPS countries jointly submitting their denunciations at the same time, it was agreed that the members of the MPS will denounce the PIF in a sequence, so as to allow their respective internal processes to properly conclude.

Much of the MPS' discussion was with regards to how leaving the PIF impacts—or, conversely, doesn't impact—assistance from foreign donors. One of the MPS Presidents described what amounted to a threat from one external partner that leaving the PIF would mean a loss of funding in a particular category, to which that President noted to the MPS that the exclusive beneficiaries of that funding are countries in the South Pacific (as opposed to the North Pacific). Another MPS President described in detail how multiple countries, who otherwise donate to the PIF, are now seeking closer bilateral relations, and how his Government has assessed that withdrawal from the PIF is advantageous.

President Panuelo, for his part, noted that the FSM National Government's Working Group for PIF withdrawal has been preparing a similar report, which notes that leaving the PIF has "no serious

impact" for the FSM. President Panuelo noted that, of all the reasons to ensure the Gentleman's Agreement was upheld, allowing the PIF to have a larger impact in the North Pacific was one of them.

Partway through the meeting, the Honorable Kausea Natano—Prime Minister of the Republic of Tuvalu and Chair of the PIF—joined the MPS meeting to describe the PIF's thoughts on the Micronesian countries' withdrawal. Chairman Natano noted that the PIF is reviewing the selection process for the appointment of a Secretary General, and invited the MPS countries to play an active role in those discussions.

President Panuelo and the other Presidents of the MPS described that, while they appreciated the Chair's diplomacy, and agreed that reform in the PIF is necessary, that—because countries who were familiar with the Gentleman's Agreement openly and boldly claimed it doesn't exist—trust in the structure of the PIF's dynamics was fractured.

"It would take a very monumental reform of the [PIF], in my humble opinion, for us to be able to come back to the table to discuss future options," President Panuelo said to Chairman Natano. "As sovereign nations, we will continue to work with you closely on issues like Climate Change and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.... But, as I was telling my fellow Presidents moments ago, I have [made the decision] for our denunciation to be sent, and it will be sent later today."

## Japan donates new high capacity garbage truck to Madolenihmw Municipality

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 25, 2021

**Madolenihmw, Pohnpei**—This morning, the Madolenihmw Municipal Government celebrated the arrival and presentation of a new garbage truck provided by the government of Japan. The garbage truck, which cost \$89,647 including freight, training and wharfage, was provided under Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan.

"We understand that the Madolenihmw Municipal Government plans to mobilize the Garbage Truck delivered, periodically to collect wastes from each area of the Municipality every month, and the Truck will reduce sizes of the wastes so that it will be able to collect 22 times larger amount of the wastes compared to the current capacity of waste collection," Japan's Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu said during his speech at the event. "This will be in conformity with the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision that aims to reduce additional

pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach announced in the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration in June 2019."

Meninkeder Lapalap Madolenihmw John Rensle and Senator Shelten G. Neth gave opening remarks during the ceremony after which group photographs were taken.



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



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 (PROP) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward a DLI Report Consultant to be working with FSM NORMA in Pohnpei, FSM. The Consultantservices are outlined below:

### Background on Consultant Report

About half of project financing for PROP Project component one to Project participating countries including FSM, is disbursed annually on a basis of achievement of agreed indicators for strengthened and effective management of the tuna fisheries. These indicators - i.e. "disbursement linked indicators" (DLIs) are measured against data from PNA Office on vessel days usage under the Vessel Days Scheme and tuna catch in FSM. Project funds disbursements will be made annually to national governments implementing agencies in each participating country to reimburse against agreed eligible expenditures, based on independent verification that DLIs have been met. The DLIs are outlined in the Annex to this TOR. NORMA has been working with the Forum Fisheries Agency and PNA Office to implement the DLI mechanism under the PROP Project for the past few years. For the final year of the Project, NORMA is seeking to engage a consultant to assist with the independent verification of its DLI report containing the data on indicators.

### A. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the assignment is to provide NORMA with support to verify, for the final year of PROP, the status of achievement of DLIs as part of its participation in the PROP Project. The specific targets for the above DLIs as well as the amount of funding linked to each indicator are given in the annex for this TOR. A qualified specialist is expected to undertake the work.

### B. GENERAL SCOPE AND DELIVERABLES:

The process for the verification of the status of achievement of the DLIs and subsequent disbursements from the World Bank is as follows:

- i. By March 31, 2021, the Implementing Agency (IA) will provide a report on the status of achievement of all DLI Targets for the period specified in the Annex to this TOR as 2019/2020 to the Consultant, providing all information needed to verify the targets have been met.
- ii. By May 31, 2021 the Consultant will provide the independently verified report on the status of achievement of the three DLIs to NORMA and the World Bank. The result will be publicly available on the NORMA website.

The work will include but not be limited to the following:

- Reviewing the primary data on the DLIs via the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) at the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO); and
- Using any other independently available sources of data verification, including verification of random samples, for example verification of randomly sampled reports non-fishing days by cross-checking with logbooks, VMS tracks, etc. as may be appropriate.
- Write up of verification report.
- Answering any questions for clarification following submission of verification report.

### Specific Deliverables:

The report is expected to be a maximum 5 pages in length and will include:

- i. The measurements verified for the DLIs;
- ii. The sources of data used;
- iii. The Methods used; and
- iv. Any technical and policy recommendations to enhance transparency and efficiency in the IAs collection, management and reporting of the VDS data, based on good practices in natural resource industries.

Work is expected around March and April with NORMA and World Bank providing written comments for inclusion in the final report which will be provided by the consultant by May 31, 2021.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- a) University degree in Business Management, Economics, or other relevant field;
- b) Proven track record of at least 5 years supporting transparency initiatives in developing countries, with a focus on independent data and information verification; particularly with sensitive data;
- c) Experience with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), or verification/certification of other standards (e.g. Equator Principles etc.) , is preferred
- d) Knowledge of the fisheries sector, and particularly Pacific Island tuna fisheries, is a benefit.

### DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT & COST OF CONSULTANCY

This is a lump sum (based on specific deliverables as stated above) contract for 3 months with FSM NORMA with a salary based on International Market Payscale with a compensation established depending on qualifications.

### APPLICATION

The FSM NORMA invites consultants to submit expression of interest (EOI) to provide the above-mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of 1) Letter of Interest; 2) CV speaking to the minimum qualifications; 3) support Degrees/Certificates addressed to NORMA; and 4) current contacts of 3 referees. This consultancy will remain open until filled but submissions preferable by March 05, 2021. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition).

Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from NORMA and EOI packages can be sent to:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director, NORMA, FSM National Government, 2nd floor of Ambros Building, PO Box 122, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181, Email: info@norma.fm  
Copy to crawford.nimea@norma.fm

## US State Department names Pohnpei's Sophia Pretrick as International Anticorruption Champions awardee—one of 12 in the world

*Antony J. Blinken,  
Secretary of State*

*February 23, 2021*

Around the world, corruption threatens security and stability, hinders economic growth, undermines democracy and human rights, destroys trust in public institutions, facilitates transnational crime, and siphons away public and private resources. The Biden Administration recognizes that we will only be successful in combating these issues by working in concert with committed partners, including courageous individuals who champion anticorruption efforts and countries working to fulfill their commitments to international anticorruption standards. For that reason, I am announcing a new International Anticorruption Champions Award, recognizing individuals who have worked tirelessly, often in the face of adversity, to defend transparency, combat corruption, and ensure accountability in their own countries.

As President Biden has emphasized, our commitment to truth, transparency, and accountability is a mission that we must live at home and exemplify abroad. I commend the dedication of these 12 brave individuals to these same ideals. The honorees are: Ardian Dvorani of Albania, Diana Salazar of Ecuador, Sophia Pretrick of the Federated States of Micronesia, Juan Francisco Sandoval Alfaro of Guatemala, Ibrahim Kalil Gueye of Guinea, Anjali Bhardwaj of India, Dhuha A. Mohammed of Iraq, Bolot Temirov of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mustafa Abdullah Sanalla of Libya, Victor Sotto of The Philippines, Francis Ben Kaifala of Sierra Leone, and Ruslan Ryaboshapka of Ukraine. They inspire us and so many of their counterparts pursuing these ideals around the world. The United States enforces one of the most robust anticorruption frameworks in the world. We were the first to criminalize foreign bribery and, in partnership with foreign counterparts, have recovered and returned more than \$1 billion in stolen public assets in the past two years alone. We use a range of tools to promote accountability for corrupt individuals, combat impunity globally, and engage in multilateral fora to fight corruption and strengthen citizen engagement. We will defeat corruption by implementing sound reforms consistent with international anticorruption commitments; developing transparent, accountable institutions; and empowering citizens, journalists, and civil society organizations to help defeat this global threat to security and democracy.

- Pohnpei-based position
- Join the principal development organisation in the region



The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) Officer – North Pacific in its Human Rights and Social Development Division. This position will be located in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

#### Description

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

The Human Rights and Social Development Division - For over 20 years SPC has operated as the region's pioneer in human rights and gender capacity building to Pacific states, institutions and civil society. Through a team of regional advisors and Country Focal Officers (CFOs) based in member states, it provides a comprehensive suite of policy and legislative advice, technical assistance and capacity building to support Pacific states to respond effectively to priority regional human rights priorities, such as gender equality, ending violence against women and children, disability rights, climate change and equitable, sustainable development.

The role – The Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) Officer – North Pacific will support PPAC grantees to have increased capacity to monitor and advocate for human rights in FSM, RMI and Palau.

*The key responsibilities of the role include the following:*

1. *Training and Capacity building*
2. *Networking and Partnership*
3. *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning*

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

#### 1. Qualifications

- Tertiary (diploma) qualification in political science, public policy, law, human rights, gender, international relations.

#### 2. Essential experience and skills

- At least five years' experience in FSM, RMI and/or Palau working to advance human rights and social development (in government and/or civil society).
- Strategic planning experience and in-depth understanding of FSM, RMI and/or Palau cultures, context, human rights and social development challenges and opportunities.
- High-level diplomatic skills and ability to successfully engage and influence stakeholders across a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Knowledge of undertaking advocacy within the Pacific context.
- Experience in community development, non-formal adult education and/or community outreach.
- Experience in financial management, budgeting and acquittals.
- Computer literacy in Microsoft Office suite.

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

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

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

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

1. In your view, what role should Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play in terms of human rights?
2. Please briefly describe any previous experience you might have working on advocacy campaigns.
3. This role includes supporting Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to meet their reporting obligations (including financial). Why is it important that CSOs meet these obligations and what could you do to ensure they are consistently able to do so?

**Closing date: 14 March 2021 – 11:00 pm Pohnpei time**

Job Reference: AL000382

## FSM Supreme Court is pleased to announce that 2020 National Law Day was a success

### FSM Supreme Court

The world pandemic in 2020 proved especially challenging for the FSM Supreme Court. Historically, July 12th of each year is a day when the FSM honors Law Day, which is when high school teams from around the FSM meet in one of the four FSM states and engage in debates of legal significance. In 2020, the National Law Day debate was:

Be it resolved that the Federated States of Micronesia file a claim with the International Court of Justice against the more developed nations, who are host to large multi-national corporations, which have contributed heavily to global warming and climate change, seeking redress and relief including monetary damages.

On July 12, 2020, however, no one in the FSM was allowed to travel. Thus, it appeared that the 2020 National Law Day debates might not happen. This would have broken a nearly 25 year history of holding the National Law Day debates. The FSM Supreme Court, however, forged ahead and held the 2020 National Law Day debates using virtual-meeting technology on September 1, 2020.

Over the years the FSM Supreme Court has invested in technology improvements at each of its facilities in Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap. The issues that the FSM faced with the corona virus pandemic in 2020 proved that these strategic advances in upgrading the Court's physical facilities and internet technology paid off. Indeed, the Court held virtual law day debates on September 1, 2020. Teams from Chuuk, Pohnpei and Yap participated in the debates from the FSM Court facility in each of these respective states. Each of the students participating in the debates received a \$2,000 scholarship and a laptop computer for their roles in this significant national event.

For the 2020 Law Day debates, Yap Catholic High School placed first, followed by Pohnpei's Seventh Day Adventist High School in second place, Pohnpei' Calvary Christian Academy in third place and Xavier High School in fourth place.

For 2021, the FSM Supreme Court is preparing to host the National Law Day debates in Chuuk on July 12, 2021. The debates will either be in person, with all the participating high school teams traveling to Chuuk to debate, or virtually, with each high school team remaining in its home state and appearing via video conference from the Supreme Court's facility in that team's state. The

investments that have been made over time to the Court's infrastructure now provide the Court with flexibility to adapt to the pandemic-related travel restrictions that are established by the executive and legislative branches of government. In fact, the Court has begun using this virtual technology to host video conferences in connection with the adjudication of cases, including both civil and criminal trial court cases, as well as appellate court matters.

In the end, even the world pandemic did not stop the Court from continuing to honor its long history of celebrating National Law Day. Indeed, the 2021 National Law Day topic is:

Be it resolved that with regard to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the FSM Congress shall enact legislation requiring all citizens and residents of the FSM to undergo testing, get vaccinated and/or wear a mask in public, and for every person entering the FSM to complete quarantine upon entry.

Regardless of the status of the world pandemic, the Court is prepared to host debate teams from all across the FSM on July 12, 2021. Congratulations to the 2020 debate teams, and for 2021, may the best team win!



*First Place Winners*



*Second Place Winners*



*Third Place Winners*



PACIFIC ISLANDS  
FORUM SECRETARIAT

## International Legal Adviser *The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat*

The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's political and policy organisation, with a vision of helping to create a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) headquartered in Suva, Fiji works to support Members' achievement of this vision by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members - including directly engaging with community members in order to identify pressing needs of the region.

The work of the Forum Secretariat is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) as being:

The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as-a-whole.

The FPR is underpinned by the Blue Pacific narrative, endorsed by Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017. It calls for a long-term regional commitment to act as one "Blue Continent" as the means to achieve its development aspirations. The Leaders Blue Pacific vision is that it would serve as the platform to reinforce and inspire the region in its shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and to reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.

### The Opportunity

The Forum Secretariat is looking for an International Legal Adviser to join the team in Suva, Fiji. Reporting to the Director Governance & Engagement, this role is responsible for providing legal policy advice and analysis on regional issues covered by the Secretariat.

### To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Providing legal analysis and advice on regional policy;
- Convening of Forum Meetings and Representation of the Forum's interests to relevant international bodies;
- Management of the Forum's treaty depositary role and assistance in the provision of other in-house legal advice and services; and
- Team Performance & Leadership.

The Secretariat seeks a strategic and proficient individual with an advanced degree in law (preferably combined with international relations and/or diplomacy). Candidates must have a sound knowledge of the international concerns and interests of Forum members and of the regional positions on these concerns and interests. The ideal candidate will have substantial years of experience and demonstrated success in the coordination and organisation of high level inter-governmental and non-governmental regional and international meetings.

### The Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary will be in the range of SDR 36,640 to SDR 42,297 per annum. At the 1 January 2021 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD108,660 to FJD125,436. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country\*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org) where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 19 March 2021.

\* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

# The Global Green-grants Fund (GGF) provides more community grants to Micronesia

## Micronesia Conservation Trust

February 23, 2021

**Pohnpei**—Island Pride Micronesia, Saint Barnabas Youth Inc. of Pohnpei and Sapuk Resource Management Council of Wone Chuuk have each received grants of \$5,000 to support their community empowerment work. Over the years, the GGF has provided approximately 100 of these community empowerment grants to numerous civil society organizations (CSO) in Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands, Guam, CNMI and Kiribati. Twice a year, William Kostka, Micronesia representative on the GGF Pacific Islands Advisory Board, works with interested communities to design their projects and to apply for these grants. These GGF grants are intended to provide seed funding to kickstart community-based projects/programs that are meant to be sustained by the participating communities.

The Island Pride Micronesia project is focused on increasing community awareness on climate change impacts by working with women and youth organizations to develop local early action plans/activities to be implemented by participating groups.

The Saint Barnabas Youth Inc. aims to improve community understanding of and resilience to the impacts of climate change and global warming through revitalizing degraded lands by planting native fruit trees. The Sapuk Resource Management Council will develop an enforcement plan, with standard operating procedures (SOPs) to deal with poaching activities within their marine protected area (MPA). This will include training on MPA compliance and enforcement, as well as the provision of necessary enforcement equipment to their volunteer community conservation officers. Iakop Ioanis, the President of the Saint Barnabas Youth, Inc. of Pohnpei said, "this GGF grant will allow our families and partners to both increase our food security as well as build our resilience to the impacts of climate change and global warming. We are grateful to the GGF Pacific Advisory Board for selecting our proposal and will do our best to implement our project/program".

The deadline for the next round of GGF grants is March 15, 2021. For all interested entities, please contact William Kostka at [director@ourmicronesia.org](mailto:director@ourmicronesia.org) or call 691-320-5670/8903.

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## CFE and UNICEF Launches its Faith for Life COVID19 Advocacy Campaign



On the 14th of February 2021, the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) in collaboration with UNICEF launched its Faith for Life COVID19 advocacy campaign on the Island of Pohnpei under CFE's Internship Through Immersion project. Faith for Life program is a water, sanitation, handwashing, and COVID19 related advocacy program tailored to the church communities throughout the island. The goal of the program is to educate children attending Sunday school in churches lessons on health, sanitation, vaccination, and anything related to preventing COVID19 using biblical scriptures. Faith communities have been among the greatest advocates for the world's neediest children, providing guidance, aid and comfort to millions of disadvantaged families. Today, faith communities continue to be important advocates that advance children's rights and enhance their well-being. Given the threats posed by diseases including COVID-19, the faith community is expected to lead social change process by creating an open communication and support atmosphere. As part of the program, the churches received automatic hand sanitizer dispensers as well as water containers to be used as hand washing stations.

This program definitely hit home for a good percentage of the local populace, with a vast majority of the island being of the Christian faith. For the past year and a half, these programs have been an integral part in providing opportunities for College of Micronesia-FSM students to enhance their creativity, learn marketing, management, leadership, and communications skills through the activities they organize. Currently, the project is being led by three interns and twelve youth leaders from ten churches across Pohnpei. The project expects to widen its reach to more churches and increase the number of interns from three to twelve, with one intern stationed in Chuuk and another in Kosrae.

## Protect Yourself: Get Vaccinated

COM-FSM recommends everyone aged 18 and over to get vaccinated as soon as they can, including all our staff, faculty and students. The Moderna vaccine is available in all four FSM States. Getting vaccinated is one of many steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Protection from COVID-19 is critically important because for some people, it can cause severe illness or death.

Vaccines are kept in the freezer. Like ice-cream, they won't be good if they are taken out too long before being used.



Chuuk State is currently offering the vaccine to anyone from the age of 18 and over. To get the vaccine, go to the Public Health Facility at the Chuuk State Hospital, Monday-Friday between 8:00 - 4:00pm. Although you do not need to make an appointment, the clinic only have a fixed number of vaccines available for the day. Hospital 330-2214 330-2216 330-2217.

Kosrae State's vaccination campaign is now offering the vaccine to anyone from the age of 18 and over. Residents go directly to the Public Health unit of the State Hospital & Health Services to receive the vaccine during government working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 - 3:00pm. Kosrae Health Services 370-3199 or 370-3200, Kosrae State Hospital – 370-3012.

Pohnpei State is currently offering the vaccine to anyone age 18 years and over. To get the vaccine, go to the Public Health Facility at the Pohnpei State Hospital, Monday-Friday between 8:00 - 4:00pm. Immunization Division 320-3144

Pohnpei Public Health – 320-2217 Pohnpei State Hospital – 320-2215

Yap State is currently offering the vaccine to anyone age 18 years and over. To get the vaccine, visit the Public Health Facility at the Yap State Hospital, Monday-Friday between 8:00 - 4:00pm or CHC site to complete your consent form. You will be contacted when to come to the hospital to receive your vaccine shot (first & second doses). For any questions or concerns regarding COVID 19 vaccine, please call HOTLINE 350-4161 or Yap State Hospital – 350-2110, 350-3446, 350-2114, 350-2115

### Be prepared. Stay informed.

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others.

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