

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-80

RE: C.R. NO. 15-101/T&C

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF FRANCIS I. ITIMAI TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

FEBRUARY 13, 2008

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Transportation and Communication, to which was referred C.R. No. 15-101, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF FRANCIS I. ITIMAI TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

The nomination of Mr. Francis I. Itimai was transmitted to Congress via Presidential Communication No. 15-128 on February 04, 2008. This communication outlines Mr. Itimai's qualifications to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia and seeks Congress's advice and consent on the nominee.

The written information provided to your Committee in Presidential Communication 15-128, which included a copy of Mr. Itimai's resume, reveals that Mr. Itimai has served as a Revenue Agent for the FSM Department of Finance and Administration for two years (December 1991 to March 1993), as Fisheries Development Specialist for the FSM Department of Resources and Development for two years (March 1993 to April 1995), as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of Economic Affairs for eight years (April 1995 to April 2003), as Director for the Office of Planning and Budget for Yap State Government (April 2003 to January 2007), and most recently, as Training Coordinator under the FSM Department of Finance and Administration since January 2007.

Mr. Itimai attended Xavier High School in Chuuk State in 1980 and graduated with a high school diploma in 1985. He did his undergraduate studies at the College of Micronesia-FSM in Pohnpei State and later transferred to Park University in Parkville, Missouri

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in 1987. In 1990 he graduated at Park University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Business Administration. Furthermore, Mr. Itimai has completed other trainings, and was awarded several certificates of completion, as reflected in his resume.

On February 12, 2008 at 8:30.a.m., your Committee held a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the nomination of Mr. Itimai to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure. In attendance at the hearing were: Chairman Moses A. Nelson, Senators Joseph J. Urusemal, Dion G. Neth, Joe N. Suka, Claude H. Phillip, Dohsis Halbert, and Setiro Paul. The staff from the Department, Acting Secretary Wainer Hadley, Assistant Secretary Phillip Joseph, Assistant Secretary Jolden Johnnyboy, Administrative Officer John Adolph, Rob Westerfield, and Pelsesar Petrus were also present during the hearing.

During the hearing, Senator Urusemal commented that questions relative to the nomination were already raised before, but he will allow the witnesses and Senators to ask the nominee any questions they may have. Chairman Nelson yielded the floor to the staff of the Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure for any comments relative to the nomination. Acting Secretary Hadley generally commented that he has no objection on the nomination if it was the President's choice. He only prefers that the nominee can work not only with them but also with the States. Mr. Rob Westerfield also indicated that his principle is that as subordinate staff he should not comment on a nomination from the President.

Senator Phillip asked the nominee whether he would feel comfortable working at the Department because to him the Department is one of the Departments at the National Government that has significant duties and responsibilities. The nominee thanked Senator Phillip for his inquiries, and assured him that if confirmed by Congress, he will try his best to work with the staff and try to fulfill the Department's goals and objectives. He also assured Senator Phillip that he intends to establish a good working relationship with the staff. Floor Leader Suka urges the Committee to support the nomination so he can expedite the infrastructures in Chuuk State. The representative from the President's Office highly supported the nomination, and urges the Committee to support the nomination.

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Your Committee urges the nominee if confirmed by Congress to establish good working relationship with the staff at the National Government and the counterparts at the State Governments. The Committee also urges the nominee to make fair decisions that may benefit the citizens of this nation.

Your Committee has received favorable supports from the staff of the Department, the President's Office and members. Furthermore, your Committee agrees that the nominee has an impressive bio data, which qualifies him to the position of Secretary for the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure. Furthermore, your Committee wishes to incorporate the contents of S.C.R. No. 15-12 into this report.

Your Committee on Transportation and Communication is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-101 and recommends its adoption.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Moses A. Nelson
Moses A. Nelson, Chairman

/s/ Fredrico O. Primo
Fredrico O. Primo, Vice chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth
Dion G. Neth, member

Claude H. Phillip, member

/s/ Joe N. Suka
Joe N. Suka, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member