

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-01

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

MAY 14, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Regular Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Setiro Paul, Fredrico O. Primo, Joseph J. Urusemal, Claude H. Phillip, Chairman, was duly appointed on May 11, 2009.

The committee met with the President Manny Mori on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. Also in attendance were Vice-President Alik L. Alik, Special Assistant for Congressional Affairs Pelsesar Pedrus, Chief of Staff Kasio E. Mida, Secretary of Justice Maketo Robert, Secretary of Health Vita Skilling, Secretary of Resources and Development Peter M. Christian, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin L. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration Finley S. Perman, Secretary of the Department of Education Casiano Shoniber, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure Francis Itimai, Director of SBOC Fabian Nimea, and Director of EEM Andrew Yatilman.

Chairman Phillip greeted the President, and members of his cabinet, and informed the President that the Congress has convened for a regular session, and was ready to transact business.

The President thanked the Congress and advised the committee of his priorities:

1. Budget The President urges Congress to review and approve his budget proposal. He understands that this May 2009 is a very important session because Congress will review the FY2010 Budget and pledge that he will have his cabinet ready to engage in hearings and providing necessary information to respective committees.

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2. Social Security Study. The President asks that members of the Congress review Public Law No. 15-73 (Social Security law) so that the Government can stand ready to provide the necessary funding.
3. MiCare Program. The President urges the Congress to support the program to avoid collapse of the program, which is the only healthcare insurance program.
4. State of the Nation Address. The President asks that Congress allow him to deliver the State of the Nation Address on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.
5. Status of the 3 Overrides. The President advised the committee that "numbers" were assigned to the vetoed bills that were overridden and are pending final drafting of transmittal letters.
6. Ongoing Discussion on Constitutional Issues: The President urges ongoing dialogue on the constitutional issues that have been recently communicated and discussed. The President hopes that these constitutional issues be resolved peacefully and timely to assure smooth flow of governmental operation and to protect the interest and the welfare of the people.

The President voiced his disappointment over Congress' decision not to allow him to deliver his address on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, that not affording him the opportunity to deliver his address on May 13th, is a disservice to the public. The President hopes for better communication and consultation between the two branches to avoid this type of problem in the future.

Chairman Phillip assured the President that he will convey his concern to the members of the Congress. He further advised the President and his cabinet that this is a 20-day session and that a lot of work is anticipated.

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The meeting was brought to a close with mutual expressions of appreciation and good wishes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Claude H. Phillip
Claude H. Phillip, Chairman

/s/ Setiro Paul
Setiro Paul, member

/s/ Fredrico O. Primo
Fredrico Primo, member

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