

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-02

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 01, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Joseph J. Urusemal, Fredrico O. Primo, Paliknoa K. Welly, and Peter S. Sitan, Chairman was duly appointed on August 31, 2009.

The committee met with President Manny Mori on the afternoon of August 31, 2009. Also in attendance were Chief of Staff Kasio Mida, and a number of staff members from different departments and offices: Finance and Administration, SBOC, Foreign Affairs, Education, and Justice. The heads of the department and offices were not present, presumably because they were attending the JEMCO meeting in Honolulu. Legislative Counsel T. Lam Dang staffed the committee.

Chairman Sitan greeted the President and other officials of the Executive branch, and informed the President that Congress has convened for a special session, and was ready to transact business. The main purpose of the special session was for funding the upcoming special election to fill former Vice Speaker Moses's seat.

The President thanked the Congress, and listed his priorities for this First Special Session of the 16th Congress, which is the funding for the special election. There are requests found in his recently transmitted presidential communication for supplemental appropriations, and a bill is forthcoming. The President stated, however, that if Congress does not receive an updated revenues projection by the end of the day, it should just fund the special election and defer other requests until the regular session. He also understands that nominations can be handled during the regular session. He also asked that Congress take some action on his proposed JEMCO legislation allowing the president flexibility in picking JEMCO members representing the FSM.

The President asked whether there was a legal requirement to attend the opening of Congress session, and further suggested that remarks on the floor by members of Congress should be diplomatic. The members should keep in mind the impression their remarks may give to foreign visitors.

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Senator Sitan reported on some concerns by the members related to the supplemental requests:

- Fisheries loan from the Asian Development Bank. There appears to be a willingness of the ADB to recognize its moral responsibility, so there may be some interest in paying the overdue amount;
- How the National Police could accrue overtime, and whether there may be enough funds for the next few pay periods.
- The members would like to meet with the President on broad issues of policy.

Senator Sitan also reminded the President on possible expiration dates for nominations.

Senator Welly stated that foreign affairs nominations will be addressed during the regular session.

Senator Urusemal regretted that the president might have been offended by remarks on the floor. Senator Primo also regretted any offense that might have been caused, but emphasized that for the good of the people, sometimes certain things must be said on the floor.

The members suggested a meeting with the President this Friday, September 4, subject to the Speaker.

The President stated that the executive is still working on a revised revenues projection, but it should amount to at least \$1.5 million, and some are suggesting a \$4 million figure.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter S. Stian
Peter S. Sitan, Chairman

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, member

/s/ Fredrico O. Primo
Fredrico Primo, member

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