

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-03

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Joseph J. Urusemal, Peter S. Sitan, Claude H. Phillip, and Dion G. Neth, Chairman, was duly appointed on September 14, 2009.

The Committee met with President Manny Mori on the afternoon of September 14, 2009. In attendance were President Mori, Vice President Alik L. Alik, Chairman Neth, Senator Sitan, Special Assistant to the President Pelsesar R. Petrus, Director of SBOC Fabian Nimea, Secretary of the Department of Justice Maketo Robert, and additional Executive staff. Attorney Allison Laffen from the Office of Legislative Counsel staffed the committee.

Chairman Neth greeted the President and other Officials of the Executive branch, and informed the President that Congress has convened for the second regular session. Chairman Neth informed the President that the Committee would convey to Congress the President's priorities for this session.

The President thanked the Congress, and informed the Committee that the Executive staff is ready to engage in public hearings, and is very serious about responding to the needs of Congress to ensure a productive session.

President Mori discussed the need to prioritize the 5 Year Compact Review. President Mori described the Review as critically important, and indicated that the Executive branch is interested in how to make sure that the Report generated represents the best interests of the people of FSM. President Mori informed the Committee again that his staff will cooperate fully and is ready to work with Congress on the Review.

The second issue President Mori discussed as a priority was the issue on audits. President Mori indicated that he does not want to see disagreement over the operations and funding of Senator's offices regarding auditable violations; and expressed his preference that the people of FSM be secure in knowing that their

officials are not violating their own rules and procedures. Again, President Mori pledged the full support of the Executive branch.

Vice President Alik also thanked Congress and the Committee for the opportunity to express priorities for the second regular session. In addition to the 5 Year Review, Vice President Alik expressed that it is equally important to solve the budget issues prior to end of the fiscal year. Vice President Alik indicated that the Department of Education had met that morning, and appreciates Congress agreeing to give the Department four days to work on alternatives to the budget issue before meeting again with the Executive branch on that issue.

Senator Sitan expressed that the Committee will try to prioritize the requests of the President and Vice President.

Chairman Neth spoke to the need to organize the offices and people for the 5 Year Review, especially recognizing how busy Mr. Nimea is in the office of SBOC. Chairman Neth agreed with the President that the Review must be taken seriously and the need to focus on this matter. Chairman Neth thanked the President, Vice President and Officials for the meeting and expressed again that the Committee will convey to the Speaker and other members of Congress the priorities of the President.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dion G. Neth
Dion G. Neth, Chairman

/s/ Peter S. Sitan
Peter S. Sitan, member

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

/s/ Claude H. Phillip
Claude H. Philip, member