

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-03**

**RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2013**

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert  
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Regular Session, 2013

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of Paliknoa K. Welly (Chairman), members Dohsis Halbert, Florencio (Singkoro) Harper, and Joseph J. Urusemal, was duly appointed on September 12, 2013.

The Committee met with President Manny Mori, Vice President Alik Alik, and members of the cabinet and staff on September 12, 2013.

President Mori opened the meeting by welcoming your Committee, and reported that the Executive Branch was prepared for public hearings to commence and that only one cabinet member would be traveling during the session. President Mori enumerated a listed of issues he hopes Congress will be able to work on this session; recognizing that the list is extensive, the President also asked for a 10-day extension of the session. Priorities of the Executive include:

- (1) Tax Reform
- (2) Bill to liberalize Telecom in order to be eligible for \$30 million grant from World Bank
- (3) Set-Aside Fund, the framework for which has already been sent to Congress
- (4) ODA Policy

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- (5) Transportation/Airline issues; specifically the need to further develop tourism opportunities, and a fundamental issue associated with tourism is transportation
- (6) Nominations
- (7) Constitutional Amendment process
- (8) Laser criminalization, and the possibility that United Airlines will stop flights
- (9) Pohnpei Port Development Project
- (10) Pacific Island Forum - FSM will be the host of the Forum in 2016 and necessary preparation needs to be made.

President Mori stated that many of these items will be further addressed with Members in the luncheon scheduled for September 13, 2013.

Chairman Welly thanked the President and Vice President for meeting with the Committee, and yielded to Speaker Halbert after noting the significance that Congressional Leadership was part of the Committee. Speaker Halbert recognized that there are a number of issues to work on this session, and informed the President that Committee Chairmen already met the day prior and planned to continue to meet on pressing issues, including JEMCO and the FY14 Budget, and all issues will be assigned to the appropriate committee.

President Mori stressed that a decision will need to be made shortly on how to handle the FY14 Budget, and informed the Committee that members of his staff are currently working on a list of options for Congress to consider regarding the FY14 Budget, and that information detailing these options will soon be transmitted to Congress.

President Mori emphasized the time-sensitive nature of the legislation liberalizing Telecom and the Tax Reform Sunset of September 30, 2013. Vice President Alik indicated that he looks forward to discussing pending issues in greater detail at the luncheon with Members, and stated that options of how to proceed with Tax reform will be discussed then.

Your Committee expressed concern that more than one luncheon may be needed to tackle all of the pending issues; President Mori concurred, and indicated that the Executive will be available for additional meetings as well.

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In response to questions from your Committee regarding the LTFF, President Mori signaled that an LTFF would be completed based on the National Government's own initiative.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Dohsis Halbert  
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper  
Florencio S. Harper, member

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