

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-11

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 10, 2015

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Sixth Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Wesley Simina, Joseph Urusemal and David Panuelo, was duly appointed on April 10, 2015. Wesley Simina was designated as the chairman.

The Committee met with Vice President Alik L. Alik on April 10, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. Members of the cabinet and key staff also attended the meeting. Chairman Simina greeted the Vice President, members of the cabinet and staff on behalf of Congress and thanked them for the opportunity to meet. Chairman Simina reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business.

The Vice President thanked the Committee for attending prepared. The Vice President's agenda and general comments for this session were for one item: the proposed funding for disaster relief for Typhoon Maysak. Initially, some confusion was cleared up regarding the President's letter to Congress dated April 9. Some of the pages on the attached budget were not included. Once provided, the budget did provide a detailed explanation for the entire proposed funding of \$4,817,563.

The Vice President and administration stated that assessment is currently being done in a joint effort by USAID/FEMA, which should have a preliminary report by the end of next week. The

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Vice President emphasized this proposed funding was only to meet the needs of the next 30 days and did not include any long term repair or rebuilding.

Your Committee members agreed that action was needed immediately, but inquired as to how the figure for the funding request was determined. In particular, the Committee asked if the donations from outside organizations, other nations and private organizations had been accounted for. The Vice President stated that several international organizations have stated they are going to provide assistance. For example, the Australian government has provided \$75,000 for relief efforts and a private contribution by MRA of \$25,000 has also been made. IOM will not only be providing assistance but is also working now with the government of Japan to ensure there is no duplication of donated items. Several churches and other private groups have independently provided assistance. The Secretary of Health and Social Affairs stated that WHO/UNICEF are supplying medical supplies sufficient for three months for the affected areas. The shipping companies and other private businesses have also provided some assistance as well. Currently, a list of the total amount of assistance from all sources is being compiled. The Committee requested that this list be provided to Congress as soon as it is completed. Your Committee also asked that the Vice President alert the relevant members of the administration to work with Congress during this short session on the disaster relief issue.

The Committee assured the Vice President that Congress would take this information and deliberate on this matter knowing the urgent nature of this matter.

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Discussions between the Vice-President, Executive key staff and members of your Committee to Wait were held until noon. In order to attend an afternoon session of Congress the meeting was concluded. As a result of our time pressure your Committee humbly asks to submit this brief report and an oral recitation during our session today, and ask that Members of Congress submit any questions regarding our meeting with the Vice-President during the session.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, Chairman

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, Member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, Member