

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-09

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Regular Session, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Paliknoa K. Welly, Isaac V. Figir, Esmond B. Moses, and Tiwiter Aritos was duly appointed on May 11, 2016. Paliknoa K. Welly was designated as the chairman. The President and Vice President opened the meeting to all the members, and so therefore many were able to attend including our Speaker.

The Committee met with the President and Vice-President on May 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Chairman Welly greeted the President and Vice-President, and key members of the Executive on behalf of Congress, and thanked them for the opportunity to meet. Chairman Welly reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business. Your Committee stated the main purpose of regular session was to begin its work on the FY2017 budget.

The President greeted the Committee, and he concurred that Congress give priority during this session to the budget process for FY17. The President assured the Committee that all the relevant members of each of his departments would be on Pohnpei and available during the session for hearings.

The President stated that there would be a supplemental budget request transmitted shortly for Congress to take action on this session. Members of your Committee inquired as to when revenue projections would be submitted for this session. The Secretary of Finance and Administration gave a short presentation as to her latest projections, and both she and the President stated that a finalized set of revenue projections would be submitted to Congress this week.

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Generally, the President advised your Committee that the supplemental budget request would include additional funding for the Pacific Island Forum that the FSM is hosting this year and airport improvement projects.

The relevant departments and the President updated the Committee on the ongoing efforts to assist those affected by the drought. There has been several trips to the outer islands to deliver water and assistance was also given to Pohnpei to upgrade some of their water pumps. Although the drought has subsided it is expected to be felt in some islands until at least July.

During the course of discussions the President emphasized his desire to meet informally with members of Congress to develop an approach to more long-term planning and implementation on various projects. The President also stated that with the FY17 budget he was looking to not only use money more efficiently, but also to make the processes and procedures of government more streamline.

The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to move forward on the above issues in a timely and cooperative manner. The Committee is submitting a brief report at this time. Your Committee kindly requests the members address any further questions regarding the priority issues for this session to the members of the Committee during the discussion of this report at session.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, member

Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member