

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-26

RE: C.R. NO. 19-51/J&GO

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF THE NOMINATION OF MRS. GINGER
VIRGINIA PORTER MIDA TO THE POSITION OF
POSTMASTER GENERAL

JULY 16, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, to which was referred C.R. No. 19-51, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MRS. GINGER
VIRGINIA PORTER MIDA TO THE POSITION OF POSTMASTER
GENERAL OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

Ginger Virginia Porter Mida has been nominated by the President for the position of Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia. This nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress pursuant to article X, section 2(d), of the Constitution and title 2, section 207(1), of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Work Experience

The nominee currently serves in the Position of Postmaster General, having served in that capacity during the previous administration.

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In that capacity, she was responsible for increasing the number of positions in her department while simultaneously lowering overall personnel costs through a reduction in part-time positions. Your Committee, in its FY 2015 Budget Standing Committee Report stated that her work had "shown great results" and "applauds her efforts."

The nominee was Postmaster for the FSM Post Office in Pohnpei since 2010. She was previously a postal clerk for the U.S. Postal Service in Honolulu and Pohnpei. She also worked for the U.S. Postal Service for more than twenty-five years, gaining invaluable experience of a modern and sophisticated postal operation.

Public Hearing

At a hearing on her nomination held in Palikir on July 15, 2015, the nominee was present as were representatives from the Office of the President and the Department of Justice.

The Chairman of your Committee welcomed the nominee and the other representatives. He indicated that most members of your Committee know the nominee and her work and that she has been doing a very good job.

Statements from Nominee

The nominee stated that she feels that she has done great; revenue has picked up from \$900,000 to \$2,000,000; and the Postal Service has installed new services to better track packages. The Service is increasing performance, and given their budget limitations, they are doing well. She does plan to request additional funds for uniforms for Service employees in Pohnpei.

She indicated that she is about to attend an annual conference in Palau, which is attended by all the FAS post offices and the U.S. Postal Service. This should provide an opportunity to glean additional best practices. She indicated that the workers are doing great. She did indicate that the U.S. Priority Mail flat rate boxes

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will finally be discontinued and will be replaced by FSM Postal Service flat rate boxes.

She indicated that the Service is working to upgrade the interior of the Yap post office to better reflect the professionalism of the Service.

Senator Figir asked the nominee to elaborate on the problems in Yap. She indicated that Yap State shares a sewer pipe with the Service, which is currently the sticking point for the Yap post office improvements.

Senator Urusemal followed up with general comments about the need for government agencies to pay their bills on time. The nominee indicated that she agreed and that when she discovered a delinquency she emphasized to her employees that they should not wait to receive a late bill.

Senator Urusemal inquired about how many full time employees of the Service are currently in Yap. She responded that there are four, but one person has just retired. Given the limited pieces of mail there, she does not plan to replace that position because she would rather reallocate that position to a post office that has higher volume of mail. Senator Urusemal pursued the line of questioning to gain clarification about the identities of the current Yap employees. Impressively, the nominee was able to identify the employees by first name. The nominee encouraged the Senator to email her or call her directly if he has any additional questions or concerns in this regard. The nominee indicated that she is very fair with her employees.

Senator Figir asked who processes payroll for the Postal Service. The nominee indicated that it is the Department of Finance and Administration.

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Senator Romolow indicated that he has observed that there is a delayed routing in mail from Guam to Chuuk and that he has experienced it personally with two week delays or more. The nominee replied that there is only one airline, United Airlines, that carries the mail, but that United contracts with APA, a fish airline, to help. At present, the routing of the mail is as follows: the U.S. mainland to Hawaii to Guam to Majuro, where it is offloaded from the APA plane. The APA plane then goes to Vanuatu to be loaded with fish. If the plane arrives back in Majuro full, then the next available United plane picks up the mail. At this point in the process, the mail is out of control of the Postal Service and under the control of United. The nominee indicated that she has been complaining to United and will continue to fight this fight and plans to raise it again at the Palau conference. She stated that \$8.6 million per year is being paid by the U.S. Government to United to provide mail service to FSM, which is not being consistently provided.

Senator Romolow indicated that during the recent Special Election there were lots of problems with the return of absentee ballots. Many that were mailed at the same time and from the same place were never received. The nominee replied that the circuitous routing via Majuro would explain these discrepancies. Senator Romolow encouraged the nominee to give special attention to this matter given the importance of ballots during elections. The nominee replied that when it comes to the mail, all the States are treated equally in the FSM.

Senator Urusemal asked if the Postal Service is still serving the outer islands. The nominee indicated that the Postal Service serves all the outer islands of Yap and the other States.

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Conclusion

Your Committee is satisfied with the qualifications, experience, and dedication of the nominee and believes this nominee should be confirmed.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-51 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, Chairman

/s/ Robson Romolow
Robson Romolow, Vice Chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, Member

Berney Martin, Member

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, Member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, Member