

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-61

RE: C.R. NO. 19-76/EX AFF

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF SEBASTIAN
ANEFAL TO SERVE AS THE AMBASSADOR TO FIJI

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 19-76, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.
SEBASTIAN ANEFAL TO SERVE AS THE FSM AMBASSADOR
PLENIPOTENTIARY TO FIJI.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On August 12, 2015, the President transmitted Congressional Resolution No. 19-76 via Presidential Communication No. 19-113, which is the nomination of Mr. Sebastian Anefal to serve as the FSM Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Fiji. Attached with P.C. No. 19-113 was the nominee's resume.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on Congressional Resolution No. 19-76 on September 29, 2015. Witnesses included the nominee, Deputy Secretary Samson Pretrick, former Secretary Kensley Ikosia and Pelsesar Petrus representing the President's Office.

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Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly opened the hearing and welcomed the witnesses, especially the nominee. The nominee was given an opportunity to comment on his nomination.

The nominee thanked the Committee and indicated that he is happy to make the trip to Pohnpei for the hearing so members of Congress can ask any questions. He stated that he is ready to answer any questions put forth to him.

Your Committee has no reservations with the qualifications of the nominee, but asked what will be his position in regards to the Pacific Island Forum and the Pacific Island Development Forum. The nominee indicated that he has not looked into the matter, but commented on what the situation is, how the PIF and PIDF, has affected our two big brothers (Australia and New Zealand). Furthermore, your Committee inquired of the nominee on his view of establishing an Embassy in the South, especially in Australia or New Zealand. The nominee indicated that it is a policy decision to be decided at the National Government. Although, he indicated that if there is a need or an outstanding need to establish one then the financial implication of it should be considered.

In respect to climate change, your Committee inquired of the nominee how to confront Australia or New Zealand in this regard. The nominee is of the opinion that Australia and New Zealand have their own prerogative, especially on the issue of climate change. However, the FSM needs to work closely with them to strategize the way forward considering their technical assistance to the FSM in this respect.

Your Committee further inquired of the nominee on some of his accomplishments as a public servant. The nominee explained that the establishment of the Embassy in China was done when he was the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and this is one of the accomplishments.

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Your Committee further emphasized that he once was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. If confirmed, does he foresee any intolerance for being a subordinate staff to the current Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The nominee commented that it is not an issue since he can establish a good working relationship with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

The witnesses showed strong support of the nominee, especially when the nominee has the portfolio, which corresponds to the position he is being nominated to.

Your Committee notes that in Presidential Communication No. 19-113, the President emphasized the numerous public positions the nominee had held. Currently, the nominee serves as a special consultant to the Governor of Yap. He serves as the Governor of Yap State for eight years. Before serving as the Governor, he served as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

The Members of your Committee feel that they have become very familiar with the excellent qualities of Mr. Anefal and recognize the valuable experience Mr. Anefal has gained in dealing with foreign nations, when he served as the Secretary. Also the nominee was a former member of the Federated States of Micronesia JEMCO. Your Committee also notes that Mr. Anefal has had broad experience in public administration, including serving as the Secretary of Economic Affairs or six years, which is now the Department of Resources and Development.

Given the extensive experience of the nominee, your Committee believes that he is well suited to represent the National Government as the Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Fiji.

Your Committee would like to offer the following amendment to read as follows:

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1. Page 2, line 4, delete "Special" and insert "Regular", in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is, therefore, in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-76, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-76, C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/
Robson U. Romolow, vice chairman

/s/
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/
Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/
Berney Martin, member

/s/
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/
David W. Panuelo, member