

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-71

RE: C.R. NO. 19-98/EX AFF

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. JEEM LIPPWE TO SERVE AS DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AT THE FSM PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 19-98, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. JEEM LIPPWE TO SERVE AS THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution expressed in its title.

On August 25, 2015, the President, through Presidential Communication No. 19-129, transmitted to Congress Congressional Resolution No. 19-98. The said resolution is the nomination of Mr. Jeem Lippwe to serve as the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia at the FSM Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Attached with P.C. No. 19-129 is the resume of Mr. Jeep Lippwe.

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Your Committee held a hearing on the said resolution on October 10, 2015, at the UN Permanent Mission in New York, New York. In attendance was Vice Chairman Robson U. Romolow, member David W. Panuelo, and staff Alik Jackson and Lynn Narruhn. The witnesses included Ambassador Jane Chigiyal, Ambassador Asterio Takasy, UN Mission staff Clement Mulalap, Martin Zvachula, the nominee's wife (Lerina) and the nominee.

Vice Chairman Romolow chaired the hearing. He thanked Ambassador Jane Chigiyal and staff for accommodating the request of the Committee to use the UN Permanent Mission Office for the hearing.

The nominee was given an opportunity to comment on his nomination. The nominee greeted members and staff. Before responding to the Committee's inquiry, he introduced his wife (Lerina) who attended the hearing. He then explained his length of service at the UN Permanent Mission, and informed the Committee that he is more than happy to continue working at the Office. He had been doing consular services with the Government most of his life.

The Committee asked the nominee to share his views regarding the operation of the UN Permanent Mission. The nominee commented that the Office's presence in the United Nations is like a conduit for the FSM basically to foster a good working relationship with members of the United Nations, and to seek possible financial assistance, technical assistance and other importance projects from our foreign partners.

Currently, there are 193 member countries of the United Nations. It is the mission of the Office to dialogue with these countries on possible financial or technical assistance. Ambassador Chigiyal clarified that the

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President has already instructed them to seek any financial assistance from these donor countries.

Your Committee understands that the nominee has been there for around fifteen years, and asked why he was nominated for the same post. The nominee explained that he is a person that sees the positive side of things. He is doing well there, but if the President did not see fit to elevate him to a higher post, he is satisfied. He is happy to work at the UN Permanent Mission. He further explained that his work is dealt mostly outside of the country and is open to any possibilities. If the Government thinks he is still efficient and represents the Nation well at his current post, he is accommodative to any decisions made by the President or Congress so long as he still has the energy. He stated that he served under the pleasure of the President.

Ambassador Chigiyal had expressed strong support for Mr. Lippwe stating that the nominee has been at the Office, and has the institutional knowledge. He also has a good working relationship.

Your Committee asked how he was approached to take the post. The nominee indicated that he was not approached. He became aware that he was nominated to the post, sometime later when he submitted his courtesy resignation.

Your Committee gave a last opportunity to the nominee to comment on his nomination. The nominee explained that the Committee should look into the level of compensation of DCMs or DPRS or Consul Generals and compare it to the compensation of Assistant Secretaries. With the recent cost of living allowance, they were not eligible, but the Assistant Secretaries are eligible. So it is a policy decision either to amend the law or have the DCMs, DPRS and be Consul Generals forgo the advice and consent process and be put under the Public Service System. The nominee

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thanked the Committee for taking the time to visit New York and conduct his nomination hearing.

Your Committee has reviewed the qualifications of the nominee. There is no further need to do so at this time. Your Committee has not heard anything that would cast doubt on the performance of the nominee. Absent any indication to the contrary, your Committee believes the nominee should be reconfirmed, and so recommends Mr. Jeem Lippwe be reconfirmed as DPR at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Your Committee wishes to offer an amendment to the resolution to read as follows:

1. Page 1, line 16, delete "Second Regular", and insert "Third Special" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-98, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-98,C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, member

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Berney Martin  
Berney Martin, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon  
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, member