

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-02

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

July 08, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of Chairman Isaac V. Figir, and members Paliknoa K. Welly, Ferny S. Perman and Tiwiter Aritos was duly appointed on July 7, 2015. Isaac V. Figir was designated as the chairman.

The Committee met with President and Vice-President on July 8, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. Chairman Figir greeted the President and Vice-President, members of the cabinet and staff on behalf of Congress and thanked them for the opportunity to meet. Chairman Figir reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business.

The President greeted the Committee and gave a summary of the issues and areas he and the Executive branch would be focusing on during the remainder of the year, as well as, his agenda issues for this special session. He advised your Committee that he and the Vice President were making a detailed review of the entire Executive branch as quickly as possible so that at least by year's end he would be able to undertake larger substantive changes and issues.

First, the President noted to the Committee that he will be evaluating the COM-FSM system, including FMI as it is the largest cost center, it warranted a detailed evaluation. The President stated that he was concerned with the

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-02

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

July 08, 2015

continuing lack of practical skills, such as vocational skills, in our young people, and competency in core skills of reading and math literacy. The Committee agreed that review and evaluation of the education system and specifically COM-FSM was an appropriate priority at this time. The President stated that the Vice President will be specifically tasked with review and investigation into health and education matters. Further, the President stated that streamlining the grant approval process, particularly for those long standing health programs, was also a priority for him.

Your Committee Chairman and the President discussed the way forward regarding the 2023 Committee. The President stated that he hoped to refocus his Department of Foreign Affairs regarding this issue. It was noted by the President that some vacancies needed to be filled and additional training may be necessary for the Department. The President stated he hoped that negotiations regarding the Compact after 2023 could begin soon, and that working with the Executive Congress could help spearhead this. The Committee advised the President that it would take this request back to Speaker and the Members.

The President acknowledged that unfortunately some nominations and communications had been transmitted to Congress on the Vice President's letterhead and with his signature, but the President also stated that everything that was transmitted to Congress thus far had his personal approval.

The President and Vice President both communicated that a supplemental budget should be ready for transmission to Congress today and they request that this be made a priority during the Special Session.

The President stated that he would be reviewing the revolving funds in place with the idea of eliminating as many as possible. The President stated that revolving funds were difficult to monitor and their structure made them easy to abuse. The Committee signaled its approval of this review and responded that revolving funds were also challenging to make transparent.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-02

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

July 08, 2015

At the close of the meeting several other issues were discussed generally including the continuing concerns with delays in infrastructure projects, PMU, the status of the detained Vietnamese fishermen, and the potential for additional airline service for our Nation.

The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to move forward on the above issues in a timely manner and with diligence. As your Committee had very limited time to prepare this report before the morning session at 10 a.m. it kindly requests to supplement the written report with an oral summary with additional details.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

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

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, member

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member