

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-04

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members David W. Panuelo, Isaac V. Figir, Robson Romolow and Paliknoa K. Welly was duly appointed on September 14, 2015. David W. Panuelo was designated as the Chairman.

The Committee met with the President and Vice-President on September 14, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. Chairman Panuelo 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 Panuelo reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business.

The President greeted the Committee, gave a short summary of the issues and areas the he requested that Congress give priority during this regular session, and provided an update on his activities. He reiterated he has invited the Speaker and members to lunch on Tuesday to discuss all the priority issues in detail.

The President stated that the two main priorities for the session were the nominations and the completion of the FY2016 budget. He asked if the confirmation process for the nomination for the Secretary of Foreign Affairs could be completed first, before the others are taken up in order to give that department the necessary leadership for upcoming matters.

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The Secretary of Finance and Administration will be returning to Pohnpei shortly, and that department will be transmitting a new revenue projection this week. It is the President's understanding that the categories for personnel for both Congress and the Executive do not have enough funding in them to make a complete payroll for the final pay period this fiscal year. He suggested that an amendment to this year's budget be made to allow reprogramming to resolve this problem. He stated that further discussions will take place at the Tuesday lunch meeting.

The President asked if there was any additional time during this session that Congress please revisit the shark fin legislation regarding its impact on fisheries. Chairman Panuelo assured the President that review of this matter was already being done.

The President stated that he will also update the Speaker and members on the results of the latest JEMCO meeting at tomorrow's luncheon. He voiced his extreme disappointment with the outcome of these latest meetings and stated he would be sending a strongly worded letter to OIA.

Chairman Panuelo stated that Congress was well aware of the details surrounding the President's priority issues and would be working diligently on these matters this session. The President stated rather than delay the Members further today he invited all the Members to attend the Tuesday lunch and briefing.

The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to move forward on the above issues in a timely and cooperative manner. In light of the above, your Committee kindly requests the Members submit any further questions regarding the priority issues for this session to our Speaker so they can be addressed directly with the President at our Tuesday luncheon.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, chairman

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

/s/ Robson Romolow  
Robson Romolow, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, member