

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-06

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President, consisting of members Berney Martin, Florencio Singkoro Harper, Joseph J. Urusemal and Paliknoa K. Welly was duly appointed on January 26, 2016. Berney Martin was designated as the Chairman.

The Committee met with the President and Vice-President on January 27, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Martin greeted the President and Vice-President on behalf of Congress and thanked them for the opportunity to meet. Chairman Martin reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business. Your Committee inquired as to when the revenue projections would be transmitted to Congress so it could go forward with its work on finance related matters, and it also asked if a final decision had been made as to whether the FSM would be hosting the Pacific Island Forum.

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, as follows:

- The group designated to investigate the possibility of hosting the Pacific Island Forum has come back with a positive report. A final budget for the forum is being done, and supplemental money will be requested (approximately \$500,000 additional in funding).
- The revenue projections are being held pending further work by the Secretary of Finance and Administration as to the

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total amount of the carry over money. It appears that as much as \$20 million may be available from carry over, however, the Secretary stated that prior to a final audit she was more comfortable with a carry over amount closer to \$11 million. The latest revised revenue projections should be with Congress this week.

- This year's fishing license fees continue to be unclear as to amount and timing. The President suggested that rather than appropriating based on projections the Nation should begin appropriating based only on collections.
- A recent delegation from China has begun discussions as to a change in foreign aid based on our priority lists. The President developed a list, primarily based on transportation needs, and that was transmitted during the Chinese delegation visit.
- Although PMU is dissolved the Executive continues to work with the states to finish some on going projects and to monitor the development of the state offices taking over PMU management of projects.
- The President would like to see the treaties regarding national boundaries taken up by the Congress this session.
- The annual IDP has been approved by OIA/JEMCO for this year.
- The President stated that he would like to see action on the nominations this session so his cabinet and departments can be fully staffed.

The Committee stated that it would report the priorities to the full body of Congress and do its best to work on the priorities as set forth by the President.

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The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to move forward on the above issues in a timely and cooperative manner. In order to allow the second day's session to be held on time at 10:00 a.m., your Committee kindly requests the Members address any further questions regarding the priority issues for this session to the Chairman during the discussion of this report at session.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, Chairman

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, Member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio S. Harper, Member

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