

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-02

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

JUNE 13, 2019

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Twenty-First Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2019

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President was duly appointed on June 13, 2019, consisting of members Paliknoa K. Welly, Robson U. Romolow, Joseph J. Urusemal and Ferny S. Perman. Paliknoa K. Welly was designated as the chairman. The meeting with the President took place on June 13, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. The Chairman thanked the President and the key members of the Executive on behalf of Congress for the opportunity to meet. The Chairman reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business. The Committee communicated the priorities of Congress for this session, and it received an agenda from the President for the meeting.

As this is a very brief session of Congress the President stated he had only a few priority items at this time. First, the President extended an invitation to the Members of Congress to meet with JCRP and the Executive branch. In light of the very productive meetings that took place between our President and the U.S. President and high level U.S. Government leaders recently, a briefing of those meetings, as well as, the planning for a way forward with 2023 negotiations should be discussed with Congress.

The President stated he has finished his first cycle of international travel and is concentrating on the reorganization of the Executive branch. He will be transmitting the first of

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his cabinet nominations to Congress this session. The President also stated that nominations for the COM-FSM Board of Regents and the FSMTC Board of Directors will be transmitted and he asked that these nominations be given priority as those boards are now without a quorum to conduct business.

The next item on the President's agenda was a supplement funding request for urgent items. A stand-alone supplemental request was transmitted to provide the remaining funding for the PII arbitration case. This is necessary to provide for the arbitration that will take place later this month. A second supplemental funding bill will be transmitted to provide for the Presidential Inauguration at the end of July. The President said that the \$400,000 he will be requesting is in keeping with previous inaugurations' budgets. Also, in that request will be one large request of \$1.5 million as a down payment on purchasing an office for our Japan Embassy in Tokyo. Without an available down payment, the search for new embassy space cannot move past general inquiries. The President stated that his supplemental request will likely be for \$2.5 million of the now \$8.6 million available for appropriation.

Your Committee brought several items to the attention of the President. The first raised by the Committee was the ongoing concern with the ship schedule, especially the timing for the runs to take the students back to school. The President stated he has already had the first in a series of meetings to address this issue, and that the timely transport of our Nation's students is also one of his priorities.

Several inquiries were made as to the ODA awards, and the President stated he is considering creating an ODA Office with additional staff and more accountability to remedy the ongoing problems. Other issues included the possibility of waiving charges for donations received in Chuuk for disaster relief and issues surrounding the retirement of the ship Micro Glory.

A final discussion was had regarding the implementation of public projects. The President was requested to make the PCD review process more efficient. The President agreed that this was an area that needed to be more efficient, and would be investigated further.

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As the Congress will be holding an afternoon session today your Committee has endeavored to make this report brief, and requests that it address any additional questions during the discussion of the report on the floor of Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

Robson U. Romolow, member

Joseph J. Urusemal, member

Ferny S. Perman, member