

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-12

RE: C.R. NO. 15-13/T&C

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF FRANCIS I. ITIMAI TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION & INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

JULY 17, 2007

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2007

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Transportation and Communication, to which was referred C.R. No. 15-13, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. FRANCIS I. ITIMAI TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

The nomination of Mr. Francis I. Itimai was transmitted to Congress via Presidential Communication No. 15-30. This communication outlines Mr. Itimai's qualifications to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia and seeks Congress's advice and consent on the nominee.

Your Committee agrees that Mr. Itimai is qualified to be the Secretary of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia. The written information provided to your Committee in Presidential Communication 15-30, which included a copy of Mr. Itimai's resume, reveals that Mr. Itimai has served as a Revenue Agent for the FSM Department of Finance and Administration for two years (December 1991 to March 1993), as Fisheries Development Specialist for the FSM Department of Resources and Development for two years (March 1993 to April 1995), as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of Economic Affairs for eight years (April 1995 to April 2003), as Director for the Office of Planning and Budget for Yap State Government (April 2003 to January 2007), and most recently, as Training Coordinator under the FSM Department of Finance and Administration since January 2007.

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Mr. Itimai attended Xavier High School in Chuuk State in 1980 and graduated with a high school diploma in 1985. He did his undergraduate studies at the College of Micronesia-FSM in Pohnpei State and later transferred to Park University in Parkville, Missouri in 1987. In 1990 he graduated at Park University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Business Administration. Furthermore, Mr. Itimai has completed other trainings, and was awarded several certificates of completion, as reflected in his resume.

Your Committee held a series of public hearing for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the nomination of Mr. Itimai to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure.

The first public hearing on the nomination of Mr. Itimai was held on Monday July 2, 2007 at the Chuuk State Governor's conference room building. The Committee received general supports on the nomination. According to Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Willie Busalen, he indicated that he knew the nominee and had met him on several JEMCO meetings where the nominee represented Yap State on such JEMCO meetings. Mr. Busalen further described the nominee as an individual with a firm decision-making who wants to push things forward.

Your Committee held two separate public hearings in Kosrae State to solicit comments and views from the Kosrae leaders on the nomination of Mr. Francis I. Itimai. First hearing was held on Thursday, July 5, 2007 at the Kosrae Governor's conference room and the second one on Friday, July 6, 2007 at the Kosrae State legislature chamber. The Kosrae leadership has no negative comments on the nominee, but rather see that Congress select a person that could expedite the implementation of infrastructure projects in the State of Kosrae.

On Monday, July 9, 2007 the committee held another public hearing for the same purpose described above on the nomination in the Pohnpei State Governor's conference room. Mr. Semensin James indicated that he knew the nominee from past working relationship, especially during JEMCO meetings. Mr. James further indicated that the nominee is a very outspoken person even in JEMCO meetings, and commented that the nominee would be an ideal individual for the position.

On Thursday, July 9, 2007, and Friday, July 10, 2007, the Committee held two separate public hearings on the nomination in the Congress

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committee hearing room. In attendance were the subordinate staffs from the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, the representatives from the President's office and the nominee. The Chief of Staff, Sabino Asor, indicated that the nominee was picked among five qualified candidates based on his extensive working experience in various management positions in government. Mr. Itimai personally addressed your Committee, extended his gratitude for the nomination and provided some of his comments and views. He thanked the President for his confidence of nominating him to the position. He indicated to your committee his interest and visions if he becomes the Secretary of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure.

Your committee, during the hearing with Mr. Itimai, asked the nominee how will he, if become Secretary, improve the management of the Department. Mr. Itimai indicated that the Department is the backbone of the infrastructure development of this nation and the problem with lack of coordination, communication, cooperation and responsiveness to the states infrastructure projects should be improved. As a Secretary, clear instructions, team works, follow-up on tasks assigned, consultation with stakeholders on the implementation of infrastructure projects and periodical visits to each state are necessary improvement. Your Committee agrees that the nominee has an impressive bio data, which qualifies him to the position of Secretary for the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure.

Your Committee on Transportation and Communication is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-13 and recommends its adoption.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Moses A. Nelson
Moses A. Nelson, Chairman

/s/ Fredrico O. Primo
Fredrico O. Primo, Vice chairman

Roosevelt D. Kansou, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Joe N. Suka
Joe N. Suka, member

Joseph J. Urusemal, member

Paliknoa K. Welly, member