

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-10

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 06, 2022

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Twenty Second Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Regular Session, 2022

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President was duly appointed on September 5, 2022, consisting of members Ferny S. Perman, Joseph J. Urusemal, Perpetua S. Konman and Paliknoa K. Welly. Ferny S. Perman was designated as the chairman.

The Committee met with President and his key cabinet. The Committee to Wait on the President took place on September 5, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. The Committee communicated the priorities of Congress for this session, and it received an agenda from the President for the meeting.

The first item on the President's agenda was the status of the Covid-19 infections and the update of the relevant regulations. The President was pleased to report that in Pohnpei and Kosrae the infection rate has dropped dramatically and that all the reported coronavirus related deaths occurred in people with severe underlying conditions. As for concerns raised by the State of Chuuk additional medicine has been made available for boosting the immune system of the most vulnerable population, separate from the vaccination process, that should further protect that population.

The regulations for the states that have community spread of the coronavirus have been amended to reflect the developments of the last six weeks. Now in those states with community spread masks are encouraged but not mandatory and the five-day home

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SEPTEMBER 06, 2022

quarantine period on arrival is done away with. This will allow necessary training and international travel for consultants.

The President is working with Chuuk State to ensure that its transition under the re-opening post pandemic is successful by limiting the number of people returning to the state and delaying a full opening to November 1st.

The President thanked Congress and the Kosrae delegation particularly for the support it gave for the funeral services of the Vice President. It was a sad event, but a very dignified memorial to an important statesman. The President has formally transmitted his letter to Congress requesting the selection of a new Vice President. The Executive branch stands ready to brief the new Vice President in every department and on all issues.

The President moved the discussion to the recent decision in the Pacific International Inc. (PII) case that has resulted in a judgment of \$6 million against the National Government. The Congress would need to appropriate funds for this. The President stated that he was reviewing a separate account for litigation settlements and the judgments. The \$6 million is significantly less than previously anticipated and the President will advise Congress shortly how the National Government will move forward to pay out this judgment.

With the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention the nine proposed amendments will be taken up in a national referendum. A task force will now translate the proposed amendments into all the Nation's languages and do an educational campaign.

A supplemental budget will be forthcoming from the President shortly with requests for funding of the Constitutional Convention Task Force, FAO Membership and IRENA Membership, the UNMCO lease, funding for the Open Access Entity and the initial funding for opening the FSM Embassy in Geneva.

The President stated that legislation for the marine spatial planning should receive special attention as it will provide a systematic structure to gather scientific information on our ocean resources. This will further enhance the ability of our

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-10

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SEPTEMBER 06, 2022

Nation to protect our resources while further sustainably using them.

Attached is the President's agenda which prioritizes pending bills and resolutions that he would like to see action on. Specifically, the President highlighted his desire that Congress take action on the bill to amend the National Election Act and the resolution for the World Bank SEEP project. The Chairman of Education responded to questions regarding the World Bank grant, that it was under review by his committee. The President stated that additional information on this project would be forwarded to Congress.

Finally, the President requested that Congress take action on MiCare board nominations as that board has several vacancies and cannot conduct business.

For the Committee to Wait Chairman Perman requested that detailed information on the previous fiscal years' carry-over be transmitted to Congress. The President stated that this request has already been assigned. Also, Congress requested assistance from the President to work with the United States to allow FSM citizens on the U.S. "black list" to transit in Guam to other FSM states. The Committee stated it was looking forward to details on the now mandated pharmaceutical unit under the new law, and the President tasked the relevant departments to ensure that this was done by the deadline. Regarding air transportation, the Committee requested an update on the CIA services. At this time, the larger of the CIA planes is in need of major engine overhauling. Some smaller aircraft will be available for outer island service, but these services will also be hindered by the poor condition of the runways.

The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to move forward on the above issues in a timely and cooperative manner. Your Committee kindly requests the members address any further questions regarding the priority issues for this session to the members of the Committee during the discussion of this report at session.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-10

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SEPTEMBER 06, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, chairman

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

/s/ Perpetua S. Konman
Perpetua S. Konman, member

Joseph J. Urusemal, member