

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-14

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

May 5, 2023

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Twenty-Second Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Eighth Special Session, 2023

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President was duly appointed on May 5, 2023, consisting of members Esmond B. Moses, Joseph J. Urusemal, Perpetua S. Konman and Rollinson B. Neth. Esmond B. Moses was designated as the chairman. The meeting with the President and Vice President took place on May 5, 2023 at 10:30 am. The Chairman thanked the President and the key members of the Executive branch on behalf of Congress for the opportunity to meet. 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 a short agenda from the President for the meeting.

The President expressed his greetings and expressed great thanks for the cooperation and working relationship with Congress over the course of his administration. The President stated he would do his utmost to brief the incoming President and provide for a smooth transition. He stated that as per the communication from his office there will be an official visit by the U.S. Special Envoy for Compact negotiations on May 15, 2023 here in Pohnpei. This will be a ceremony with the new president of the Federated States of Micronesia regarding the Memo of Understanding regarding the third Compact of Free Association. This will be followed by a meeting and ceremony in Papua New Guinea with U.S. President Biden and the presidents of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands on May 22, 2023.

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The President stated his was mindful of the very short length of this special session. There are several pending pieces of legislation that the President stated this administration would like to have action on. One was a continued request to reconsider the bill to eliminate the vaccination requirement for entering the country. Another is to legislate a specific exception to allow a \$500,000 withdrawal from the surveillance fund to pay Palau for a fishing violation.

A modest supplemental budget that will be transmitted from the Executive branch by close of business today. This will include funding for the OAE, and for the cost of the special election and constitutional referendum.

Pending with the Congress are two nominations: one for the college land grant board and one for the TRA board. A grant for funding the NACH in the amount of \$138,311 will be transmitted by the close of business today. The Vice President commented that the defeat of the two nominations for the NORMA board last Congress session will shortly leave this organization without the ability to transact business. The Committee indicated it will bring this matter to the attention of the relevant committee in the event that it would like to take further action.

As your Committee will be supplementing this report during the discussing of this meeting with the President it has endeavored to make this report brief, and requests that Members address any additional questions during the discussion of the report on the floor of Congress as the session will reconvene at 3 pm this afternoon.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, chairman

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

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

/s/ Rolinson B. Neth
Rolinson B. Neth, member