
A RESOLUTION

To further amend the President's Public Health Emergency Declaration dated January 31, 2020, as amended on February 7, 2020, and further amended on March 11, 2020, April 17, 2020, May 30, 2020, July 10, 2020, August 20, 2020, November 25, 2020, January 29, 2021, March 31, 2021, May 27, 2021, July 28, 2021 and September 24, 2021.

1 WHEREAS, on January, 31, 2020, the President issued a
2 Public Health Emergency Declaration; and

3 WHEREAS in accordance to Article X, Section 9 (c) of the
4 FSM Constitution, Congress has the sole authority to revoke,
5 amend or extend the Public Health Emergency Declaration; and

6 WHEREAS, Congress is currently convened for its First
7 Special Session and therefore has the powers under the
8 Constitution to revoke, amend or extend the Declaration; and

9 WHEREAS, Congress has reviewed the Declaration, the
10 amendments, the clarifications and the decrees issued by the
11 President and has reviewed updated information on the COVID-19
12 becoming a pandemic soon after the adoption of the March 11,
13 2020, amendment to the January 31, 2020, declaration, the facts
14 attending to the declaration, amendments, clarifications and
15 decrees, and has had several public hearings and has met and
16 conferred with the President and has considered the President's
17 requests for Congressional action; now, therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-Second Congress of the
19 Federated States of Micronesia, Third Regular Session, 2022,

1 that:

- 2 (1) Pursuant to Article X, Section 9 (c) of the FSM
3 Constitution, Congress has the exclusive
4 authority to revoke, amend or extend the
5 Emergency Declaration. The President may not
6 revoke, amend or extend the Emergency
7 Declaration. However, should there be a
8 confirmed case of COVID-19 within the FSM, the
9 President is authorized to amend the Declaration
10 to respond to this situation only.
- 11 (2) Pursuant to Article X, Section 9 (a) of the FSM
12 Constitution, the President may issue
13 appropriate decrees related to the Emergency
14 Declaration, other than to revoke, amend or
15 extend the Emergency Declaration. Unless and
16 until this Emergency Declaration is revoked by
17 Congress, or it expires of its own term, the
18 President may not issue an additional or new
19 Emergency Declaration to address the ongoing
20 COVID-19 Pandemic. The purported declaration
21 issued on March 14, 2020 by the President is
22 null and void and all purported amendments,
23 decrees and clarifications made pursuant to the
24 purported declaration are also null and void.
25 Most of the contents of the purported March 14,

1 2020 declaration and subsequent decrees thereof
2 are incorporated herein for clarity and comity
3 purposes. The contents thereof which are not
4 inconsistent or contradictory to the January 31,
5 2020, declaration as amended and as further
6 amended herein by Congress are hereby deemed
7 ratified as to their effectiveness and
8 implementation, relating back to their date of
9 issuance or implementation.

10 (3) The President is urged to coordinate and consult
11 with the state governors and their task forces,
12 with a view towards setting a national standard
13 of social distancing measures, and the National
14 Task Force shall support the states mandated
15 implementation of the guidelines. The social
16 distancing standards and measures shall be
17 widely publicized throughout the nation.

18 (4) The Public Health Emergency Declaration in the
19 FSM dated January 31, 2020, is hereby further
20 amended to read:

21 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared
22 on January 30, 2020 (January 31st 2020 Pohnpei time) that the new
23 Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a Public Health Emergency of
24 International Concern (PHEIC); and

25 WHEREAS, the WHO has declared on March 11, 2020, (March 12,

1 2020 Pohnpei time) that COVID-19 is a pandemic and this occurred
2 after Congress adopted its March 11, 2020 amendment to the
3 January 31, 2020 declaration; and

4 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic exposes the FSM to an
5 undeniable vulnerability from the imminent and likely entry of
6 the virus to the islands unless the FSM National Government and
7 the State Governments resolves to implement effective and
8 uniform counter measures to combat the spread of this rare and
9 deadly virus across all of our states; and

10 WHEREAS, the National Government must mitigate the risk
11 factors associated with the undesirable spread of COVID-19
12 anywhere in the FSM, and for this purpose, the FSM must fast-
13 track nationwide, unified capacity building efforts - which
14 remain in progress, intensify the surveillance and monitoring of
15 international airports and seaports in the country, and maintain
16 quarantine and travel restrictions, together and as a whole,
17 comprising the national efforts of combatting the spread of
18 COVID-19 as other countries around the world are doing; and

19 WHEREAS, the number of countries with confirmed and
20 suspected cases of COVID-19 keeps increasing and the number of
21 deaths due to COVID-19 have intensified with no signs of
22 receding in the near future; and

23 WHEREAS, the citizens and residents of the FSM remain
24 extremely vulnerable to this outbreak, taking into consideration
25 the fact that airline travel routes connecting into the FSM

1 already have confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hawaii and Guam and
2 COVID-19 may very likely cause massive and widespread illnesses
3 and public health disasters that are beyond the ability and
4 present resources of the FSM National and State Governments to
5 contain; and

6 WHEREAS, given the unrelenting global spread of COVID-19,
7 and the reality that is already a pandemic, it becomes a matter
8 of legal duty and obligation of the National Government of the
9 FSM, its leadership and all officials of this Nation, to take
10 all the emergency precautions, measures and interventions as a
11 matter of acute emergency and necessity, in order to protect and
12 save lives of our citizens, especially the most vulnerable
13 members of our population, the elderly, the sick and the
14 children; and

15 WHEREAS, as of July 25, 2021, 49.6% of the eligible adult
16 population (18 years and up) have been fully vaccinated. FSM's
17 COVID-19 Vaccination goal is to transition from COVID-19 Free to
18 COVID-19 Protected with at least 70% vaccination coverage; and

19 WHEREAS, as of July 19, 2021, more than 348 stranded
20 citizens and residents have been safely repatriated to the FSM
21 using its repatriation protocols; and

22 NOW THEREFORE, I, David W. Panuelo, President of the
23 Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to the authority vested
24 upon me under Article X, Section 9 of the FSM Constitution, do
25 hereby place the entire territory of the Federated States of

1 Micronesia under a state of emergency to address the effects of
2 COVID-19 and order as follows:

- 3 (1) Immediately, all ports of entry of the FSM shall
4 be strengthened and are immediately placed under
5 strict monitoring and surveillance to ensure
6 that the potential carriers of COVID-19 do not
7 enter into the FSM. All travelers must be
8 screened thoroughly for any signs or symptoms of
9 COVID-19, such as feeling tired, difficulty
10 breathing, high temperature (fever) and coughing
11 and/or sore throat.
- 12 (2) All National border and security personnel
13 (Customs, Immigration and Quarantine) are under
14 a duty to intensify monitoring of the borders of
15 this Nation and work very closely with the
16 National and State Task Forces to implement a
17 unified response.
- 18 (3) Given the severity of the situation, as a matter
19 of national security of this Nation and in the
20 interest of maintaining good health and safety
21 of our people, immediately upon its issuance,
22 this Decree shall be disseminated to the public
23 as widely as possible throughout the Nation, by
24 radio, print media and by digital media. The FSM
25 Emergency Task Force shall monitor the

1 implementation, enforcement and full compliance
2 of this emergency declaration and provide timely
3 reports to the President.

4 (4) Nationwide, unified travel bans must be enforced
5 according to the terms of this declaration.

6 (a.) Persons travelling from any infected
7 country, state or territory, are prohibited
8 from entering into the FSM for as long as the
9 COVID-19 Pandemic persists. Rare exceptions
10 may be granted on a case-by-case basis, for
11 certified health experts, technicians and
12 workers assigned to assist the FSM with respect
13 to COVID-19, returning medical referral
14 patients, including if applicable, the remains
15 of a deceased and the medical and/or family
16 attendants and immediate family members,
17 government employees or workers hired to assist
18 the National and State Government with
19 essential services, and FSM governmental
20 officials whose duties are critical, vital and
21 indispensable to the functioning of any branch
22 of any FSM state or the FSM national
23 government, persons requiring emergency medical
24 services, and local fishing crews of domestic
25 fishing vessels in accordance with established

1 national and state protocols.

2 (b) Permitted travel in the exception under
3 paragraph (4)(a) will apply to persons
4 presently free of COVID-19 and also persons who
5 might have been infected with COVID-19 in the
6 past but had since fully recovered and
7 determined to be non-infectious according to
8 established health protocols and guideline of
9 the National Task Force.

10 (5) Other citizens, nationals and residents of the
11 FSM are strongly advised against travel to any
12 country, state or territory with confirmed
13 cases of COVID-19, with the understanding that
14 they may be prohibited from re-entry or may be
15 subject to quarantine procedures upon return to
16 the FSM.

17 (6) Travel by air or sea between and within the FSM
18 states is permitted, as long as there are no
19 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 within any
20 FSM States. Any quarantine requirement for
21 interstate travel shall be in accordance with
22 established protocols and guidelines of the
23 National Task Force, upon consultation with the
24 State Task Force, and if quarantine is ever
25 applied, it shall be so applied without

1 discrimination. Interstate travel on
2 international commercial airlines shall be
3 permitted for personnel providing technical
4 assistance supporting the FSM's COVID-19
5 preparedness and response in accordance with
6 the established protocols and guideline of the
7 National Task Force.

8 (7) Because of the limited available quarantine and
9 isolation facilities within the FSM, no
10 passengers shall be permitted to disembark into
11 the FSM from any air or sea vessel that
12 originates outside the FSM, subject to the
13 exceptions in Sections (4) and (6), and Section
14 (9) for commercial sea vessels.

15 i. However, the National Task Force shall work
16 in consultation with each of the states for the
17 purpose of establishing and further developing
18 their quarantine and isolation facilities
19 standards and capabilities. When the
20 facilities within any of the states are
21 developed to acceptable standards, the states
22 will work with the National Task Force to
23 develop a plan for repatriation of stranded FSM
24 citizens and FSM students and the return of
25 stranded FSM residents. The repatriation of

1 FSM citizens shall be prioritized and only
2 after our citizens have been repatriated,
3 further plans may be implemented to allow for
4 non-citizens to enter the FSM. However, after
5 all FSM citizens who are on medical referral or
6 are receiving medical treatment outside the
7 FSM, and their medical attendants have been
8 repatriated, an exception may be made to allow
9 for the entry of the ambassadors key staff of
10 foreign embassies, the heads and key staff of
11 missions of non-government organizations with
12 diplomatic status, and essential workers, on a
13 case-by-case basis, upon consultation and
14 approval of the National Task Force and State
15 Task Force. Any travelers to the FSM shall be
16 fully vaccinated, quarantined and tested
17 negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to
18 entry into the FSM or have medical
19 documentation confirming recovery of prior
20 infection and deemed non-infectious in
21 accordance with established protocols and
22 guideline of the National Task Force. The
23 National Task Force shall work with
24 international air carriers to notify them of
25 the procedures that will be followed including

1 scheduling of arrivals, pre-screening,
2 screening upon arrival and quarantine and
3 isolation requirements.

4 ii. The authority to regulate foreign and
5 interstate commerce is expressly granted to
6 Congress in the Constitution, FSM Const. art.
7 IX, §2(g). FSM Const. art. XIII §3. requires
8 the national and state governments to uphold
9 the provisions of the Constitution and to
10 advance the principles of unity upon which the
11 Constitution is founded. These travel
12 restrictions may not be amended by the states;
13 they may only be amended by Congressional
14 Resolution if Congress is in session, or by
15 written communication signed by the majority of
16 the Committee of Health and Social Affairs if
17 Congress is not in session.

18 (8) Commercial sea vessels (defined as: fishing
19 vessels, cargo vessels and oil tankers)
20 traveling to the FSM for the purpose of trade
21 and commerce, are subject to the following:

22 a. Commercial sea vessels are required to
23 abide at all times with the precautionary
24 measures and protocols set by the FSM
25 National Government in coordination with

- 1 the National and State task forces.
- 2 (9) Fishing vessels, other than the domestic
- 3 fleet, are subject to the following:
- 4 a. All transshipment activities are to be
- 5 carried out in designated transshipment
- 6 areas to be identified by the National
- 7 Oceanic Resource Management Authority
- 8 (NORMA). A designated transshipment area
- 9 will be in port areas or in territorial
- 10 waters beyond the three nautical miles zone
- 11 from baselines. NORMA shall issue
- 12 appropriate guidelines regulating the
- 13 transshipment.
- 14 b. Carrier vessels supporting transshipment
- 15 activities of the domestic fleets are
- 16 permitted to enter the anchorage area for
- 17 transshipping purposes only, subject to
- 18 state health screening procedures.
- 19 c. Longline (LL) fishing vessels are allowed
- 20 to come to port for transshipment purposes,
- 21 subject to the additional measures
- 22 established by NORMA for the avoidance of
- 23 COVID-19, and observing the following
- 24 guidelines:
- 25 i. Fresh LL fishing vessels are allowed to

1 transship at port; PROVIDED, THAT,
2 there shall be no contact at any time
3 prior to the transshipment.

4 ii. Frozen LL fishing vessels are allowed
5 to transship at port; PROVIDED, THAT,
6 the fishing vessels observe the 14-day
7 quarantine at sea, and no crewmembers
8 are allowed to disembark at port. The
9 14-day quarantine is counted from the
10 date of last contact.

11 iii. For the purpose of Section (b) hereof,
12 and any part of this decree where its
13 application is deemed relevant,
14 "contact" refers to human interaction
15 of less than four (4) feet between a
16 crewmember of one fishing vessel and
17 another crewmember of another fishing
18 vessel, or any other human to human
19 contact external to fishing vessel
20 operations.

21 iv. Bartering, trading and local sale of
22 fish are prohibited. No person is
23 allowed to approach, in the
24 transshipment and Anchorage area, any
25 fishing vessel, or have any contact

1 therewith, at any time during the
2 effective period of this declaration.

3 d. Domestic fishing vessels are allowed to
4 call port in the FSM States for repair,
5 maintenance and provisioning purposes at
6 the Anchorage area, and shall remain in the
7 Anchorage area during repairs, maintenance
8 and provisioning. For the purposes of this
9 section, domestic fishing vessels are
10 fishing vessels that are flagged in the FSM
11 or have a base of operation anywhere in the
12 FSM States. On a case-by-case basis, NORMA
13 may, in consultation with the states, grant
14 approval for required repairs and
15 maintenance to be completed at the dock for
16 any repairs or maintenance that cannot be
17 carried out at the anchorage area, subject
18 to no human-to-human contact during said
19 repairs. A written plan outlining the
20 safety procedures that will be followed
21 must be submitted to NORMA and the
22 established Maritime working Group of the
23 National Taxk Force for approval at least
24 72 hours prior to the requested repairs.

25 e. With respect to transshipment at sea,

1 Immigration and Customs clearance procedures
2 shall be conducted electronically with the
3 intention of avoiding or minimizing contact.
4 For the duration of the emergency procedure
5 concerning transshipment at sea, quarantine
6 procedures are suspended until further notice.

7 f. Transshipment at sea shall be monitored
8 thoroughly by the relevant national department
9 or agency, in particular, the Department of
10 Justice (DOJ) and NORMA, to ensure compliance
11 with this directive. NORMA and DOJ, on behalf
12 of the National Emergency Task Force, shall
13 coordinate with the State authorities to
14 ensure that the transshipment activities are
15 not unduly delayed or interfered with by any
16 State-mandated procedures.

17 g. It is part of these requirements that 72 hours
18 prior to transshipment, notice shall be
19 provided in advance to NORMA and DOJ using
20 applicable forms of reporting. Included in
21 the notice are the body temperatures of all
22 crewmembers of the fishing vessels intending
23 to transship, taken at 24-hour intervals prior
24 to transshipment. (at 72 hours, at 48 hours
25 and at 24 hours). Information on body

1 temperatures may be shared with the State
2 authorities for health assessment and
3 coordination purposes.

4 h. These restrictions are a temporary emergency
5 measure, which shall remain in effect until
6 further notice. Any violation of these
7 restrictions shall be subject to penalty set
8 by law pursuant to 11 F.S.M.C. §803. The
9 Secretary of Justice is ordered to take all
10 measures available within the law to ensure
11 enforcement of these restrictions.

12 (10) A task force is hereby established to
13 coordinate all activities that need to be
14 undertaken and measures that must be formulated
15 and uniformly implemented in connection with
16 the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Department of
17 Health and Social Affairs is designated as the
18 lead department and chair of the Task Force,
19 which will be responsible for setting up plans
20 to provide any necessary measures that will
21 ensure that the movement of people and
22 international travelers do not cause the
23 introduction of COVID-19 anywhere in the FSM.
24 The members of the Task Force are the
25 following:

- 1 a. Department of Environment, Climate Change
 - 2 and Emergency Management (DECCEM);
 - 3 b. Department of Foreign Affairs;
 - 4 c. Department of Finance and Administration;
 - 5 d. Department of Transportation,
 - 6 Communications and Infrastructure (TC&I);
 - 7 e. Department of Justice;
 - 8 f. Department of Resources and Development
 - 9 (R&D);
 - 10 g. Department of Education;
 - 11 h. FSM Division of Immigration;
 - 12 i. Representatives of the Private Sector;
 - 13 j. Representatives of State Governments as
 - 14 recommended by the State Governors;
 - 15 k. Development Partners;
 - 16 l. Representatives of Faith Groups; and
 - 17 m. Representatives of Traditional Leaders.
- 18 (11) The Task Force shall convene immediately
- 19 upon issuance of this order and provide the
- 20 President with timely reports and updates.
- 21 (12) The Task Force is mandated to intensify the
- 22 nationwide vaccination efforts with a view
- 23 towards achieving herd immunity across the
- 24 nation through a diligently coordinated
- 25 nationwide public awareness and information

1 campaign on the merits of a timely COVID-19
2 vaccination. All FSM citizens residing in
3 the FSM, are required to undergo COVID-19
4 vaccination subject to the protocol of the
5 Task Force. Any employee of the National
6 Government and its offices or agencies who
7 fails to comply with this requirement within
8 30 days, absent reasonable justification,
9 shall be placed on leave without pay.

10 (13) The operational details in implementing
11 this emergency declaration are contained in
12 the Guidelines and Protocols, and any updates
13 thereof, as established or sanctioned by the
14 Task Force. Said Guidelines and Protocols
15 are duly incorporated herein by reference.
16 The Task Force shall inform Congress of any
17 updates to the Guidelines and Protocols in a
18 timely manner.

19 (14) The Task Force shall be granted reasonable
20 flexibility with respect to the implementing
21 details of this emergency declaration, in
22 recognition of the scientific expertise and
23 capacity available to the Task Force in
24 enforcing its Guidelines and Protocols.

25 (15) Up to the sum of \$700,000, received as

1 balance and available under the Disaster Relief
2 Fund (DRF) accounts set up under Title 55 of
3 the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia
4 (Annotated), from prior declarations of
5 emergencies, is hereby decreed for this Public
6 Health Emergency Declaration. This fund shall
7 be used in any manner necessary to deal with
8 the public health emergency, including the
9 mitigation of costs for people affected by the
10 travel ban instituted by the emergency
11 declaration. The Emergency Task Force shall
12 develop suitable criteria for the mitigation of
13 costs for President's approval.

14 (16) Other funds received from foreign donors,
15 including the United States, that are
16 specifically related to the FSM national
17 response to the COVID-19 Pandemic may be used
18 for nationwide capacity building, intensifying
19 the surveillance and monitoring of international
20 airports and seaports in the FSM, expanding and
21 maintaining quarantine and travel restrictions,
22 and other national efforts to combat the spread
23 of COVID-19.

24 (17) Expenditures of the decreed funds are
25 subject to full accounting. Within 20 days

1 after the end of the emergency, the Chair of the
2 Task Force, with the assistance of the Secretary
3 of Finance and Administration and staff, shall
4 provide the President with a full report on the
5 expenditure of funds, and shall submit the
6 report to Congress no later than 30 days after
7 the emergency is over.

8 (18) The Department of Finance shall identify
9 sources of replenishment for the decreed funds
10 and recommend to the President, as soon as
11 practical, additional supplemental budget
12 request to Congress.

13 (19) During the emergency, a civil right may
14 be impaired only to the extent actually required
15 for the preservation of peace, health or safety.
16 The normal requirement of competitive bidding is
17 waived for any procurement made in connection
18 with this declaration of emergency.

19 (20) Unless sooner revoked by Congress, this
20 Emergency Declaration is in effect until May 31,
21 2022.

22 (21) All previous amendments and clarifications to
23 the Public Health Emergency Declaration are
24 hereby revoked.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President shall

