

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-01

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

MAY 12, 2025

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Fourth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Regular Session, 2025

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President was duly appointed on May 11, 2025, consisting of the following members: Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, Andy Choor, Fabian S. Nimea, and Yoslyn G. Sigrah. Senator Sigrah was designated as the Committee Chair.

The Committee met with President Wesley W. Simina on May 11, 2025, at approximately 1:00 p.m., in the President's Conference Room. The President was accompanied by Vice President Aren B. Palik, along with members of the President's cabinet and staff. The meeting was opened with a short prayer. President Simina welcomed your Committee members and offered his congratulations on the organization of the new Twenty-Fourth Congress. Chair Sigrah responded by thanking the President, Vice President, and Executive Branch staff for hosting the meeting and for attending the Opening Session of the Twenty-Fourth Congress earlier in the day.

President Simina began the substantive portion of the meeting by requesting that the new Congress transmit an official communication identifying its leadership and Committee assignments, once this information becomes available. President Simina stated that, due to the recent

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constitutional amendment allocating fifty percent of fishing fee revenues to the states, there is a need for the National Government to adopt a "change in mindset" on certain financial and budgetary matters. He reported that the Executive would soon be transmitting two proposed budget bills to Congress, an FY25 supplemental request and a revised FY26 budget bill. In discussing the FY25 supplemental request, President Simina expressed a hope that Congress would assist in appropriating certain Compact IMF funds to the states. President Simina stated that the Executive would be resubmitting a variety of substantive bills that were not passed during the previous Congress, including bills related to: marine spatial planning, the import of plastic materials, MiCare amendments, a tax on major corporations, and changes to NORMA, among other subjects. Additionally, he stated that the Executive would be transmitting multiple proposed resolutions for Congress's consideration, including a resolution related to a \$5 million grant from Saudi Arabia to fund the construction of a UN Office complex, as well as several resolutions related to pending nominations.

Following President Simina's remarks, Vice President Palik delivered comments in which he voiced support for the President's priority list and discussed the Executive's forthcoming revised FY26 budget bill. Vice President Palik characterized the revised FY26 budget bill as being "very realistic" while also containing both budget cuts and reprioritizations. Vice President Palik asked Congress to prioritize its consideration of marine spatial planning legislation. He also noted a recent lawsuit filed against the FSM National Government by the Pohnpei State Legislature.

After the President and Vice President shared their priorities and updates, members of your Committee delivered brief remarks. Chair Sigrah discussed a communication from the National Elections Director and she asked the President if election funding is one of the Executive's budget priorities. President Simina responded that it is. Senator Sigrah noted that the Committee's primary purpose in

