



CONGRESS OF THE  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

P.O. Box PS 3  
Palikir, Sokehs  
Pohnpei State, FM 96941  
Tel: (691) 320-2324 / 2325 / 2326 / 2327 / 2338 / 2707 / 5838  
Fax: (691) 320-5122  
[www.fsmcongress.fm](http://www.fsmcongress.fm)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-03

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

AUGUST 12, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President of the Federated States of Micronesia was duly appointed on August 11, 2025, consisting of members Fabian S. Nimea, Yoslyn G. Sigrah, Jermy W. Mudong, and Andy P. Choor. Fabian S. Nimea was designated as the chairman.

The Committee met with the Vice President on August 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Nimea greeted the Vice President, and key members of the Executive on behalf of Congress, and thanked them for the opportunity to meet. Chairman Nimea reported that Congress was in session and was ready to transact business.

Your Committee received an agenda from the Vice President communicating the structure of the meeting.

The Vice President welcomed your Committee and asked the Post Master General, Epel Ilon, to say a brief prayer. He then yielded the floor to Chairman Nimea to say some welcoming remarks. Once these pleasantries were exchanged the Vice President began delineating the Executives priorities for this session.

The Vice President commended Congress on holding several public hearings already on the FY 26 budget. He then pointed out that in the budget process for FY26 the Executive left a \$2 million dollar reserve which they hope to use to address the nations sea transportation needs. He emphasized the nation has marine transportation challenges and is hopeful that this reserve will be used to address this issue.

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The Vice President next listed several key items that he asked Congress to consider when evaluating the FY25 Supplemental Budget that was recently transmitted. He mentioned that there were three requests that were not included but arrived after it was transmitted. Those items are as follows:

1. Foreign Affairs is requesting an additional \$25,000 to host an international conference.
2. The Election Director is requesting approximately an additional \$73,000 to cover March and prior year election costs.
3. TC&I is requesting an additional \$121,549 to pay for equipment rental and charges from Black Sands Construction.

The Vice President next spoke about several bills that the Executive would like Congress to address, they included:

- A bill to amend P.L. 23-121, which extends the lapse date of Compact Sector Grants
- The 4 pending Cyber-Security bills
- The bill clarifying the purpose and jurisdiction of the Office of the Independent Prosecutor
- The marine spatial planning bill
- A bill to extend the duration of passports
- A bill to ensure compliance with the Law of the Sea; and
- A bill that addresses the fishing observer revolving fund.

The Vice President then mentioned that there are two pending resolutions for nominations, one for the Independent Prosecutor, Lucas Cupps and another for the Consul General to Guam, Johnny Silbanuz. He also mentioned a resolution to join the International Labor Organization and emphasized the importance of the FSM becoming a member.

The Vice President next pointed out that there are 11 grants that were transmitted by the Executive. He mentioned that the majority of them are health related but the largest grant is from the WB at \$13 million SDR.

The Vice President yielded the floor to Chairman Nimea, who began addressing the Executives enunciated needs. He stated in regards to

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the FY26 budget that the National Government needs to re-evaluate the cost sharing with the states as a result of the Constitutional amendment which gave 50% of the fishing fees to the states. He started that the National Government should not have to absorb all the costs for the nation and now that the states have a share of the fishing fees, they need to find ways to share costs for the benefit of our citizens.

In regards to some of the late requests for the Supplemental, Chairman Nimea reminded the Executive that the Election Commissioner made the same request last session. He stated that the Committee had asked to see the contracts and scope of work then they would honor those obligations, but to date we still have not received those contracts. In regards to the Foreign Affairs request for funding to host an international conference, Congress will need more information to understand the purpose and to inform the Committee on External Affairs. Finally, he asked TC&I to provide contracts evidencing the costs requested for the rental equipment and other charges for the Committee on Transportation and Communication to consider.

In addressing the bills and resolutions mentioned by the Vice President, Chairman Nimea stated that Congress will need to see if they can be implemented in a month and if not then they can wait until the next regular session in September. As an aside, he mentioned that the states are unaware of some of the grants that are being passed. He gave the example of the \$56 million grant from the World Bank which was to be implemented last November but even now the states are unaware of this grant or its purpose.

Chairman Nimea yielded the floor to the other members to say a few words before he listed the priorities of Congress. Senator Sighra thanked the cabinet members for not traveling and availing themselves to Congress during this special session. She noted the importance of having the cabinet members present for public hearings and oversight. Senator Choor also thanked all the attendees from the Executive. He then addressed the Cyber-Security bills by informing the Executive that the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will be taking these bills around to the four states for public hearings. He then mentioned that Congress will not be taking up the nominations this session due to some members not being able to attend the session due to prior obligations. Finally, Senator Mudong echoed the other members

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thanking the attendees and emphasized the importance of looking into some of the grant requests and their use.

Chairman Nimea next addressed the priorities for Congress that were not addressed by the Executive. He brought up concerns from crew of National vessels that they have not received their \$10 a day sea allowance when they are at sea since October of last year. The Vice President assured your Committee that TC&I will look into it and address this concern.

Chairman Nimea next asked about the previous appropriations for James Naich, as there is another request in the Supplemental Budget for Mr. Naich prior obligations owed. Chairman asked to see the contract for which these obligations were owed, the scope of work, and the billing statements. The Vice President was surprised to learn that a request to pay Mr. Naich was in the Supplemental Budget request. He stated that he too had requested contracts for Mr. Naich to determine the scope of work for which he is claiming he is owed payment.

Chairman Nimea brought up a concern about the use of Emergency Funds but said that would be further addressed in the Ways & Means hearing later that afternoon. He then mentioned the questionnaire for the Competent Authority. The Vice President asked the representative from the Department of Health to fill the Committee in on the status of the questionnaire. The Health Department representative stated that while there was a delay in getting the questionnaire filled out, it was submitted last week and that it has made its way to Brussels to review. He also stated that there is an FAA team on island now working with the Competent Authority.

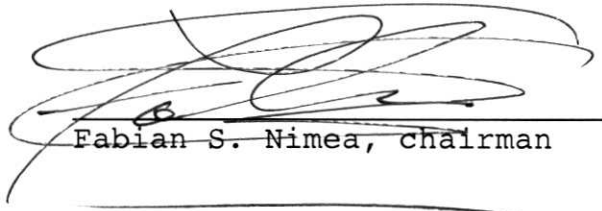

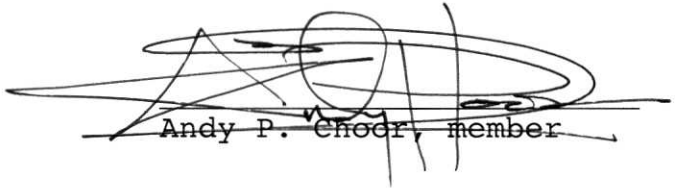
Finally, Chairman Nimea brought up concerns with the sanitary conditions of the dorms at COM. The Vice President shared these concerns and related a story from a visit he took to the FMI where the students did not have a washing machine to do their laundry. He stated that we need to take care of the basic needs of our students and the Executive will be addressing these concerns.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Fabian S. Nimea, chairman  
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Yoslyn G. Sigrah, member  
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Jermy W. Mudong, member  
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Andy P. Choer, member