



Micronesian Legislative Conference

Palikir, Pohnpei

September 8 ~ 10, 2008

“Critical Challenges, United Response”

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The Delegations of the FSM Congress and the States Legislatures met on September 8 to September 10, 2008 at the FSM Congress Central facilities for the 2008 Micronesian Legislative Conference.
2. The Delegations conferred positively on several agenda issues, which included a briefing on JEMCO and the US Congress letter of 7/22/08.
3. The Delegations agreed that each state will provide their comments to the President to be incorporated into FSM Government’s response letter to the US Congress and the response letter must address the five points that were highlighted in the letter.
4. The Delegations agreed that the President should delay the decentralization of the issuance of passports and to assess the possible implications on passport decentralization.
5. The Delegations encouraged the revival of the EPIC to allow issues critical to the nation to be mutually addressed by both the executive and legislative branches of the National and State Governments. Given the need to address urgent and pressing issues faced by the FSM, the Conference agreed that the MLC should continue to be held in the interim.
6. The Delegations expressed sincere appreciation and a job well done to those speakers at the 2008 Micronesian Legislative Conference in Palikir, Pohnpei which included presentations on the energy and fuel situation in the FSM, commerce and trade issues, the financial status of the national and state governments, and the methodology of performance based audits. The Conference encouraged the legislative assemblies to pursue the proposal made by presenter Jim McCuaig to develop lines of communication with Canadian parliamentarians.
7. The Delegations encouraged each respective state to develop action plans to finance the relevant departments and agencies in the states that may be affected should

JEMCO decide to withhold funding of three sectoral grants (Environment, Private Sector and Capacity Building).

8. The Delegations urged the relevant authorities at the National Government to coordinate with the states on the Caroline Voyager schedule and the issues relating to the closing of Caroline Island Air.
9. The Delegations expressed regrets that due to time constraints certain issues were not adequately addressed; therefore it was the wish of the Delegations that those issues submitted by the states legislatures prior to the convening of the MLC meeting including those that were raised during the Conference be properly addressed at the next MLC meeting. The issues include:
 - Infrastructure/ Fiber Optic Cable project update
 - Dual citizenship/amendment to the FSM Constitution
 - FSM Plan of Actions for the Five Year Review
 - Trust Fund
 - Youth and Sports development
 - Security process of IDF program
 - Health Insurance
 - Revenue sharing and fishing access fees
10. The Yap Delegation's gracious offer to host the Micronesian Legislative Conference next year was warmly received by all of the Conference attendees.

The Communiqué was adopted by the delegates at the closing ceremony.

Hon. Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, 15th FSM Congress

Hon. Singkoro Harper
Speaker, House of Representative – Chuuk State Legislature

Hon. Lyndon H. Jackson
Speaker, Kosrae State Legislature

Hon. Berney Martin
Vice Speaker, Pohnpei State Legislature

Hon. John Mooteb
Floor Leader, Yap State Legislature