



## 8<sup>th</sup> States and National Leadership Conference

COM-National Campus Gym, Palikir, Pohnpei  
January 29 - 30, 2015

### Final Communiqué

The Leaders of the FSM State and National Governments held their Eighth States and National Leadership Conference in Palikir, Pohnpei, on January 29 and 30, 2015, under the Chairmanship of Honorable John Ehsa, Governor of Pohnpei State and Vice Chairman Marius Akapito of Chuuk State.

2. The Meeting was attended by the following Principals:
  - H.E. Emanuel Mori, President of the FSM
  - The Honorable John Ehsa, Governor of the state of Pohnpei
  - The Honorable James Yangetmai, Lt. Governor of the State of Yap
  - The Honorable Marius Akapito, Lt. Governor of the State of Chuuk
  - Mr. Nena William, Chief of Staff of the State of Kosrae
  
  - The Honorable Fernando Scaliem, Speaker, Pohnpei State Legislature
  - The Honorable Tulensa Palik, Speaker, Kosrae State Legislature
  - The Honorable Ted Rutun, Speaker, Yap State Legislature
  - The Honorable Nelson Stephen, Floor Leader, Senate, Chuuk State Legislature
  - The Honorable Asaichy Sana, Chairman of Federal & Foreign Affairs Committee House of Representatives, Chuuk State Legislature
  
  - The Honorable Beauleen Carl-Worswick, FSM Associate Justice
  - The Honorable Aliksa Aliksa, Chief Justice, Kosrae State
  - The Honorable Camillo Noket, Chief Justice, Chuuk State
  - The Honorable Benjamin Rodriguez, Chief Justice, Pohnpei State

3. The 8<sup>th</sup> SNLC was also attended by Cabinet Members of the FSM National Government, Honorable Members of the State Legislatures, FSM Ambassadors, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, and Representatives of International Organizations, and Members of the Private Sector.

4. President Mori welcomed all the delegations and observers to the 8<sup>th</sup> FSM SNLC and emphasized the role of the SNLC as a collective decision-making body that has contributed to devise strategies and options to develop the economy with a view to improving the life for the People in the FSM. The President stressed that despite political and cultural differences, the FSM had made great progress in its nation building efforts and should move resolutely to discuss the best strategies to grow economy and mitigate the anticipated budgetary shortfalls after 2023 and avoiding disruption in the delivery of essential public services. In this regard, President Mori presented the 2023 Action Plan, developed in consultations national and state stakeholders, represents the best strategy moving forward; and urged the leadership to adopt and implement the 2023 Action Plan. President Mori commended the FSM Congress for demonstrating their commitment to the 2023 Action Plan by appropriating US\$5 million during FY 2014; and informed the Leadership that moving forward, the National Government will seek US\$15 million annually to finance the 2023 Action Plan.

5. President Mori also addressed the secession movement in Chuuk State and stressed that such a move was a distraction from the current efforts of nation building. He reminded the Conference that the Founding Fathers of the FSM were very much aware of the challenges that the Nation will face; but yet went on to build a Nation with Constitution and institutions based on the concept of unity. Quoting President Tosiwo Nakayama, President Mori encouraged State and National Leaders to remain committed to the legacy of the Founding Fathers and to work hard toward building an ever stronger and united Nation.

6. State Leaders also delivered statements: the Honorable James Yangetmai, Lieutenant Governor of Yap State, reassured the Conference of Yap State's renewed commitment to work with the other State and National Governments to overcome the challenges facing the FSM. He stressed the need for all Governments to do their part in growing the FSM economy in anticipation for 2023 and to renew their commitments to make the FSM another promised land.

7. The Honorable Marius Akapito, Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State, also reassured the 8<sup>th</sup> SNLC of Chuuk State's commitment to the ideal of a united Federation. He underscored that the Amended Compact's financial assistance was critical for Chuuk given that it makes up significant part of the State's operational budget; and that after 35 years after its independence, the financial and economic sustainability of the FSM states remain an urgent national challenge. In this regard, the Honorable Akapito urged the 8<sup>th</sup> FSM SNLC to adopt concrete decisions to