

# Beyond The Compact

Chuuk Political Status Commission Newsletter: Updated Edition, March-May 2014

## INDEPENDENCE AT LAST: A NEW REPUBLIC OF CHUUK?

### Status Commission Opening Ceremonies



Governor Erhart Aten

**Governor Erhart Aten**  
First Governor of Chuuk  
and True Father of the  
Movement for the  
Independence of Chuuk

The Chuuk State Political Commission held its first public meeting on January 17, 2013, at the Legislature House Chamber on Weno.

Remarks by Governor Johnson Elimo, Chief Justice Kamilo Noket, and Deputy Mayor of Weno, Kaio Noket, were made during the opening ceremony in the morning.

This is the day that the Commission officially begins its work as set forth by law. *"Being entrusted with this awesome responsibility for our people and the future of our state is overwhelming and we take our obligation very seriously. We are honored to do this for this generation and for future generations,"* said Chairman Kachutosy Paulus.

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Shown above are Chief Justice Camillo Noket and Chairman Kachutosy Paulus in solemn prayer during the invocation.

### Paulus Elected to Chair Commission



**KACHUTOSY O. PAULUS**  
Member of the Faichuk Islands

The Chairman is no stranger to the political status movement in Chuuk. Kachutosy Paulus, a member of the Faichuk delegation, has been a long time legislator himself. Paulus served as a member of the House of Representatives of the Chuuk State Legislature from 1995 to 1997, as a full time senator for four years (1978 - 1982) of the Truk District Legislature under the Charter Government, as well as a part time legislator of the Truk District Legislature (1968 - 1978). During his entire tenure as legislator, he chaired the Committee of Ways and Means.

He now is the Interim Governor of the Faichuk Interim Government since 2001. Paulus is one

of several pioneer leaders, who led the movement to address a new political status for the Faichukese.

Faichuk, which is made up of eight islands, has a bigger land mass compared to the four other regions of Chuuk. Faichuk has fulfilled the requirements to be an FSM state but has never been allowed to do so. Under a statehood arrangement, Faichuk would receive more monies than what it does as a region of Chuuk. But as an independent nation associated with the United States, Faichuk would receive much more, according to Paulus.

## LAW CREATING COMMISSION

A bill introduced by Senate Floor Leader, Alanso Cholymay, in May of 2011 became Public Law 11-18. This law is known as the Chuuk Political Status Commission enabling act. The legislative intent for creating the Commission was to "review and recommend possible political status suitable for long term financial survival". In 2003, aid from the Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of (FSM) and the United States will expire. The Commission is mandated to re-examine whether continuing in a federation relationship

with the other FSM states is in its best interest, or whether some other political status will better enable it to fulfill its aspirations of full and meaningful self-government.

The Commission is also to examine alternative political status options for Chuuk State, and to make recommendations regarding a desirable future political status to the Chuuk State Legislature and the Governor for approval by the voters of Chuuk State in a plebiscite. It has 18 months to submit its report to the Governor and the Legislature.

## POLITICAL STATUS OPTIONS

Under Section 6 of the enabling act, the Commission is to decide what studies are necessary to find out which political status would be in the best interests of the Chuukese people. Such studies are being made, along with a cost benefit analysis for Chuuk under the current Amended Compact, our *status quo*. The Legislature has mentioned possible political systems, including independence in association with the U.S., complete solitary independence, or even Chuuk as a U.S. territory or state.

In its authorized meetings, the Commission has essentially decided to focus its study on an independent status, fully separated from the Federated States of Micronesia. Any association with another nation would remain

open to future negotiation. Thus, to accelerate its work and to move in the most practical and realistic direction, the Commission has indicated its agreement on the need to end the *status quo* and to effectively move toward an independent and sovereign Republic of Chuuk.

It is also required by law that before the Commission submits its final report, the Commission shall conduct public hearings in all the 40 municipalities in Chuuk, and any Chuuk community outside of Chuuk to provide the adequate opportunity to comment on the proposed recommendation. A public education and awareness program is being formulated both in Chuukese and English.

### Opening Continued from Page 1

President Mark Mailo (front left) listened intently to the recommendations of the Commission realizing that the Legislature has thirty (30) days after it received the recommendations of the Commission to act. It has to also certify by a joint resolution to the Chuuk Election Commission that the work of the Commission is completed, and the recommendations must be put on the ballot for the people to vote on.

According to Section 7 (b), of the law that created the Commission, if the Legislature fails to act within the thirty days time period, then the final recommendations and report from the Commission will be deemed certified transmitted to the Chuuk Election Commission.

The Chuuk Election Commission has 4-6 months after it received the report and recommendation of the Commission, according to law.



Commission members tackled their tasks at their Conference

## Beyond The Compact

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## Which Political Status?

**-FULL INDEPENDENCE**

*(association with any other country open to negotiation)*

**-STATUS QUO**

*(continue down the US-FSM Amended Compact road)*

# MEMBERS OF COMMISSION

The members of Chuuk State Political Commission 3

## Faichuk Delegation

## Public and Business Representatives

## Mortlock Delegation



Kachutosy O. Paulus



P. Nobuyuki Suzuki



Pintas Kenneth



Cindy Mori



Julio Marar



Epel Ilon

## Chuuk Legislature Delegation

## NorthWest Delegation

## Northern Namoneas



Mark Mailo  
Senate President



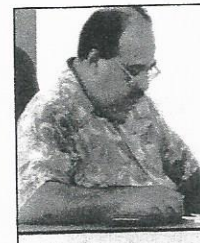
Innocente Oneisom  
House Speaker



Masachiro Christlip



Winiplar Bisalen

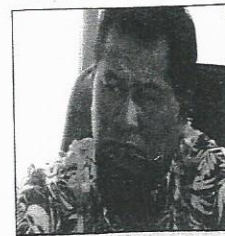


Redley Killion



Johnny Meippen

## Southern Namoneas



Sabino Asor



Joe Suka

# INDEPENDENCE AT LAST: A NEW REPUBLIC OF CHUUK?

by Commissioner P. Nobuyuki Suzuki, Faichuk Delegation

The Chuuk State Political Status Commission investigated different political options for our island nation. It reached a difficult, yet necessary conclusion as to what course Chuuk must take for the benefit of future generations. The time has come for us to formally declare our national independence.

Our history is filled with a lengthy series of foreign dominations, often bloody, always paternalistic, some using diplomacy to ensure control. Each era held out the promise of a new beginning, a new relationship, a fair and brighter future. Yet through the clouds of the past, one image remains: our people still subservient to others, still confined by other people's ideas of what is good for us. Now, in a new century, we still find ourselves at the bottom of the development ladder, at the political mercy of outside governments and without the social, economic or civic means to advance ourselves. We have been deprived of our rights to progress and nationhood.

Chuuk must take the brave and often difficult path toward independence and sovereignty. This is not a new concept, and we have been turned away from such ideas through much of our modern history. We have been "entrusted" to others to mind our political

affairs. We have been assured that through federation with other weak states we would find strength and justice. We have given up our birthrights in exchange for promises, our health in exchange for foreign foods, our knowledge and culture in exchange for a fictional history of foreign benevolence.

It is through that history that we first heard the notion of recorded human rights, of independence and the right to nationhood. American independence leaders saw, as we should now, the necessity to break off unfair political relationships with outside powers.

A committee established by the Continental Congress, one including Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Ben Franklin, reached the conclusion that independence was the only sure way out of political restriction and economic subjugation. That committee reported back to the Congress for its approval a clear, brave and determined *declaration*, one which echoes today.

That Declaration of Independence made clear that governments are created to secure our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When government does not guard such rights or is destructive to them, it is the right of the people to abolish it and to institute new government.

The Status Commission has followed these honored principles in maintaining that outside governments have simply not protected our rights to health, education, social services, economic development, environmental stability, foreign relations of our own choosing, and equitable allocations from such relations. The Commission thus is recommending that a new government be instituted, a new Republic of Chuuk. The 1776 Declaration applies to us today:

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with one another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them . . . they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

The Commission is recommending to the Legislature that a declaration should be made now for the future of the Chuukese nation.

## Chairman's Message

My dear colleagues and people of Chuuk:

Thank you for your vote of confidence to elect me as Chairman to preside over this Commission. The task ahead of this Commission is almost insurmountable but with your cooperation and contribution, we will endure this sacrifice of time and effort to achieve the best political, economic, and social structure for our Chuukese community. We can realize true sovereignty when we all stand in solidarity. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Ai kinisou ren ami nukunuk ne finieita ai upwe wisen ne emueni an Chuuk ei Political Status Commission. Watten angang mei lom muach ese ngafangaf nge pokiten ach nukunuk womi ren angang fengen lon tipeu ren me met kewe sipwe angang ngeni kich sipwe otures ngeni lon fansoun me ach tongeni ach sipwe kuna eu napanapen mun epwe ochu ngeni ewe mun Chuuk, an epwe feifeita lon pekin tufichin moni, me lonomun aramasen Chuuk usun eu an aramesen Chuuk nenien winipos lon kinamue. Kich mei tongeni kuna enletin kinamuen umuno ika uta won eu mun ika kichipok mei angang fengen lon ach enletin tongeni. Ua fen kuna pun ach angang fengen nefinach lon nukunuk ina auchean ponuwetan ach we sekinning mei afat lon annuk.

Kinisou Chapur,  
Kachutosy O. Paulus

**THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ARTICLE 15, MAKES CLEAR:** Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

### Editor's Choice Quote

*A free economy and strong communities honor the dignity of every person, rewarding effort with justice, promoting upward mobility, and building solidarity among citizens.*

Paul Ryan

### BEYOND THE COMPACT

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## Vice-Chairman's Message

TIROU, ACH KAPONG NGENI ATONGEACH CHON CHUUK MEINISIN, FAN ITAN ACH EI COMMISION, ACH KINISOU REN NOUCH EI NEWS LETTER, EPUE IEI PUAN EU ANAN ACH SIPUE RONGORONG O SINEI FONGONI POROUS MI AUCHEA NGENI ACH EI ANGANG MI FAKKUN AUCHEA FAN ITAN FONUACH CHUUK. SIPUE PAWARATA ACH ENLETIN KINISOU NGENI CHAIRMAN PAULUS REN AN EKIEK MI MWIRINO, REN NOUCH EI NEWS LETTER.

EU KAPAS MI AUCHEA SIPUE EKIEKI FONGON WON, " THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH CHUUK AT ALL, IT IS BASICALLY MEANT THE OTHERS HAVE DEVELOPED A BIT FASTER, THE OPPORTUNITY SHALL COME JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME."

TIROU,  
JOE N. SUKA

Psalm 126:2

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."



L-R: Chief Justice Camillo Noket, Commission Chairman Kachutosy Paulus and Governor Johnson Elimo.