

CIVIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, TRUK

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MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENTMUUN MICRONESIA

Like the Government of the United States, the Government of Micronesia is divided in three ways---. The three branches executive, legislative and judicial--are found at each of the three levels of the government--territorial, district and municipal. Unlike the United States Government, however, the Government of Micronesia is not based on a single constitutional document which spells out the functions and responsibilities of the various levels of government. Rather, the Government of Micronesia is based on a number of documents: the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, certain laws and resolutions of the Congress of the United States, Executive (Presidential) Orders, Interior Secretarial Orders and the laws of the Congress of Micronesia. The result has been the creation of a government which resembles that of the United States but which actually differs in substantial ways from the model on which it was built.

One difference, which is relevant to our discussion of constitutions, results from the fact that in none of the documents on which the government of Micronesia is based the United States constitution spells out which powers are to be exercised by the three levels of government. It is thus possible for the Congress of Micronesia to distribute the powers as it deems necessary. The Congress had done just this by passing at its first session a law which sets out the duties of the three levels of government. In the United States such an act would be considered a constitutional amendment and would require the approval of three-fourths of all of the states to become effective. In Micronesia, it was simply an act of the Congress of Micronesia.

Puan usun chok napanapan ewe muun United States, ewe muun Micronesia mei or unungat keangean. Ekkei keangean ra aiti ngenir pekin apuichi annuk, pekin for annuk iwe pekin apungu annuk mei or ekke non ekkewe pekin muun moinisin ren muun territory, district me Municipality. Mei or met a sakoseni ren ewe muun United States, ewe muun Micronesia ese anongonong on constitution ren territory, district me puan municipality. Ewe muun Micronesia e anongonong on ekkoch sakkun nettoch, ewe United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, ekkoch annuk mei kapunguno seni ewe Congressin Merika, met mei titi me ren President me ewe Sekerin Interior iwe tori annuk mei kapunguno me ren ewe Congressin Micronesia. Iwe nesoronon a fis ewe Muun Micronesia a anapanap seni ewe muun Merika nge netan pwe mei sakoseni ewe muun e anapanap seni.

Och sakofesenin ekkewe Muun Micronesia me Merika ren ar kewe anongonong noun Merika ve Constitution ese affat wisan me appochokunan ekkewe unungat pekin muun non Micronesia. Neman opwene wisen ewe Congressin micronesia ar repwene affat ekkewe wis ne pochokun. Ewe Congressin Micronesia a fen aora wisan me wisan ew ekkewe unungat Muun. Ei napanap me won ewe muun Merika opwe tongeni iteni pwe ew akkasiwinin me non ewe Constitution nge epwe pung ika pwe e ukukan unungat na ruanu vote e fiti. Non Micronesia, ei sakkun epwe chok fiti pungun ewe Congressin Micronesia.

Let us now move on from the constitutional question to a discussion of the executive branch of the government.

The executive and administrative authority for the Trust Territory are vested in the High Commissioner. He is appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. He is the Chief Executive of the Trust Territory just as the President is in the United States. The President is directly responsible to the people of the United States and can be denied re-election. The High Commissioner is not elected but instead is responsible to the Secretary of the Interior. Due to the nature of the Trusteeship Agreement, he has comparatively more authority than does the President. Part of the High Commissioner's additional authority comes from his control over the budget of the Trust Territory government. In the United States, the President must submit his budget to Congress and the Congress may approve it or modify it as he sees fit. In Micronesia, the Congress of Micronesia has only advisory powers with regards to the High Commissioner's budget because the money to run the Trust Territory Government comes from the United States. The Congress of Micronesia may review the budget and make recommendations as to changes but the High Commissioner is in no way obligated to make these changes. Thus, through his control of the budget and the programs and projects for which the budget money provides, the High Commissioner exercises a great deal more power than his counterpart in the United States.

The other part of the High Commissioner's extraordinary powers stems from his power to veto legislation passed by the Congress of Micronesia. The Congress of the United States may pass legislation over the President's veto by repassing the bill with a two-thirds majority of both Houses of the Congress.

Sipwe sapeseni porausen Constitution iei nge sipwene sapeti porausen ewe pekin apuichi annuk.

A nom ren ewe High Commissioner pochokunan ewe pekin apwichi annuk me non Trust Territory. Ewe High Commissioner a kafinita maron ewe President in Merika nge epwe puan or an ewe Congressin United States pung on. Ewe Presidenin Merika a tumunu aramasen Merika iwe aramas repwe tongeni awosi an esap fin sefan. Ewe High Commissioner esap finian aramas nge i epwe chok fen fori wisen ngeni ewe Secretarin Interior. Pungun ewe Trusteeship Agreement ewe High Commissioner a fen watte an pochokun seni ewe President. Puan ew an pochokun ren pekin puachetin ewe Muun Trust Territory. Non Merika ewe President epwe ngeni an otot ren puachet ewe Congressin Merika iwe ewe Congress a apungano ika akasiwini. Non Micronesia ewe Congress epwe chok ngeni ewe High Commissioner mefior fan akasengesen ewe puachet pokiten ewe monien muun Trust Territory a etto seni ewe muun Merika. Mefior Congress kewe repwe tongeni ngeni High Commissioner nge esap weve pwe High Commissioner repwe chok fori. Ren ulukun pochokunan High Commissioner we fan akasengesen puachet a watte seni an ewe Presidenin Merika.

Puan ew pochokunan High Commissioner an tongeni vetoni net mei pung me ren Congressin Micronesia.

The bill then becomes law without the President's signature. In Micronesia, a Congress of Micronesia bill which has been vetoed by the High Commissioner may be repassed with a two-thirds majority by the Congress but it still must have executive approval--in this case, the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Since both the High Commissioner and the Secretary of the Interior work for the Government of the United States and are, therefore, likely to agree on the merits of a bill, it is very unlikely that the Secretary of the Interior will reverse the decision made by the High Commissioner. Thus a bill vetoed by the High Commissioner has very little chance of becoming law even if the Congress of Micronesia repasses it with the required majority.

Working under the High Commissioner are the Headquarters' staff and the six district administrations. The Headquarters Office includes a Deputy High Commissioner, two Special Assistants to the High Commissioner and six Commissioners who form the High Commissioner's cabinet are considered program officers. The Deputy High Commissioner serves the High Commissioner in matters pertaining to administration and coordination of programs and performs the duties of the High Commissioner in the High Commissioner's absence.

Ewe Congressin Merika mei tongeni apungano eu annuk nge moutimo ika Presidore vetoni nge epwe ukukun ruu na unungatin vote me non ekkowe inw me ruu. Iwe ewe nopung epwene winito eu annuk nge moutimo ika President ese saini. Non Micronesia ewe Congress mei puan tongeni apungano ew annuk nge mout ika High Commissioner e vetoni nge epwe chok puan no ngeni ewe pekin apwichi annuk iwe ren ei sengan epwe no ngeni ewe Secretarin Interior. Pokiten High Commissioner me Secretary of Interior ra angang fan iten ewe Muun Merika ina pota repwe chok tipeeu fengen ren porausen ach nopung, iwe pokiten ei epwe fakkun weires an ewe Secretarin Interior esap fiti nefien High Commission Iwe ika pwe och nopung e veto me ren High Commissioner nge a puan pass sefan me ra Congress ren ukukun ruu na unungatin vote iwe ese fakkun or nukunukun an epwe ew annuk.

Kisin ewe High Commissioner ekkowe ra fiti ne angang Headquarters me ekkowe onomon Kepina. Chon angang Headquarters a or ewe Deputy High Commissioner, ruonon Special Assistants noun ewe High Commission ononon Commissioners chon an High Commissioner we cabinet ra wisen meinaper programs. Ewe Deputy High Commissioner a wisen anisi ewe High Commissioner ren pekin aninisin sakkun programs iwe puan attun an High Commissioner ese nom a kan puan nukunukutiu.