

(MARSHALLS STATUS COMMISSION NAMED)

MAJURO, MAY 15 (MNS)---THE SPEAKER OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, ATLAN ANIEN, ANNOUNCED IN MAJURO WEDNESDAY (MAY 15) THE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION. ANIEN ALSO ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE EIGHT MARSHALLESE WHO WILL SERVE ON THE COMMISSION. 11
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IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT LAW 20-34, WHICH WAS PASSED LAST YEAR AND PROVIDED FOR THE COMMISSION, WAS DELAYED DUE TO CERTAIN TECHNICAL FLAWS IN THE ORIGINAL LEGISLATION. THE NITIJELA CORRECTED THOSE DURING ITS SESSION LAST MONTH THROUGH AN AMENDMENT THAT BECAME DISTRICT LAW 21-1, PROVIDING FOR AN EIGHT-MEMBER COMMISSION WITH FOUR TO BE NAMED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NITIJELA, TWO BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, AND TWO TO BE SELECTED FROM THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

SPEAKER ANIEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WILL SERVE ON THE COMMISSION: IROIJ KABUA KABUA, IROIJ NANO HERMIOS, IROIJ ALBERT LOEAK AND NITIJELA REPRESENTATIVE JINA LAVIN, ALL SELECTED BY THE SPEAKER; SENATOR AMAIA KABUA AND REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI BALOS FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION; AND MARSHALLS DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION KINJA ANDRIKE AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS TONY DEBRUM, APPOINTED BY DISTAD OSCAR DEBRUM

IROIJ KABUA KABUA IS THE PARAMOUNT IROIJ OF THE SOUTHERN MARSHALLS, CENTRAL MARSHALLS AND PORTIONS OF THE WESTERN MARSHALLS. IROIJ NANO HERMIOS IS PARAMOUNT IROIJ OF THE NORTHERN MARSHALLS. AND IROIJ ALBERT LOEAK IS PARAMOUNT IROIJ OF THE CENTRAL MARSHALLS AND PORTIONS OF THE WESTERN MARSHALLS. JINA LAVIN REPRESENTS THE EASTERN MARSHALLS IN THE NITIJELA.

IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE STATUS COMMISSION'S FORMATION, SPEAKER ANIEN POINTED OUT THAT OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION AT THE PRESENT TIME, OTHER THAN ROUTINE ORGANIZATIONAL MATTER, WOULD BE INTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS ON EXACTLY WHAT THEIR ASPIRATIONS ARE IN TERMS OF POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE MARSHALLS. "THIS WILL MEAN PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH THE PEOPLE, NOT ONLY IN THE DISTRICT CENTERS BUT IN EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE OUTER ISLANDS AND ATOLLS AS WELL," THE SPEAKER SAID.

THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO HAVE ITS FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK, AT WHICH TIME THE EIGHT MEMBERS WILL SELECT FROM AMONG THEMSELVES A CHAIRMAN.

RECENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE NITIJELA HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE MARSHALLS ARE MOVING THE DISTRICT TOWARD SEPARATE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. NITIJELA RESOLUTION 18, ADOPTED IN MARCH, INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS OF THAT INTENTION. A LARGE NUMBER OF THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THE MARSHALLS, THE IROIJ, HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE SEPARATIST MOVES.

THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES TO OPEN SEPARATE TALKS WITH THE MARSHALLS, HOWEVER, AND THE UNITED STATES POSITION REMAINS ONE OF HOPING THAT A SINGLE POLITICAL SOLUTION CAN BE WORKED OUT FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL AND CAROLINE ISLANDS.

(WILLIAMS OPTIMISTIC)

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (MNS)---THE HEAD OF AMERICA'S NEGOTIATING TEAM IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ROUND OF TALKS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WHICH BEGAN WEDNESDAY (MAY 15) ON SAIPAN.

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AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE QUESTION OF LAND WILL BE THE MAJOR ITEM ON THE AGENDA, ADDING: "WHEN WE FINISH WITH THE LAND ISSUE, WE WILL HAVE GONE THROUGH MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE MAJOR ITEMS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS." THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THAT A DRAFT "COVENANT" OF COMMONWEALTH FOR THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT WILL COME OUT OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS, EXPECTED TO LAST THROUGH THE END OF MAY.

THE TALKS BEGAN WITH A WORKING SESSION WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL. THE USUAL OPENING PLENARY SESSION THAT HAS MARKED THE START OF PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT HELD THIS TIME, BOTH SIDES AGREEING INSTEAD TO GET RIGHT TO WORK ON THE ISSUES FACING THEM.

"LAND IS CERTAINLY GOING TO BE A MAJOR ITEM," WILLIAMS TOLD MNS DURING A LENGTHY INTERVIEW TUESDAY AFTERNOON. "WE WILL BE RESUMING WHERE WE LEFT OFF IN DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SATISFYING UNITED STATES LAND REQUIREMENTS IN THE MARIANAS. WE WILL BE TAKING UP EMINENT DOMAIN, THE QUESTION OF LAND ALIENATION, THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS AND JUST GENERALLY THIS WHOLE SUBJECT OF LAND...WE HOPE THAT OUT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL COME COMMITMENTS REGARDING U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS," THE AMBASSADOR SAID.

WILLIAMS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN ALL LANDS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE NEED, INCLUDING THOSE PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN THE CATEGORY OF SO-CALLED "MILITARY RETENTION" LANDS. HE SAID THE AMERICAN REQUIREMENT FOR LAND ON TINIAN REMAINS AS PUBLICLY DESCRIBED LAST YEAR, WHEN IT WAS SAID THAT THE U.S. HOPES TO ACQUIRE ROUGHLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE ISLAND FOR A MAJOR MILITARY INSTALLATION.

ASKED ABOUT RECENT MOVES ON TINIAN TO RETAIN A LAW FIRM AND PREPARE A POSITION PAPER ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN WHO OPPOSE THE U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS THERE, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID: "THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DULY-APPOINTED MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, WHICH INCLUDES TWO MEMBERS FROM TINIAN. I WOULD THINK THAT ANY GROUP IN THE MARIANAS CONCERNED WITH THE TALKS WOULD MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD THROUGH THEIR MEMBERS ON THE STATUS COMMISSION."

THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE MARIANAS COMMISSION HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB OF PREPARING FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. "I REALLY DO THINK THAT THE MARIANAS COMMISSION HAS WORKED VERY HARD," HE STATED. "THE LEVEL OF THEIR PARTICIPATION AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THEY APPROACH THEIR TASK HAVE BEEN QUITE IMPRESSIVE."

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID HE AND HIS DEPUTY, JAMES WILSON, WILL MEET ON SAIPAN IN MID-JUNE WITH SENATOR LAZARUS SALII AND REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK, CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, FOR ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUES STILL CONFRONTING THE TWO SIDES IN THOSE TALKS. BUT HE SAID THERE WILL NOT BE ANOTHER FORMAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AT LEAST LATE THIS SUMMER OR EARLY IN THE FALL.

"WE STILL FEEL THAT THERE ARE SOME ITEMS BETTER APPROACHED BY INFORMAL, RATHER THAN FORMAL MEETINGS," HE SAID. "HOPEFULLY THIS JUNE MEETING WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR ANOTHER FORMAL ROUND OF TALKS LATER IN THE YEAR."

THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS BEING WATCHED CLOSELY BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, THE AMBASSADOR SAID IN RESPONSE

TO ANOTHER QUESTION. BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT NO ONE FROM THE MARSHALLS HAS CONTACTED HIM REGARDING SEPARATE STATUS TALKS, EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. POSITION TOWARD THE MARSHALLS REMAINS UNCHANGED.

"IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR HOPE," WILLIAMS SAID, "THAT WE WILL HAVE A SINGLE SOLUTION FOR THE MARSHALLS AND THE CAROLINES, AND THAT THEY WILL FORM A UNITED MICRONESIA. WE HOPE THAT THE UPCOMING MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD RESOLVING THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS BEING RAISED IN THE MARSHALLS. THESE ARE ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL QUESTIONS, AND WE FEEL THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS THE RIGHT KIND OF FORUM FOR DISCUSSIN THEM."

THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT DESPITE THE RESOLUTION OF THE NITIJELA OPPOSING MARSHALLESE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION, HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE DISTRICT WILL BE REPRESENTED. "I DO HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE MARSHALLS AND THEIR LEADERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION," HE SAID. "THEY CAN DO SO WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT NO CONSTITUTION IS GOING TO BE IMPOSED UPON THEM AGAINST THEIR WILL."

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED, ONE POSTPONED)

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---AFTER HEARINGS LAST WEEK ON SAIPAN, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA' JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS HAS CONFIRMED THE NOMINATIONS OF TWO MICRONESIANS TO THE MICRONESIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND A THIRD TO THE TRUST TERRITORY PERSONNEL BOARD.

NAMED AS NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WERE HILARY CONRAD OF PONAPE, AND MRS. CARMEN MILNE BIGLER OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT. THE NOMINATION OF MRS. KIYOKO K. RENGIL AS A CANDIDATE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY PERSONNEL BOARD WAS ALSO APPROVED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE, WHICH MARKED THE FIRST APPOINTMENT OF A WOMAN TO THAT BOARD.

IN ADVISING HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON OF THE CONFIRMATION, THE JOINT COMMITTEE, NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TT PERSONNEL BOARD WHICH DEALS IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT GRIEVANCES, INCLUDES AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF MEMBERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR AND URGED FUTURE NOMINATIONS TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS FROM THE PRIVATE AND TRADE SECTORS. THE JOINT COMMITTEE FELT THAT FUTURE NOMINATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE EMPLOYEES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND EDUCATION, WHERE THEY NOTED MOST PERSONNEL ACTIONS ARISE.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH OF TRUK, DECIDED TO DELAY HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF PHILIP CHAMBERLAIN FOR THE POSITION OF TERRITORIAL PLANNER, SINCE ONLY TWO DISTRICTS HAD RESPONDED TO INQUIRIES SENT TO ALL SIX DISTRICTS AT THE TIME OF THE HEARINGS. THE COMMITTEE INFORMED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MAY 13 THAT DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JOB OF TERRITORIAL PLANNER WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING RELOCATED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ORGANIZATION, MORE TIME WOULD BE NEEDED TO RECEIVE THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS, DISTRICT LEGISLATURES, AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS. PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE REGARDING THE POSITION IN JUNE.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE INCLUDE SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH OF TRUK, CHAIRMAN; SENATOR PETRUS TUN OF YAP; SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA OF THE MARIANAS, REP. JOAB SIGMAN OF PONAPE; REP. CHARLES DOWNICK OF THE MARSHALLS; AND TARKONG PEDRO OF PALAU.

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(INTEREST HIGH IN CON CON ELECTION)

SAIPAN, MAY 15 (MNS)---THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE JUNE 4 ELECTION FOR DELEGATES TO MICRONESIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS HIGH IN MOST DISTRICTS, JUDGING BY THE MEMBER OF CANDIDATES WHO HAD FILED THEIR NOMINATING PAPERS AS OF MIDNIGHT TUESDAY, MAY 14, THE FILING DATELINE.

EVEN IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, WHERE THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE HAS OPPOSED MARSHALLESE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION, IT APPEARS THERE WILL BE AT LEAST ONE CANDIDATE RUNNING OFFICIALLY FOR EACH OF THE NINE AVAILABLE SEATS FROM THAT DISTRICT.

ALTHOUGH REPORTS FROM EBEYE, WHICH RECOGNIZES KWAJALEIN TIME AND IS THEREFORE ONE DAY BEHIND THE REST OF THE TT, ARE NOT AVAILABLE, HERE ARE THE NAMES OF THOSE FILING IN THE MARSHALLS FOR THE OTHER SEATS, BY DISTRICT, WITH ONE DELEGATE TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH DISTRICT:

DISTRICT ONE (MAJURO ATOLL), CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE; DISTRICT TWO (ARNO AND MILI), HENRY MOSES; DISTRICT THREE (WOTJE, MALOELAP, ERIKUB AND AUR), DR. ISAAC LANWI AND LAURENCE EDWARDS; DISTRICT FOUR (EBON AND NAMORIK), MARY LANWI; DISTRICT FIVE (KILI AND JALUIT), CARL HEINE; AND DISTRICT EIGHT (UJELANG, ENIVETOK, BIKINI, RONGELAP, AILINGINAE, RONGERIK, WOTHO, AILUK, TAKA, BIKAR, TAONGI, AND UTIRIK), BILRI BUNGLIK; DISTRICT SIX (AILINGLAPLAP, JABWOT AND NAMU), SEVEN (KWAJALEIN ATOLL, UJAE, LAE AND LIB), AND NINE (MEJIT AND LIKIEP), ALL INVOLVE ISLANDS NEAR EBEYE AND A FULL REPORT ON CANDIDATES FOR THOSE SEATS IS EXPECTED THURSDAY.

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FILING IN ANY SINGLE ELECTION DISTRICT THUS FAR IS IN YAP, WHERE 13 CANDIDATES ARE VYING FOR THE TWO SEATS FROM YAP ELECTION DISTRICT ONE, CONSISTING OF YAP PROPER. THEY ARE: FERNANDO FALAWAT, SAMUEL FALENREW, ROBERT RUECHO, ANDRE FIGIRMAD, VICENTE YINUG, ANDRE RUEPONG, PATRICK MANGAR, ALFONSO FANACHINGY, CONGRESSMAN LUKE TMAN, RAFAEL DABCHUREN, JOHN THARAGAN, DR. BERNARD YOU, AND ALOISUS TOOTH. THE ONLY CANDIDATE FILING HIS PAPERS FOR THE SINGLE SEAT IN YAP ELECTION DISTRICT TWO, CONSISTING OF THE YAP OUTER ISLANDS, WAS HILARY TACHLIOL, YAP'S DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR.

IN THE MARIANAS A NUMBER OF CLOSE CONTESTS ARE SHAPING UP. VYING FOR THE FOUR SEATS FROM THE DISTRICT ARE: DISTRICT ONE (TINIAN, ROTA AND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT NUMBER SIX ON SAIPAN), OSCAR RASA, ISAAC CALVO AND JOSE R. CRUZ; DISTRICT TWO (MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ONE, TWO, THREE AND FOUR ON SAIPAN), LARRY CABRERA AND JUAN LIZAMA; DISTRICT THREE (MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS SEVEN AND ELEVEN ON SAIPAN), DR. CARLOS CAMACHO, SYLVIO C. ADA, LUIS LINES AND DAVID MARATITA; AND DISTRICT FOUR (MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS FIVE, EIGHT, NINE AND TEN ON SAIPAN, PLUS THE ISLANDS OF AGRIHAN, PAGAN, ALAMAGAN, SARIGAN AND ANATAMAN), MARIA PAZ YOUNIS, ALFONSO RASA AND JOAQUIN I. PANGELINAN.

IN PONAPE DISTRICT THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES HAVE FILED: DISTRICT ONE (KUSAIE, WITH TWO TO BE ELECTED), DONALD JONAH, DR. MIROSI ISHAEL, JACOB NENA, TADAO SIGRAH AND YOSIWO GEORGE; DISTRICT TWO (KOLONIA TOWN AND PINGELAP), ITO HARRIS, OLTER PAUL, DELSON EAMES, YASUO YAMADA, KIKUO APIS, JOSEPH S. PHILLIP, AND SOSIRO ELIAN; DISTRICT THREE (MOKIL, KAPINGAMARANGI, MUKUNORO AND NEATIK), GAIUS EDWIN AND ABINEL MATHIAS; DISTRICT FOUR (UM), DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR LEO A. FALCAM; DISTRICT FIVE (METALANIN), HERBER GALLAN, JOHNNY HADLEY, BERNARD HELGENBERGER, MINORU LUIS, DADO WEITAL AND SIMON HAN; DISTRICT SIX (KITI), DR. BERDAN JANO, EDGAR EDWARD, KASIANO JOSEPH, HERMAN SENES, LOTIS SENES, PAUL LUKE AND WILLIAM EBERIAN; DISTRICT SEVEN (SOKEN), JUDAH JOHNNY,

HILARY CONRAD, SSAM JIMMY, PEDRO HARRIS AND STRIK YOMA; AND DISTRICT EIGHT (NET), IOHANESS EDMOND, MAX MALAM, MARTY RODRIGUES, KIRINO MENDIOLA, HEINRICK IRIARTE AND CYRILL HELGENBERGER.

FROM PALAU DISTRICT, THE UNOFFICIAL LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FIVE AVAILABLE SEATS IS: DISTRICT ONE (KOROR AND THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPALITIES ON BABELTHUAP--AIRAI, AIMELIK AN AND NGATPANG ELECTION TWO DELEGATES), SURANGEL WHITTS, SANTOS OLIKONG, JOHNSON TORIBIONG, DR. MINORU DEKI, ALFONSO R. OITERONG, LUKE BEKEBEKNAD, AND YOICH KOHMA; DISTRICT TWO (KAYANGEL ATOLL AND THE REMAINING MUNICIPALITIES OF BABELTHUAP, WITH TWO DELEGATES TO BE ELECTED), EMIL RAMARUI, BONIFASIO BASILEUS, JOHN O. NGIRAKED, JACOB SAMAICHI, FRANCISCO ULUDONG; DR. NORUO SVEI, ICHIRO MOROS AND KAZAUO ASANUMA; AND DISTRICT THREE (ANGAUR, PELELIU, SONSOROL, TORI, AND PULO ANNA, ELECTING ONE DELEGATE), MARIANO W. CARLOS, MITSUO SOLANG, VICTORIO UHERBELAU AND TOSIWO NAKAMURA.

NO REPORT WAS AVAILABLE FROM TRUK, THE LARGEST DISTRICT, AS OF LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. TWELVE SEATS ARE AVAILABLE THERE, AND MNS WILL INCLUDE A LIST OF CANDIDATES FROM THAT DISTRICT ON THURSDAY, ALONG WITH THE REPORT FROM EBEEYE.