

(KUMANGAI ON ESG)

SAIPAN, OCT. 15 (MNS) ~~A~~ TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. NABAŌ KUMANGAI SAID LAST WEEK THAT THERE ARE ~~NO~~ PLANS AT PRESENT TO CHARGE FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE TRUST TERRITORY UNDER A NEW FORM OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. DR. KUMANGAI SAID THAT HEALTH CARE COSTS SHOULD BE BORNE EQUALLY BY ALL CITIZENS THROUGH SOME SYSTEM OF TAXATION OR INSURANCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY EXPENSIVE, SINCE TO MATCH THE PRESENT LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE, IT WOULD COST EACH PERSON \$82 A YEAR, OR, FOR A FAMILY OF TEN, \$820.

THE HEALTH DIRECTOR MADE HIS COMMENTS ON THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA."

DR. KUMANGAI ALSO SAID HEALTH CARE IN MICRONESIA IS PRESENTLY BEING FINANCED BY THE TT GOVERNMENT, WHICH HANDLES MOST OF THE COST, WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE PROVIDING THE BALANCE. SOME \$6,000,000 WAS SPENT FOR PATIENT REFERRALS TO GUAM AND HAWAII LAST YEAR, HE SAID.

THE PALAUAN DIRECTOR NOTED THAT WHILE THE AVERAGE IN-PATIENT COST IS \$30 PER DAY, THE HOSPITALS ARE COLLECTING ONLY 40-CENTS A DAY. HE SAID HEALTH CARE FOR MICRONESIANS AT PRESENT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "PRACTICALLY FREE," SINCE ANNUAL COLLECTIONS ARE ONLY \$80,000 COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURES OF NEARLY \$9 MILLION DOLLARS. HE FURTHER SAID THAT NO MICRONESIAN IS DENIED MEDICAL CARE FOR INABILITY TO PAY. HE ADDED THAT ODDLY ENOUGH, THEY FIND THAT IT IS THE MICRONESIANS WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY, WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR BILLS, AND THAT THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD TO DO SO, DO PAY.

ASKED WHETHER ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DRAFTED TO SET UP EITHER A TAXATION OR INSURANCE SYSTEM OF PAYING FOR HEALTH CARE, DR. KUMANGAI RESPONDED THAT THE TT HEALTH COUNCIL HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER SEVERAL TIMES. BUT, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL FEELS THAT IT IS UP TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COME UP WITH AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THERE IS A DRUG PROBLEM IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, DR. KUMANGAI SAID THERE IS NOT A PROBLEM AT THIS TIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO HARD DRUGS, NOT MARIJUANA. HE CONTINUED THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TRIED MARIJUANA, BUT ADDED, "UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT MARIJUANA, I AM ONE OF THOSE WHO OPPOSES ITS LEGALIZATION." DR. KUMANGAI ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE DRUG LAW PASSED DURING THE RECENT SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

COMMENTING ON WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO PROVIDE MORE MICRONESIAN DOCTORS, NURSES AND TECHNICIANS, THE HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR SAID THAT WHILE FOUR OR FIVE STUDENTS HAVE BEGUN THEIR MEDICAL STUDIES EACH YEAR FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, THERE ARE ONLY TWO TODAY WHO ARE STUDYING TO BECOME SPECIALISTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ATTRITION RATE AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IS VERY HIGH--95 PERCENT IN THE U.S. SCHOOLS AND 80-85 PERCENT IN FIJI. HE NOTED THAT MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS HAVE GONE TO FIJI MEDICAL SCHOOL OVER THE YEARS, BUT MEDICAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED AT A RATE OF ONLY TWO EVERY TWO YEARS.

HE DESCRIBED MICRONESIAN MEDICAL OFFICERS AS "CAPTIVES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY" BECAUSE WITHOUT AN MD DEGREE, THEY CANNOT PRACTICE MEDICINE OUTSIDE MICRONESIA.

TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH CARE IS BELOW THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, BOTH IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY, BUT IT IS WELL ABOVE THE LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE IN MANY WESTERN PACIFIC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA DEVELOPING NATIONS, DR. KUMANGAI SAID. HE CITED FIGURES OF DOCTOR-PATIENT RATIOS, PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES FOR HEALTH CARE, AND TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND PATIENT REFERRALS TO SHOW A HIGHER LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE IN THE TRUST

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TERRITORY THAN IN THE KINGDOM OF TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA, AS EXAMPLES OF COMPARABLE AREAS.

DR. KUMANGAI SAID THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS FACING NUMEROUS PROBLEMS, BUT THE BIGGEST ONE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IS THE MANAGEMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, THE CAUSES MUST BE ELIMINATED, LISTING POOR SANITATION, POOR NUTRITION, POOR HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING AS SEVERAL OF THE PROBLEMS.

HE ADMITTED THAT NOT ENOUGH IS BEING DONE AT PRESENT IN THE AREA OF HEALTH EDUCATION, BUT ADDED THAT IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION A PROGRAM IS BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE SCHOOLS, AND ANOTHER PROGRAM IS BEING PREPARED FOR ADULTS, PARTICULARLY MOTHERS OF SMALL CHILDREN.

DR. KUMANGAI'S COMMENTS WILL BE HEARD THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA AS THE "DIALOGUE" PROGRAMS ARE TAPE RECORDED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE SIX TRUST TERRITORY RADIO STATIONS.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(APPOINTMENT HEARINGS UNDERWAY)

SAIPAN, OCT. 15 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE NOW UNDERWAY ON SAIPAN AT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS MADE BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON RECENTLY FOR SEVEN TOP LEVEL POSITIONS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.

THE CONGRESS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS IS CURRENTLY HEARING TESTIMONY FOR THE NOMINATIONS OF BERMIN F. WEILBACHER FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF PONAPE; JUAN A. SABLAN AS TT EXECUTIVE OFFICER; MITARO S. DANIS AS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TRUK; PODIS PEDRUS AS DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL; ELIAS OKAMURA AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS; HARUO REMELIUK AS A MEMBER OF THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION; AND WILLIAM H. STEWART FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE HEARINGS WHICH BEGAN LAST SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19. ALL HEARINGS ARE BEING HELD AT THE SENATE CHAMBER AT THE CONGRESS ANNEX BUILDING, AND THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE INCLUDE SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH OF TRUK, CHAIRMAN; REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DOWNICK OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS; SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA OF THE MARIANAS; REPRESENTATIVE TARKONG PEDRO OF PALAU; REPRESENTATIVE JOAB SIGRAH OF PONAPE DISTRICT; AND SENATOR PETRUS TUN OF YAP.

(ROTA FIESTEVAL)

SAIPAN, OCT. 15 (MNS)---HUNDREDS OF VISITORS FROM SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND GUAM ATTENDED THE ROTA FIESTA HONORING THE PATRON SAINT FRANCISCO DE TOROJA SUNDAY (OCTOBER 13). BISHOP FELIXBERTO FLORES AND SEVERAL OTHER PRIESTS FROM GUAM ALSO ATTENDED THE FIESTA.

MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE FIESTA. CONGRESSMAN FELIPE Q. ATALIG ALSO ATTENDED, ALONG WITH OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE UP-COMING CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ELECTION.

THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION BEGAN SATURDAY EVENING (OCT. 12) WITH A PROCESSION FROM THE CHURCH AROUND THE VILLAGE OF SONGSONG. BISHOP FLORES LED THE PROCESSION ATTENDED BY THE 22-MEMBERS OF THE AGANA DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS.

SUNDAY MORNING (OCT. 13) AFTER THE MASS, THE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS PERFORMED, ALONG WITH MAJORETTES, ALSO FROM GUAM, IN FRONT OF CHURCH.

ROTA MAYOR ANTONIO ATALIG SPOKE BRIEFLY WELCOMING ROTA'S VISITORS JUST BEFORE LUNCH WAS SERVED. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY

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BISHOP FLORES WHO LED THE PRAYERS.

ACCORDING TO ROTA LEADER, THIS YEAR'S FIESTA WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER. MORE THAN 1500 VISITORS WERE ON ROTA FOR THE OCCASION, IT WAS ESTIMATED.

AIR MICRONESIA ADDED TWO EXTRA FLIGHTS TO CARRY PASSENGERS TO ROTA. AIR PACIFIC ALSO ADDED SEVERAL EXTRA FLIGHTS. OTHER VISITORS CAME IN BOATS FROM THE NEARBY ISLANDS OF GUAM.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE OCCASION BEGAN EARLY LAST WEEK. BEAUTIFICATION WEEK GOT UNDERWAY WITH THE CLEANING OF PUBLIC PARKS. SCHOOLS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMODATE OTHER VISITORS.

THIS YEAR'S OCCASION MARKED THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE THREE MEN--ORIGINALLY FROM ROTA NOW RESIDING ON GUAM--WHO WERE LOST AT SEA FOR 47 DAYS WHILE RETURNING TO GUAM FOLLOWING AN EARLIER FIESTA. THE THREE MEN, JOSE T. KING, ANTONIO T. MANGLONA AND MOSES S. TAIMANAO, WERE FOUND BY A JAPANESE FISHING BOAT 1,310 MILES SOUTHWEST OF GUAM, AFTER 47-DAYS AT SEA. THE MEN WERE BROUGHT TO KOROR HARBOR BY THE JAPANESE FISHING BOAT AND FROM THERE, RETURNED TO GUAM. THE MEN RETURNED TO ROTA AGAIN THIS YEAR TO ATTEND THE FESTIVITIES.

(CCM STUDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES)

SAIPAN, OCT. 15 (MNS)---EIGHT STUDENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA (CCM) RECENTLY BECAME THE RECIPIENTS OF ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AA) DEGREES WHICH THE INSTITUTION GRANTED FOR THE FIRST TIME, ACCORDING TO HALVERSON JOHNNY, PONAPE BROADCAST STATION MANAGER.

THE STUDENTS, ALL FROM PONAPE DISTRICT, COMPLETED PRACTICE TEACHING AT KOLONIA AND OHMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND AT PATS. SEVEN OF THEM HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALL CCM'S REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION, WHILE ONE COMPLETED ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN SECONDARY VOCATIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION FROM THE COORDINATED CCM/PATS PROGRAM.

DARO WEITAL, DIRECTOR OF CCM, HAS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS OF A.S. DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION: EVELYN LEBEHN AND MASON HENRY FROM MOKIL; MORGAN JONAS, ARTHUR JONAS, MOSES NODA AND SHRUE VILLAZON FROM KUSAIE; AND GOODYEAR PANUEL FROM NGATIK.

THE RECIPIENT OF THE A.S. DEGREE IN SECONDARY VOCATIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION WAS ALBERT AUGUSTIN OF PONAPE.

THE NEW RECIPIENTS WERE HONORED IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY AT CCM RECENTLY, WHILE PATS HELD A SEPARATE CELEBRATION IN MADOLENIHMW TO HONOR ITS RECIPIENT, AUGUSTIN.