

(ESG-FULL SPEED AHEAD)

SAIPAN, FEB. 7 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT'S EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) PROGRAM HAS REACHED THE END OF ITS SECOND WEEK WITH EVIDENCE IT NOW IS READY TO MOVE AHEAD WITH FULL SPEED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEADQUARTERS ESG TASK FORCE SAID THURSDAY (FEB. 7) ON SAIPAN.

TO DATE, SINCE THE PROGRAM WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED TWO WEEKS AGO, ELEVEN OF THE SERIES OF 14 RADIO BROADCASTS-"OUR MICRONESIA" -HAVE BEEN TAPE RECORDED AND SENT TO THE DISTRICTS, AND BROADCAST OF THE SERIES HAS STARTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND THE LOCAL LANGUAGES. OVER 700 TWO-COLOR POSTERS, BEARING THE LEGEND, "GET READY TO MAKE THE BEST CHOICE," WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE DISTRICTS, AS WERE 36-HUNDRED BUMPER STICKERS AND 16-HUNDRED SMALLER STICKERS.

THE FEBRUARY 1 ISSUE OF HIGHLIGHTS CARRIED A FOUR-PAGE SPECIAL PHOTO-STORY SECTION ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT. THE FEBRUARY 1 PAY CHECK STUBS OF ALL MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT CARRIED A BRIEF MESSAGE URGING FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE ESG EFFORT. TWO ADDITIONAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED: PODIS PEDRUS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, AND WILLIAM H. STEWART, CENSUS COORDINATOR AND INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIST.

ABOUT READY FOR RELEASE ARE AN ESSAY CONTEST TO BE CONDUCTED AMONG THE 7,000 OR MORE MICRONESIANS OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE; AN ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET, COMIC BOOK STYLE, ON "UNDERSTANDING BASIC ECONOMICS; AND A GLOSSARY IN WHICH WORDS AND TERMS THAT COME UP MOST FREQUENTLY IN ESG DISCUSSIONS, AND OFTEN ARE NOT UNDERSTOOD, WILL BE DEFINED IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGES. THESE SAME DEFINITIONS ALSO WILL BE AIRED OVER THE DISTRICT RADIO STATIONS. A SECOND SERIES OF RADIO BROADCASTS IS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. MEANTHILE, PRINTED COPIES OF THE INITIAL SERIES OF SCRIPTS WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL SCHOOLS OF MICRONESIA AND TO ALL DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICES. A TT-WIDE SURVEY OF PRESENT POLITICAL AWARENESS ALSO IS PLANNED.

ESG TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN, STRIK YONA, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, COMPARED THE WORK OF HIS GROUP WITH THE STRUCTURE OF AN ICEBERG, ONLY TWO PERCENT OF WHICH SHOWS ABOVE THE WATER. "HOURS OF STUDY, DISCUSSION, WRITING, RE-WRITING, RESEARCH AND RECORDING, WHICH MAKE UP THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE ESG EFFORT, DON'T SHOW ON THE SURFACE," YONA POINTED OUT. "BUT," HE ADDED, "WITHOUT THOSE HOURS OF PREPARATION, LITTLE OR NOTHING OF VALUE WOULD RESULT."

YONA PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NOW WINDING UP A WEEK'S CONFERENCE ON SAIPAN, DURING WHICH THEY MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH THE ESG TASK FORCE. "THEIR INPUT," SAID YONA, "WAS ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO THE TASK FORCE IN DETERMINING A PROPER AND ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF ESG FUNDS TO THE DISTRICTS. THE U.S. CONGRESS, IN ITS RECENTLY APPROVED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY, INCLUDED \$100,000 FOR THE ESG PROGRAM, AND IT IS IMPORTANT WE MAKE THE WISEST POSSIBLE USE OF THIS MONEY," HE ADDED.

THE DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR DISTRICT COORDINATION OF THE ESG PROGRAM, CREATION OF A NEW POSITION OF COORDINATOR WOULD NOT NECESSARILY GUARANTEE A COORDINATED EFFORT. "HAPPILY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE ESG PROGRAM, THE DDPA'S ENTHUSIASTICALLY OFFERED TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF DISTRICT COORDINATORS," YONA CONCLUDED.

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(CCM PLANNING COMMISSION)

TRUK, FEB. 7 (MNS)---A SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA DESIGNATED TO STUDY EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY CONCLUDED A THREE DAY STUDY IN TRUK DISTRICT WEDNESDAY (FEB. 6), ACCORDING TO A REPORT RECEIVED FROM INFORMATION OFFICER NOHA RUBEN THIS WEEK.

RUBEN SAID THE COMMISSION MET WITH EDUCATIONAL STAFF, MAGISTRATES, LOCAL LEADERS AND TEACHERS AND EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION TO THESE VARIOUS GROUPS.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ELIAS ROBERT SAID THE COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS, SOME DEPARTMENT HEADS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS OVER THE FACT THAT MANY CCM GRADUATES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND JOBS COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR EDUCATION AT CCM.

THE TWO-YEAR PROGRAM AT CCM INITIALLY INTENDED TO SERVE THE TEACHING NEEDS IN MICRONESIA.

DURING THE COMMISSION'S MEETING WITH THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN TRUK, EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN THE AREA OF MANPOWER TRAINING NEEDS; EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS; PRIORITY PROGRAMS FOR CCM AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS.

THE POSSIBILITY OF INSERTING BUSINESS TRAINING, LIBERAL ARTS, AND SOME ASPECTS OF MICRONESIAN CULTURE IN THE SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH.

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN TRUK WERE VARIED. SOME WANTED VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO BE ADDED TO CCM'S PROGRAM; SOME WANTED MORE CONCENTRATION TOWARD TEACHER EDUCATION; WHILE OTHERS PREFERRED TO SEE CCM BECOME A PRE-TRIAL CENTER.

IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT MICRONESIAN CULTURES ARE AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM TO HAVE AT CCM.

IN ADDITIONAL TO CHAIRMAN ROBERT, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION INCLUDE: RICK MOORE, TIMOTHY JERRY, DOUGLAS SHULT, DON EVANS AND FRED EKMAN.

THE COMMISSION ARRIVED ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK FOR A SIMILAR STUDY. AFTER COMPLETING THEIR MISSION ON SAIPAN, THE MEMBERS WILL THEN GO TO YAP AND PALAU. THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA.

(MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CONVENES)

SAIPAN, FEB. 7 (MNS)---THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE OPENED ITS THIRD REGULAR SESSION THIS WEEK ON SAIPAN, WITH BRIEF REMARKS BY LEGISLATIVE PRESIDENT VICENTE SANTOS, ACCORDING TO MANUEL C. SABLAN, INFORMATION OFFICER FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA ALSO DELIVERED HIS STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE FOLLOWING THE OPENING SESSION.

IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS, AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, SANTOS TOLD THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION "HAS REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE IN ITS ACTIVITIES" AND URGED THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO BUDGET FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE COMMISSION. HE ALSO NOTED THE RAPIDLY RISING COST OF FOOD AND FUEL IN THE MARIANAS.

DISTAD ADA, WHO DELIVERED HIS STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE IN A SPECIAL, EVENING SESSION, SUMMARIZED THE

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ACHIEVEMENTS, DEVELOPMENTS, AND PROGRESS MADE IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT THE PAST YEAR. ADA SAID THAT 1973 WAS AN EXCITING YEAR, ONE WHICH BROUGHT A TOTAL OF 45,209 VISITORS TO THE MARIANAS, BRINGING INTO THE ECONOMY A REVENUE OF ABOUT \$3,390,675-- AN INCREASE OF 71 PERCENT OVER 1972.

IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURE, THE DISTAD CONTINUED, THE PRODUCTION OF 1973 SURPASSED THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF THE PRECEDING YEAR, GENERATING A REVENUE OF ABOUT HALF A MILLION DOLLARS. ADA COMMENDED THE DISTRICT AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE MARKED INCREASE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN THE DISTRICT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUNDS GRANTED TO FARMERS, FISHERMEN, AND VARIOUS BUSINESSMEN, PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN INCREASING BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION, THE DISTAD SAID: "OUR SYSTEM CONTINUED TO FLOURISH AND PROGRESS IN SPITE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, ADDING, "WE HAVE ELIMINATED THE DOUBLE SESSION IN MOST OF OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ON SAIPAN, WHEN A YEAR AGO THIS WAS NOT THE CASE." HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE 12TH GRADE WAS ADDED TO THE ROTA HIGH SCHOOL LAST YEAR.

"IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, WE TRY TO BRING HEALTH SERVICES CLOSE TO THE COMMUNITY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE THREE ADDITIONAL DISPENSARIES ON SAIPAN. TRAINING FOR OUR DOCTORS, NURSES AND MEDICAL TECHNICIANS IS BEING INTENSIFIED, AND ADDITIONAL DOCTORS ARE BEING RECRUITED," ADA SAID.

THE DISTAD NOTED THE GREAT STRIDES IN COMMUNITY SERVICES IN PROVIDING NEEDY PEOPLE WITH FOOD MADE AVAILABLE TO US THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

DISTAD ADA TOOK SPECIAL NOTICE OF THE RISING PRICES NOT ONLY OF FUEL, BUT OTHER COMMODITIES AND MATERIALS AS WELL. HE SAID THAT THE PRICE OF FUEL THAT HAS RISEN OVER 100 PER CENT IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS MAKES IT MORE EXPENSIVE TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH OUR CONSTRAINED BUDGET.

THE DISTAD CONCLUDED WITH THE PLEDGE THAT THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST AND COOPERATE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH IN ORDER TO BEST SERVE THE PEOPLE.

(SYNE TO ATTEND LIBRARY PROGRAM)

SAIPAN, FEB. 7 (MNS)---DAKIO SYNE OF PONAPE HAS BECOME THE FIRST TRUST TERRITORY STUDENT TO ENROLL IN A GRADUATE PROGRAM LEADING TO THE MASTERS DEGREE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FROM THE LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

SYNE, WHO GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM IN DECEMBER, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED INTO A SPECIAL MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM WHICH IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY. THE PROGRAM COVERS ALL OF SYNE'S EXPENSES AND PROVIDES STIPENDS FOR HIS DEPENDENTS. THE PROGRAM BEGAN IN JANUARY 1974 AND WILL CONTINUE FOR A YEAR.

SYNE WAS SUPPORTED IN HIS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM THROUGH A FULL SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDED BY THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT, AND ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. PRIOR TO ENROLLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, SYNE HAD BEEN LIBRARIAN AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA ON PONAPE.