



PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS, SAIPAN
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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS.
October 25, 1963--TT GOVERNMENT AWARDS \$75,000 CONTRACT TO METALANIM HOUSING COOPERATIVE--High Commissioner M. W. Goding announced today the award of a \$75,000 contract to the Metalanim Housing Cooperative of Ponape for the construction of 10 new elementary school buildings on Ponape proper. This is the largest contract thus far awarded a Micronesian firm. The contract, signed on October 18, 1963, by Mr. Robert Halvorsen, District Administrator of Ponape as Contracting Officer for the Trust Territory, and Mr. Benjamin Etse, Vice-President of the Metalanim Housing Cooperative, includes labor and other services by the contractor with the Trust Territory Government providing certain construction materials.

The contract is part of the Accelerated Elementary School Construction Program now underway in all parts of the Territory. The ten new elementary school buildings under this contract will be of concrete block and will be located in the localities of Sapwalap, Wenik, Sekere, Pehleng, Palikir, Lukop, Wopar, Sokehs, Wone, and Kinapapw--all on the main island of Ponape. Additionally, other new elementary school buildings are under construction in Ponape District where, under the accelerated elementary education program, a total of 39 new classrooms are scheduled for completion on or before the end of fiscal year 1963. Some 48 additional elementary classrooms will be built in 1964-65.

Ten new American elementary school teachers already are on the job in Ponape District and others will be added as the new schools are ready for opening.

The Metalanim Housing Cooperative, which was formed in 1961 to provide low-cost housing for its members, has also been awarded in the past two years a number of private and government contracts for local construction in Ponape. These have included buildings for Page Communication Company, work for the U.S. National Museum as well as private contracts.

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