

Inside the

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Republic of the Marshall Islands

A C C O U N T A B I L I T Y : T R A N S P A R E N C Y :
G O O D G O V E R N A N C E : S E R V I C E A B I L I T Y

P R E S I D E N T N O T E S P E A K S T O G R A D U A T E S

“The Marshall Islands needs young educated Marshallese, young motivated individuals and you fit into this category.”

Kessai H. Note



President Kessai H. Note delivered the keynote address Thursday morning during the Delap Calvary High School commencement ceremony on Majuro.

“Today is a very special day for you [graduates],” said President Note. “This symbolic occasion marks the beginning of your journey, a milestone in your quest for your future and the future of your nation, and another step on the expansion of your knowledge as you move forward.”

President Note also praised the parents and teachers for encouraging their children during the

school years. The President, however, pointed out that there is much to be accomplished.

“I thank the teachers, parents and the Calvary School System, on behalf of the government, for encouraging our children to learn,” said Note.

“However, this is only the beginning. The beginning of your voyage to seek better opportunities, better future and a better Marshall Islands.”

“The Marshall Islands needs young educated Marshallese, young motivated individuals and you fit into this category.”

The President took the opportunity to inform the public that the long awaited Change Circumstances Petition (CCP) hearing had just concluded minutes prior to his arrival at the Delap Calvary school. “I am pleased to inform you this morning that the first hearing on the CCP had

just concluded a few minutes ago,” said Note. “It is a difficult task, but a task that needs fair and just closure for the Marshallese people. We will work with the U.S. Congress and Administration as we move together on the CCP.”

In a statement Saturday afternoon during the Marshalls Christian High School graduation the President reiterated the government’s priority. “Your government is committed to improving education and has continuously given it the highest priority,” said the President. “We will find ways, we will seek opportunities for our children to secure a better Marshall Islands.”

President Note and First Lady Note also attended the Northern Island (Wotje), Assumption and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) High School Graduations.

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Foreign Minister Testifies Before U.S. House Resources Committee on the CCP



Foreign Minister Gerald M. Zackios (left) with House Speaker Dennis Hastert and President Kessai H. Note in Washington during the President working visit last summer.

At a Congressional hearing on the legacy of U.S. nuclear testing in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), a broad, bipartisan consensus emerged among Members of Congress in attendance that the RMI's ongoing needs must be addressed. The hearing centered on the RMI's Changed Circumstances Petition (CCP), the legal mechanism established by Congress by which the RMI can propose additional compensation for nuclear-related health, personal injury, and property damages.

The hearing, which was jointly convened by the House Resources Committee and the House Subcom-

mittee on Asia and the Pacific, featured Members and witnesses passionately justifying the moral, legal and scientific grounds for additional funds for the Nuclear Claims Tribunal, healthcare programs and the loss of property. Through their comments and questions to witnesses, it was evident that many Members believe that the U.S. Government should do more to assist Marshall Islanders.

Foreign Minister Gerald Zackios spent several days in Washington to meet with key Members of Congress and was an official witness for the hearing. Minister Zackios represented President Kessai H. Note at the hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, Minister Zackios reported, "I was extremely pleased to see the broad support from both sides of the aisle and from both committees; I came away from the hearing feeling assured that every Member present wants to examine and address the needs of the RMI linked to the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program". Minister Zackios, speaking for the government and all

Marshallese, also requested that Congress enter into the official record a statement by the four atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrok.

"The tone and substance of the Member of Congress at the hearing was extremely positive," said Banny deBrum, the RMI's ambassador to the U.S. "Much work must still be done to convince Congress and the Bush Administration of the merits of the CCP, but I am confident we are on the right track."

"This problem - human suffering and land damages...remain uncompensated..."

Min. Zackios

The Senate has signaled that it will conduct a similar hearing on the CCP in the coming months. The government of the Marshall Islands looks forward to its continued work with Congress and the Administration on this critical matter.

Accompanying Minister Zackios so the hearing was Alvin T. Jacklick, Minister of Health. Senators, Mayors, and representatives from the 4 atolls were in attendance as was Iroijlaplap and Senator Mike Kabua.

MINISTER WASE MEETS OUTGOING INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR



Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador, Aa Kustia met last week Monday with Acting President

Brenson S. Wase and with Acing Minister of Foreign Affairs John M. Silk.

Ambassador Kustia expressed his appreciation for the cooperation and supports extended during the years he was accredited to the Marshall Islands.

He also informed the Acting President and Acting Minister that now that he is leaving Bei-

jing, the Embassy of Indonesia in Manila will be accredited to the RMI and the new ambassador designate will be posted in Manila.

Acting President Wase thanked the Ambassador on behalf of the President, who was off-island, and the people and government of the Marshall Islands for his service to the Marshall Islands on behalf of Indonesia.

PHILIPPO ON CRIME



On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I wish to condemn, in the strongest term possible, the recent acts of violence against our volunteers and visitors. Over the last few months, reports have shown other violent acts against our volunteers and visitors. These acts, by a few individuals, are inconsistent and contradictory to our way of life.

Earlier today, the Minister of Justice and I discussed ways to ensure a safer environment for our citizens and visitors. Every society is prone to violence, and every society has its own way of preventing these acts. In our society, we will not only seek alternatives to prevent these acts, but we will prosecute, to the fullest extent of the law, individuals who commit any crimes against

our citizens, our visitors and our volunteers.

We have to be mindful of our individual actions by respecting the rule of law, our individual rights for security and peace. The Constitution accords to each and every citizen and visitor alike the right to be safe, and our government guarantees that right.

At the government’s request, people from all over the world volunteer to assist our nation with our efforts in improving our education system, our health system, and our environment and in many other areas.

Further, the government works tirelessly to bring in visitors and investors into our country.

At this time, I wish to thank all those who are involved in any—and all forms—of volunteer work in our country. We have to be mindful of their dedication

and their willingness to be and to stay engaged with our endeavors. Although we may not be able to contain or prevent all acts of violence, we will seek ways to discourage these acts.

The government appreciates your dedication and support and will continue to work closely with you to ensure that your safety and your well-being are not compromised.

The Minister of Justice has advised all those involved to put in all the efforts in ensuring that those responsible for the recent crimes committed and all other crimes in the

Marshall Islands are brought to justice.

I wish to commend our Police Force for the prompt response in identifying those involved in the recent violent acts. Your effort and your dedication to our safety are greatly appreciated.

Finally, let me reiterate that these acts against our citizens and our visitors are contradictory to our way of life. Marshallese are friendly and loving peoples.

“In our society, we will not only seek alternatives to prevent these acts, we will prosecute, to the fullest extent of the law”

Min. Witten T. Philippo

Forum Fisheries Committee Meets in Majuro

The Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) will officially open next week Monday. The meeting of Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) officials meeting will begin this week. The sub group of the FFA includes the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati. (A more in-depth report will follow later this week).

A NEW LOOK INSIDE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mon. May 30, Officials FFA Meeting begin
- Thu. June 2: Cabinet Meeting
- Thu. June 2: Australian Ambassador Presents Credentials
- Mon. June 6: Ambassador designate of the Republic of Korea to the RMI to present credentials to President Note
- Tue. June 7: Hon. Taito Philip Field Minister of Pacific Islands Affairs courtesy call on President Note
- Thu. June 9: President to speak to during the FFC Ministerial Meeting
- Thu. June 9: President to host Dinner Reception for the FFC Participants
- Mon. June 20: Hon. Shintaro Ishihara, Governor of Tokyo to pay courtesy on President Note
- Jun. 14-15: President to visit Bikini with U.S. DOE Assistant Secretary

NOTE: *If you wish to make an appointment with the President or Ministers, please feel free to contact the offices at the numbers and email provided below. Otherwise, feel free to contact individual Ministers in their respective offices.*

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