

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

“It is important that we show appreciation to those who support the Marshall Islands,”

Kessai H. Note

PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY RECEIVES BOOK DONATION



(from l-r) Minister Wilfred Kendall, David Roth, President and First Lady...June 1, 2005

In a turn of event that would have allowed the Occidental College (Los Angeles, California) Deputy President David Roth to stop over in Majuro for a few days to meet with the President and the Minister of Education to hand over donated books from the College Tuesday Morning, President Kessai H. Note and First Lady Mary N. Note instead accommodated the sudden change of plan, which was originally scheduled to be held at the President’s Office, took place at the VIP Lounge at the Amata Kabua International Airport.

The unfortunate turn of events, due to the change in Continental’s flight schedule, would have put Roth in Majuro Monday evening.

However, due to the change, Roth only stopped over in Majuro for an hour on Wednesday.

“It is important that we show appreciation to those who support the Marshall Islands,” said President Note. “Roth’s commitment to assisting our schools through the donation of books will go a long way in our efforts to encourage our children to learn.”

Through the RMI Mission in New York, Roth was able to include the Marshall Islands’ as a recipient along with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau.

The RMI will shortly be receiving its 2,000 share of books.

The President also thanked Continental Airlines who have agreed to ship the boxes to Majuro at no cost. “Continental Airlines’ commitment to engage in the communities it serves speaks volume today,” said President Note. “I personally wish to thank Majuro Station Manager Salome Andrike for her assistance in the process.”

The First Lady commented that she would bring some of the books to the schools through her program, *Inspire our Children to Learn*.

The First Lady frequently visit schools throughout the Marshall Islands to read to children and engaging them to read.

INSIDE

Muller Speaks to NIHS	2
Silk to attend FAO Meeting	2
Operation Big-Eye	3
New Australian Ambassador	3
Naval Officers visit President Note	3
Upcoming Events	4
This week in RMI History	4

Muller Addresses Northern Island High School (Wotje) Graduation Ceremony



Bobby Muller (forefront left) with the President and Minister Kendall during a briefing with the Acting President of the College of the Marshall Islands and other Board Members

The Marshall Islands Chief Secretary, Bobby Muller, delivered the Keynote Address at the Northern Islands High School (Wotje) during its graduation ceremony on Saturday.

“At the completion of the 2002-03 school year 1327 public school students took the high school entrance exam. Of that number only 546 (41%) passed (a score of 47% was considered a passing mark this past year),” said Muller. “It should be noted that there are success stories of some elementary schools where student performance is better than others. All the students from Likiep, Woja (Alinglaplap), Mejatto (Rongalap community in Kwajal-

ein), Enejellar (Ailuk), and Jabnoden (Jaluit) elementary schools passed the exam whereas not a single student from 23 elementary schools could qualify.”

“We must engage students, and parents, in education at the earliest age possible if we do want to help our young children to succeed academically. To meet this goal we are implementing a countrywide kindergarten program for the 2005-06 school year,” said Muller.

Muller also stated that the Government is keen to improving education. However, he said that improving education will not occur overnight.

“Improving education in the Marshall Islands will not occur overnight. We know that improvements will need time to develop, and we will continue to work on improving student performance, teacher quality and parental involvement,” said

Muller. “We will not be afraid to try to improve our education system both in the schools and other programs for those who drop out, and we will continue to try until we succeed.”

“Improving education in the Marshall Islands will not occur overnight”

Bobby Muller

Muller further stated that the main reason he took part in the Compact negotiation team was of President Note’s commitment to education. “The main reason why I took part in the Compact negotiation team at the request of President Note was his commitment to making education the top priority of the RMI Government. It is not a coincidence that the amended Compact is now geared towards education and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future as this is the foundation of nation building.”

Muller also praised Nitijela (Parliament) Speaker Litokwa Tomeing for his “vision of a better tomorrow for our people and nation through education.”

Note: Email bjricho@ntamar.net to receive a copy of the statement

SILK COOK ISLANDS FOR MINISTERS FAO MEETING

Resources and Development Minister John M. Silk departed Majuro earlier this week Monday to attend the Sixth Meeting of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) South West Pacific Ministers For Agriculture in Rorotonga, Cook Islands.



Silk indicated that the Ministerial meeting this year will focus on trade, food security and farm management skills for improved enterprise profitability.

The Minister commented prior to departure that he will bilaterally meet with the FAO Director General, Jacques

Diouf, while in the Cook Islands regarding a few RMI proposals one of which is the Agriculture Statistics and Census currently under review.

The Minister is expected back in Majuro Tuesday of next week for the Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee meeting.

OPERATION BIG-EYE IV

Operation Big Eye IV 2005 was another successful surveillance operation held in the Economic Exclusion Zones of the Marshall Islands, FSM and Palau. All three countries successfully apprehending five illegal boats during the period.

The Patrol Boats involved were the RMI's Lomor, FSM Micronesia and Independence and the Palauan boat Remeliik.

The Operation was formally opened in Palau, which hosted and coordinated the 2005 exercise.

Operation Big Eye has been ongoing for the last six years as the authority for joint maritime surveillance and enforcement operations within each other's Economic Exclusion Zones. This year, Big Eye involved United States Coast Guard Cutter—Galveston Islands, United States Navy, Royal Australian Air Force and Royal New Zealand

Air Force high-tech P3 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft. According to Police Commissioner George Lanwi, this years Operation is “one of the largest and complex Maritime Surveillance Operations to be held within the Pacific Region.”



President Note greeted by ROC Naval Officers who are in Majuro...June 3, 2005

President Kessai H. Note was visited Friday afternoon by Taiwan Naval Officers, who are stopping over in Majuro on their return to Taiwan.

The President welcomed the crew inviting them saying, “that while you are here you will take the time to enjoy the full array of the hospitality that our people are well known for and that you will also occasion yourself to the beautiful sites.”

The President thanked the Commander for the courtesy visit.

The Ship will be carrying ROC President Chen Shui-bian's canoe, which President Note presented to him during Chen's visit to the RMI.

Australian Ambassador Present Credence



Ambassador Tomkinson Presents credentials to President Note...June 2, 2005

Pohnpei based Australian Ambassador to the Marshall Islands Corrine Tomkinson presented her credentials Thursday morning to President Kessai H. Note and members of the Cabinet, including Speaker Litokwa Tomeing.

In his statement to the Ambassador, President Note reiterated the ongoing bilateral relations between the RMI and Australia and the regional supports that the two nations share through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and other regional and international organization.

The President also noted that the ongoing supports from Australia to the RMI through scholarships, security and other programs are appreciated.

A NEW LOOK INSIDE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri. June 3: President to attend Reception on board ROC Naval Ship (hosted by ROC Ambassador and Naval Commander)
- 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 (N.Z.) courtesy call on President Note
- Thu. June 9: President to address FCC Ministerial Meeting
- Thu. June 9: Cabinet Meeting
- Thu. June 9: President to Host dinner reception in honor of FCC Participants
- Tue. Jun: 14-15: President to visit Bikini with U.S. DOE Asst. Secretary

This week in 1988 the RMI Established diplomatic relations with neighboring Kiribati (June 4, 1988)

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.*

INSIDE THE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

Phone: 692-625-3445/3660
 Fax: 692-625-4021/3649
 E-mail: biericho@ntamar.net

P.O. Box 2
 Majuro, MH 96960

This publication is produced and distributed from the Office of the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. All printed materials in this publication is owned by the Office of the President. All photos in this publication is the sole property of the Office of the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Reprints and use are permitted with credits to the Office of the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Accountability : Transparency : Good Governance : Serviceability