

#### MARSHALLS ADVISED TO PREPARE FOR END OF U.S. AID

U.S. ambassador notes compact will expire in 13 years

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Marianas Variety, May 11, 2010) - The Marshall Islands need to prepare now for the end of large-scale United States grants in 13 years because Washington is not going to provide more aid to this former U.S. territory in the Pacific, the U.S. ambassador said at a public forum in Majuro. Dispelling what she called a "dangerous" belief that the U.S. will extend more aid when the current Compact of Free Association grant package ends in 2023, U.S. Ambassador Martha Campbell said, "I can say with all certainty that there is no intention on the part of anyone anywhere in the government of the U.S. to extend Compact funding past 2023." The U.S. has funded the Marshall Islands and other islands in Micronesia since it won the area from Japan at the end of World War II. The U.S. and Marshall Islands are seven years into a 20-year aid package that when combined with an earlier 15-year deal will have provided the Marshall Islands with about US\$4 billion by 2023.

#### CNMI GOVERNMENT WORKERS FACE PAY CUT

Up to 400 employees will see 12.5 percent reduction

SAIPAN, CNMI (Marianas Variety, May 11, 2010) - The work hours of 200 to 400 contractual employees in the government will be cut by 12.5 percent starting this week. "We're talking about people who are not civil service employees," Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said yesterday. A legislative mandate is needed to reduce the work hours of civil service employees. Three bills were introduced one after another in the House of Representatives to impose a blanket pay reduction policy either through daily reduced work hours, the forced shutdown of public offices every Friday, unpaid legal holidays, or any combination of the last two. All three bills, however, were killed either in the Senate or the House amid mounting opposition from the public sector -- the main employer of CNMI voters. The administration's proposed budget for the current fiscal year 2010 is US\$137 million. FY 2010 ends on Sept. 30, 2010.

#### SOMARE FIRES PAPUA NEW GUINEA JUSTICE MINISTER

Marat spoke against effort to neutralize ombudsman

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International, May 10, 2010) -

Papua New Guinea's former justice minister and attorney-general says questions remain over the National Alliance-led government's motive for pushing legislative amendments to the Ombudsman Commission. Dr Allan Marat resigned last week after publicly criticising controversial amendments to the Ombudsman Commission which many observers say will undermine its integrity. He says Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare forced him to resign in an angry outburst in front of the government caucus. Dr Marat says that the current government coalition doesn't allow for MPs to speak out against the

views of the leadership. "The motive of the majority party within the coalition is not right to some of us. Now we thought that the motive for this amendment, it was intended to cover some of the existing misconduct in office charges (against some high level politicians) like failing to lodge annual returns and just misappropriating funds in programmes that were established as a result of government policies."

#### SAMOA MATAIS BAN OPPOSITION CANDIDATES

Villagers told to vote for government candidates

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International, May 10, 2010) -

The Chief Executive in the Samoan Prime Minister's office, Vaosa Epa, says the government is not supporting village level restrictions on who can stand in by-elections. There are reports that several villages have imposed bans against candidates of the Tautua Samoa party ahead of this week's by-elections. Tautua Samoa candidate, Palusalua Faapo II, says some villages in his constituency of Safata have told voters to back only government candidates and not him. Another Tautua Samoa candidate, Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi, says he is also concerned about the ban imposed by two villages in his constituency of Faleata west. But Vaosa Epa says the government does not condone such action. "If there is any ban that has been imposed it will be from the constituencies themselves and it will be from the village council."

Vaosa Epa says government supports the freedom to vote and would not impose measures on voters which prevent that.

#### AUDIT: GOVERNMENT JOBS DUPLICATED IN MARSHALLS

Unclear roles and responsibilities also noted

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe, May 10, 2010) - Too many of Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) public sector jobs are duplicated unnecessarily, lack accurate job descriptions, and are misaligned in job category and pay. The RMI Public Service Commission's "Limited Personnel Audit" was developed under an ADB technical assistance project in late 2009. The audit reviewed a sample of 50 positions in three of the RMI's largest ministries -- sixteen from the Ministry of Public Works, eighteen from the Ministry of Education, and sixteen from the Ministry of Health. Two representatives were nominated from each of the Ministries. Together with three Personal Officers of the PSC each work group consisted of three people. The audit's key findings are as follows: All three ministries had identified cases of job duplication, with 30 percent of the cases being assessed as unjustified duplication.

Unclear roles and responsibilities hinder managers in implementing plans, monitoring progress and achieving outcomes on a daily basis.

#### CNMI WANTS \$105 PER DAY FOR JAILING ALIENS

U.S. authorities released prisoners for lack of space

SAIPAN, CNMI (Marianas Variety, May 10, 2010) - The cash-strapped Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) government wants to charge the federal government US\$105 per bed, per day for the use of its

U.S.-funded Department of Corrections facilities for illegal aliens. No deal has been struck between the parties amid questions on how the rate was established as Guam is currently charging just US\$77. With no space to hold detained aliens charged with criminal or immigration violations, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or (ICE), was forced to release at least 27 of these detainees on their own recognizance. According to a report of the General Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, ICE attempted to negotiate with the CNMI government for space at the local corrections facility as early as March 2009. The CNMI's first offer was US\$107 per day. This went down to US\$105 per day but no justification was provided,

## BOUGAINVILLE VOTERS GO TO POLLS

Results expected in two weeks

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, May 10, 2010) - In the autonomous Bougainville province of Papua New Guinea, Bougainvilleans began voting on Friday for the MPs who will make up Bougainville's Government. Voting kicks off in full force today for many districts and constituencies in central and south Bougainville, while those in the north continue from last Friday. Polling started on Friday in north Bougainville on a high-note while in the central and south, voting was at a slow pace because the assistant returning officers were still travelling and sorting out things over the weekend in order to be in full operation today. [PIR editor's note: Representatives from the Pacific Island Development Program (PIDP) at the East-West Center in Hawaii are among international experts monitoring the elections. PIDP produces the daily Pacific Islands Report as a service to developing nations across the Pacific See previous story.] A total of 134,279 registered voters are expected to vote in the next two weeks. There are 57,979 registered voters in north Bougainville, 27,648 in central Bougainville and 48,652 in south Bougainville. There are 13 districts and 33 constituencies where polling is underway.

## PNG TRIBES LAY DOWN ARMS AFTER 20-YEAR FEUD

20-years of bloody conflict over a chicken

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, May 10, 2010) - In mid 1989, a dog named "Kisem" owned by a Pastor Markus killed a rooster belonging to Chief Wospen Kipiap of the Enja tribe in the remote Nene village of the Bush Karinj area, Mendi electorate in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Kipiap was nearby when he heard the pastor who hails from the nearby Heo-swip tribe calling his dog "Kisem, Kisem" when it attacked his rooster. The pastor too was trying to stop the attack by calling the dog by its name. The chief then demanded to know why the pastor called his dog by its name. A quarrel started as a result of the misunderstanding. That quarrel ended with the death of 26 young men from both tribes, massive destruction to properties worth over millions of kina, women, children and elderly displaced and the whole area deserted over a period of 12 years from 1989 to 2002 in a tribal fight that ensued. This tribal war was known as the

"chicken and dog" fight between the Heo-swip and Enja tribes. The two prominent figures from the two warring factions, for the first time united their people and called for normalcy to return. Local Mendi MP Pastor Isaac Joseph hails from the Enja tribe and senior police officer Benson Osil is from the Heo-swip tribe.

#### COOK ISLANDS PRIME MINISTER SACKS HOUSE LEADER

Political crisis stymies parliament

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia, May 9, 2010) - The political crisis in Cook Islands continues following the sacking of the leader of the house, John Tangi, by Prime Minister Jim Marurai. Mr. Tangi has been outspoken against the Prime Minister's cabinet. Because of ongoing political turmoil, there has still not been a parliamentary sitting this year. Last year, Mr. Marurai sacked the former deputy and the leader of the Democratic Party, Terepai Moate and several government ministers then resigned in protest. Radio Australia reporter Ulamila Kurai Wragg says this latest move by the Prime Minister to remove John Tangi has only made the Cook Islands political situation worse. The Democratic Party president has referred to the sacking as bizarre and shameful. He cannot understand why Mr. Tangi was sacked from the house, because he was elected by parliament.

#### TELLEI ELECTED GOVERNOR IN PALAU'S MELEKEOK

Former governor convicted of corruption

KOROR, Palau (Palau Horizon, May 10, 2010) - In Palau, Aloisuis Along Tellei won as the governor of the Melekeok State Special Election held on May 4. Tellei garnered 196 votes against his opponent Kazuo Asanuma with 139 votes. The Melekeok State has 577 registered voters. However, only 351 have cast their votes. Tellei will serve the 18 months left of former Governor Lazarius Kodep term. Kodep resigned from his post on March because of irregularities. He was sentenced to five years in imprisonment and fined of US\$10,000 because of his criminal charges. Kodep was accused of converting public funds to his own use on at least 100 occasions between 2003 and 2007. As the new governor, Tellei's platform for the next 18 months is to encourage development by supporting the newly created MEDA and Planning Commission, continue to protect the environment by allowing only environmentally friendly developments and to strike the balance of leadership by protecting traditional leaders and at the same time allow ordinary citizens to take active roles in their government.

East-West Center

1601 East-West Road | Honolulu, HI 96848