



The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

November 5, 2020

The Honorable Reed B. Oliver
Governor
State of Pohnpei
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Re: Return of Caroline Voyager Vessel from Japan

Dear Governor Oliver:

Kaselehlie oh ahi sakaradahn wahu!

As you may be aware Caroline Voyager departed Pohnpei on August 18, 2020 for maintenance and repair services in Osaka, Japan. Upon arrival in Osaka on August 26th its crew underwent quarantine for 14 days and were issued shore passes valid for the duration of the maintenance period of the vessel or up to September 29th. The maintenance of the vessel was completed on September 29th and the crew got tested (RT-PCR) for COVID-19 on September 29- October 1st in preparation for its journey back to FSM. The test results for all crew members were negative.

Upon its departure from Osaka, another problem with the vessel was noticed so the vessel was returned to the Osaka shipyard for further check and repair. Caroline Voyager remained at the Osaka shipyard since then and the crew confined to the vessel given its shore pass had expired on September 29th, and while waiting for clearance from the FSM National COVID-19 Taskforce to sail. Last week the Osaka shipyard informed Caroline Voyager to vacate its shipyard or anchorage area in order to accommodate other vessels. It was given the deadline of November 4th to depart Osaka. On October 28-29th the crew of Caroline Voyager got tested (RT-PCR) again and results were negative for the COVID-19 virus.

Given the deadline to depart Japan was yesterday November 4th at 1700 hours, the crew had been confined to the vessel since September 29th, and the crew got tested again on October 28-29th with negative results for COVID-19, our National Taskforce met on Monday November 2nd and yesterday November 4th, and recommended that given the circumstances Caroline Voyager should return to Pohnpei, FSM. Based on the length of time that the crew were confined to the vessel in Osaka with no contact, their two negative test results for COVID-19, and that Caroline Voyager will sail for about 14 days back to FSM and will be subject to an additional 14 days quarantine in anchorage, the National Taskforce determined that Caroline Voyager, and its crew, are safe to return to Pohnpei, FSM.

In addition, our National Taskforce in collaboration with the Pohnpei Taskforce has prepared the attached protocol and standard operating procedures for monitoring, testing and management of the crew of Caroline Voyager from upon their arrival in FSM until they are deemed safe for release back into our community.



The Honorable Reed B. Oliver
November 5, 2020
Page 2

Our National Taskforce met and briefed me yesterday afternoon on the circumstances with Caroline Voyager in Japan, the safety of its crew, and the details of the protocol and standard operating procedures for their management upon arrival in Pohnpei, FSM. Based on all the detailed information provided to me, I approved Caroline Voyager to depart Japan as of yesterday at 1700 hours.

I asked that our respective taskforces continue to work together in preparation for the return of Caroline Voyager to Pohnpei, FSM and especially in close monitoring and management of its crew during quarantine in anchorage until release.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo". The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive nature of the writing.

David W. Panuelo
President

Enclosures: 1. Protocol for Return of Caroline Voyager
2. Maintenance Details of Caroline Voyager

xc: Speaker, FSM Congress
Chief Justice, FSM Supreme Court
Speaker, Pohnpei State Legislature
Chief Justice, Pohnpei Supreme Court