



The President
Palikür, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

EXECUTIVE ORDER

**Establishing and organizing a public education task force on
the proposed constitutional amendments to lower the threshold vote needed to amend the
constitution from 3/4 vote to 2/3 vote and to legalize dual citizenship**

WHEREAS, the 21st Congress established a constitutional convention through passage of Public Law No. 21-19, which was signed into law on August 7, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Convention proposed to amend Article XIV Section 1 of the constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, which if passed will lower the threshold vote needed to amend the FSM constitution from at least 3/4 vote of at least 3 out of 4 FSM states to 2/3 vote of at least 3 FSM states and also a constitutional amendment to legalize dual citizenship;

WHEREAS, it is critical and essential that the rationale, the intent and the implications of the proposed constitutional amendments are clearly explained to the voters in order to equip them with relevant information to be able to formulate their opinions and decisions on this important national issue; and

WHEREAS, public education is key to familiarize the voters with the legal, practical and related issues involved in the amendment, either in favor or against the proposed amendments.

NOW THEREFORE, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Federated States of Micronesia, I order as follows:

- (1) A public education task force (the "Task Force") is hereby constituted for the purposes stated in this order. The Task Force, chaired by the Secretary of Justice for organizational purposes, shall be made up of the following members:
 - Secretary of Finance and Administration,
 - Secretary of Education, as member,
 - Acting National Election Director,
 - Director of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation,
 - Secretary of Foreign Affairs (US Foreign Missions)
- (2) Delegates to Constitutional Convention whose names are submitted to the President shall join the Task Force, apportioned as follows:
 - 6 from Chuuk delegation,
 - 4 from Pohnpei delegation,
 - 2 from Kosrae delegation, and
 - 2 from Yap delegation.
- (3) The Speaker of the 21st Congress is invited to nominate four representatives from Congress to take part in the membership and activities of the Task Force.
- (4) The State Governors are invited to nominate representatives to the Task Force, as members, one for every state.



- (5) The Task Force shall encourage the involvement and cooperation of international NGOs and civil society by inviting them to join and assist in the activities of the Task Force in conducting public education of the proposed constitutional amendments. Among the international NGOs invited for this purpose are the following: COFA Alliance National Network (CANN); We Are Oceania; and the FSM Association of Guam.
- (6) The main function of the Task Force is to conduct a fair, transparent, balanced and effective public education and public awareness campaign in order to inform, educate, and familiarize the voters concerning the issues relating to the proposed constitutional amendments. In carrying out this role, the Task Force shall plan effectively in order to accomplish this task given the very limited time available prior to the March 2021 national election and the peculiar situation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force may establish appropriate committees and subcommittees to facilitate its activities.
- (7) Taking into consideration the extraordinary circumstances brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Task Force shall be mindful that in implementing its mandate all precautionary measures are observed. The Task Force shall create 5 teams for public education to be deployed simultaneously—one team per State and one team to assist FSM citizens abroad.
- (8) The Task Force shall have its first organizational meeting at the call of its chair, no later than November 18, 2020, to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson.
- (9) The Task Force may hire a secretariat and adopt such rules, procedures or guidelines, as may be necessary, to organize its meetings and the overall conduct of the affairs of the Task Force.
- (10) The chair of the Task Force shall report to the President of any progress of its work, on a periodic basis or as often as may be required by the President to make such report.
- (11) The Task Force shall recommend additional funding by supplemental appropriation as soon as possible.

SO ORDERED.

Date:

Nov 17th, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Panuelo
President