



*The President*  
*Palikir, Pohnpei*  
*Federated States of Micronesia*

**Decree suspending the use of Special Polling Places in Guam and in Honolulu for the November 12, 2021, Special Election for Election District No. 3 for Chuuk State**

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2020, an emergency decree was issued, and amended on February 25, 2021, temporarily suspending the use of special polling places for Guam and Honolulu for the March 2021 National Election and urging voters to plan ahead towards making requests for absentee ballots;

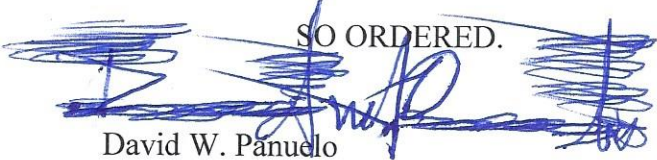
WHEREAS, a special election will be held on November 12, 2021, for the Election District No. 3 in Chuuk in accordance with a vacancy declared by the Speaker of the 22<sup>nd</sup> FSM Congress; and

WHEREAS, given the critical situation in Guam and in Honolulu due to the COVID-19 virus plus the Delta variant, it is critical to temporarily suspend voting at said special polling places for the special election to fill the vacancy for Chuuk State.

NOW THEREFORE, I, David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to the authority vested upon me by Article X Section 9(a) of the FSM Constitution and by Section 105 Title 9 of the FSM Code, and for the sake of protecting the public health and maintaining safety of our citizens abroad and respecting their right of suffrage in a democratic election process and to avoid disenfranchising eligible voters at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, do hereby DECREE as follows:

1. Voting at the special polling places in Guam and Honolulu is temporarily suspended during the conduct of the November 12, 2021 special election for Chuuk State. All health and safety protocols established in connection with the COVID-19 Pandemic shall be observed.
2. All Election Staff shall facilitate the safe and orderly receipt, evaluation, processing and counting of mailed-in absentee ballots, and shall avoid disenfranchising eligible voters.
3. The National Election Director in collaboration with the Chuuk Election Commissioner are directed to diligently process all requests for absentee ballots and expeditiously take action through the office of the Election Commissioner in Chuuk.

SO ORDERED.

  
David W. Panuelo  
President

Date: Sept 27, 2021