

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-73

RE: C.R. NO. 20-86/EXAFF

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MS. TERESA M. FILEPIN  
TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL IN GUAM, U.S.A.

AUGUST 3, 2018

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twentieth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fifth Special Session, 2018

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred  
C.R. No. 20-86, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MS. TERESA  
M. FILEPIN TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL IN GUAM,  
U.S.A.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in  
its title.

On February 15, 2018, the President transmitted through  
Presidential Communication No. 20-210 Congressional  
Resolution No. 20-86, which is the nomination of Ms. Teresa  
M. Filepin to serve as the FSM Consul General in Guam,  
U.S.A. In Presidential Communication No. 20-210, the bio  
data of the nominee was enclosed.

**Educational Background**

The nominee received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science  
at the University of Hawaii, Hilo Campus and an Academic  
Certificate on Public Administration and Public Services at

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the same institute in 1998. The nominee graduated with a diploma at Yap High school.

#### **Work Experiences**

For the nominee's past working experiences, she is currently the Director of Yap State Department of Education. She served as Director from 2015 until today. In 2004 to 2015, she served as the Director for COM-FSM, Yap Upward Bound Program. In 1999 to 2003, she served as the Assistant Manager for Mid-Pacific Company in the state of Yap.

#### **Trainings/Conferences**

The nominee participated in several trainings and conferences. In 2013, she attended the Educational Equity Board Training at the Western Association of Equal Opportunity in San Diego, California. In 2012, she took a course on Accreditation Basic Course by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges at COM-FSM. In 2011, she attended a Legislative and Regulatory Requirement Course at Western Kentucky University. In 2010, she participated in a Personnel Management Course at Western Kentucky University. She also attended a Priority 5 Training (TRIO Programs) at the University of California, Fresno State in 2008. She took a course on Grant Writing at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2006. In 2005, she attended a Budget Management and Record Keeping, Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C. The same year, she attended a Project Performance and Evaluation workshop at Western Kentucky University. She also took a Trial Counselor Training and Certification for the Yap State Bar Association, and currently is a member of the Yap State Bar Association.

#### **Other Professional and Community Services Experiences**

The nominee was elected as the Vice President of the FSM Women's Council in 2018 and has held that position since 2012. The nominee is amongst those that are eligible to sit as a Judge Pro Tem for the Yap State Court. In 2013 to 2015, she was a member of the Waab Community Health Centers

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Board. The nominee was a member of the Rull Community School Board from 2012 to 2015.

On July 9, 2018, your Committee held a public hearing on the nomination of Ms. Teresa M. Filepin at the FSM Consulate Office in Guam, U.S.A. Present at the hearing were Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly, Vice Chairman Dion G. Neth, Secretary Lorin Robert, Chief of Staff Leo Falcam Jr., Assistant Secretary Sohs John representing the Department of Finance and Administration, Assistant Attorney General Jun Bacalando, exiting Consul General Robert Reucho, Foreign Service Officers Johnny Silbanuz and Willy Williander, Administrative Assistant Linda Timothy, staff attorney Alik Jackson, and the nominee.

Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly opened the hearing and greeted everyone. He introduced the members and staff of the FSM Congress, as well as the witnesses from the Executive branch that travelled with the Committee to the confirmation hearing. Then Chairman Welly welcomed the nominee, and gave her an opportunity to say a few words.

The nominee thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to comment on her nomination and reciprocated her warm greetings to the Chairman and the rest of the members of the Committee on External Affairs and representatives from the Executive branch for taking the time to travel to Guam to conduct the hearing. She then gave Secretary Lorin Robert to say a few words before she continues.

Secretary Robert thanked the nominee and reiterated to the Committee the President's strong support for the nominee. He emphasized that the nominee was a respected member in the FSM Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) group for her exceptional performance at several JEMCO meetings. Secretary Robert indicated that as one of the FSM members to the JEMCO, he really admired her performance. Thus, it is a testimony that supports her quality to be a Consul General. Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr. expressed strong support and

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indicated that the nominee brings a wealth of experience as justified in her resume.

Chairman Welly asked the nominee what she thinks about the salary of the Consul General. The nominee indicated that she is not really care about the salary. She informed the Committee that she even gave up a lucrative position to take the Director of Education position for Yap State. Chairman Welly continued by asking the nominee whether the leadership of Yap State was informed about her nomination. The nominee indicated that the Governor of Yap State informed her that, if she is confirmed to the position, it will be a lost to Yap State, but he supported the effort of nation building. The nominee at the end informed the Committee that the Yap State leadership is fully aware.

Vice Chairman Dion G. Neth asked who first approached her about the position. The nominee explained that the President talked to her about the position sometimes in December 2017, and she already expressed her interest. Assistant Attorney General Jun Bacalando, on behalf of Secretary Joses Gallen, informed the committee that the Department of Justice fully supports the nominee. The two Foreign Service Officers and the Administrative staff expressed their support for the nominee.

The nominee was given another opportunity to comment on her nomination. She once again thanked the Committee and its support for her cannot be overemphasized. She said that she is a quick learner and stands ready for any decision.

Chairman Welly expressed his support for the nominee. He also commented that health and education issues facing the FSM citizens here in Guam and elsewhere are important issues, which she should be anticipating if she becomes a Consul General.

Your Committee would like to offer the following technical amendment to read as follows:

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- 1) Page 1, insert 14, delete "Fourth Regular" and insert  
"Fifth Special Session" in lieu thereof;

Four Regular and Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Ms. Teresa M. Filipen be confirmed as the FSM Consul General in Guam, U.S.A. Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 20-86, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 20-86, C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Dion G. Neth  
Dion G. Neth, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland  
Victor V. Gouland, member

David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, member