ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF YAP
PO Box 99
Colonia, State of Yap
Federated States of Micronesia
Telephone: (691) 350-2400/1 | Fax: (691) 350-4106 | E-Mail Address: yaplegis@gmail.com

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July 3, 2024

Standing Comm. Report No. 11-107
Re: Resolution No. 11-79

adopted 7/5/24

The Honorable Nicholas Figirlaarwon
Speaker
Eleventh Legislature of the State of Yap
Second Regular Session, 2024

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources, Education and Development, to which was referred Resolution No. 11-79, entitled:

> "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING BENEDICT RIKIN AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of the resolution is expressed in its title.

On June 13, 2024 Governor Charles Chieng transmitted to the Legislature for consent, his nomination for Benedict Rikin for Director of Resources and Development (Gov. Comm. No. 11-244). Your Committee on RED was assigned the communication. In his transmittal, the Governor also attached Mr. Rikin's resume. Resolution No. 11-79 was introduced, by request, by Floor Leader Ted Rutun on July 2, 2024 to confirm the nomination.

Your Committee held a public hearing for the nomination on June 24, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Legislative Chamber. The following witnesses were present:

1. Benedict Rikin
2. Governor Chieng
3. Nicholas Figirlaarwon, YSL
4. Ted Rutun, YSL

The hearing started with opening remarks from the Governor citing the multiple appointments of Mr. Rikin in previous posts, but was unable to muster enough votes for confirmation. The Governor further re-iterated the qualifications of Mr. Rikin in working at National and State as beneficial to the State. The nominee testified directly to his commitment to serve in whatever capacity he is placed. He does, however, qualify that other aspects like his health would play a factor in the future, and he cannot give an assurance that he is able to be in the position should all these factors interfere. He further testified that he is not aware at the

moment of any economic plans in the works, but he is ready and able to work at the Governor's instruction.

Mr. Rikin also stated that his focus, if left to his decision, would be on promoting the local people in advancing local community commerce, initiatives and other economic endeavors. He sees that training and providing practical opportunities for our local businesses to improve and for new ones to commence. Other issues regarding ethical standards in government were also mentioned, and the nominee advocates using the current system, along with available counseling for those persons who may need encouragement to do better. He believes he would need to establish a plan, vision and standards for the Department to use regardless of Administration.

Your Committee has reviewed the nomination of Mr. Benedict Rikin, and we have concurred with Governor's nomination, as the position has been vacant for an extended period. Thus, your Committee after review, is in accord with the purpose and intent of Resolution No. 11-79, and recommends its adoption in its original form.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mafel - Chairman — Date: 7/5/24

Liyon Sulog - Vice Chairman — Date: 7/5/2024

John Masiwemai - Member — Date