



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF CHUUK
Federated States of Micronesia

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ALEXANDER R. NARRUHN
Governor
MEKIOSHY WILLIAM
Lieutenant Governor

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2025, the vessel Rio De Janeiro, anchored east of Uman Island in Chuuk Lagoon, discharged oil into surrounding waters; and

WHEREAS, assessments of the Chuuk State Environment Protection Agency (EPA) inspection teams confirmed visible dark thick oil along approximately 5.5 kilometers (3.4 miles) of shoreline, affecting the villages of Panitiw, Nukanap, Sopota and Sopotiw, and other nearby areas of the lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the spill has caused significant environmental damage, including contamination of mangrove ecosystems, coral reefs, seaweed beds, and rocky shorelines, and evidence of oil residue reaching taro patches, bananas, breadfruit, and other crops; and

WHEREAS, this incident poses grave risks to : Public health through exposure to toxic fumes, contaminated waters, and unsafe food supplies; Community livelihoods and food security; by disrupting fishing, farming, and subsistence agricultures; and Environmental sustainability: by threatening marine and coastal ecosystems critical to Chuuk's long-term survival; and

WHEREAS, despite initial containment measures (absorbent pads, dispersants, and public advisories), the scale and severity of the spill exceed the response capacity of Chuuk State agencies, which lack specialized cleanup equipment, technical expertise, medical monitoring capacity, and financial resources to sustain long-term recovery; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 12(a) of the Chuuk State Constitution authorizes the Governor to declare a state of emergency and issue appropriate decrees when required to preserve public peace, health, or safety at a time of extreme emergency caused by natural disaster or equivalent threat; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by Article VI, section 12 of the Chuuk State Constitution which requires the State to preserve public peace, health,, welfare and safety at a time of extreme emergency caused by vessel Rio De Janeiro, anchored east of Uman Island in Chuuk Lagoon, discharged oil into surrounding affected areas of Panitiw, Nukanap, Sopota and Sopotiw on September 11, 2025, and which may affect nearby areas of the lagoon.

FURTHER, I hereby decree as follows:

1. Emergency Response Mobilization

All Chuuk State Agencies shall immediately coordinate with the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency to contain, mitigate and monitor the oil spill.

2. Community Protection

Residents in affected areas are ordered to refrain from fishing, swimming, or collection of water from contaminated coastal zones until further notice.

3. Intergovernmental & International Assistance

Requests for emergency technical, logistical, and financial support shall be submitted to the FSM National Government, partner States and international organizations.

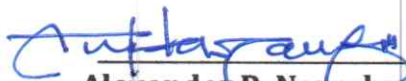
4. That Financial Management Act, as amended, and its applicable rules and regulations, other applicable laws, and affected statutes and rules are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Declaration to the extent necessary including deadline for submission of financial documents which shall be duly extended, and expenditures that may relate to the services of the Department of Health Services as a result of this emergency;

5. Authorizing the decreeing of such sums, from appropriated funds and other proper sources as may be identified hereafter, as shall be necessary to be used for the implementation of the purposes of this Declaration.

6. The Emergency account set up by the Director of Department of Administrative Services shall continue to exist, and access the funding sources forthwith, as provided above per Governor's memorandum for the purpose of the expenditures and for any disbursement relating to this Declaration of Emergency.

- 7. This Declaration shall remain in effect for fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance, unless sooner terminated or extended as provided by law.**

SO ORDERED AND DECREED this 15th day of September, 2025


Alexander R. Narruhn®
Governor
State of Chuuk