



The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

EMERGENCY DECLARATION NO. 25-01

In Connection with the Oil Leak from the Rio De Janeiro Maru in the Chuuk Lagoon

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2025, the Governor of the State of Chuuk, the honorable Alexander R. Narruhn, declared a state of emergency in Chuuk due to an oil leak from the Rio De Janeiro Maru, a WWII sunken Japanese warship, located East of Uman, Island in Chuuk Lagoon, discharging oil into the surrounding waters in the lagoon, causing significant environmental damage and contamination of mangrove ecosystems, coral reefs, seaweed beds, and rocky shorelines, and impacting upon taro patches, bananas, breadfruit, and other crops grown on the islands in the Lagoon;

WHEREAS, this incident poses severe and grave risks to public health through significant exposure to toxic fumes, contaminated waters, and unsafe food supplies, while also disrupting and threatening the livelihoods and food security of the affected communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Government and the Chuuk State Government, working through national departments and agencies with support from partners including the United States, Japan and Australia, and with direct assistance on the ground by JMAS, have undertaken ongoing alleviation and rehabilitation efforts which are deeply appreciated, yet these efforts remain insufficient to fully address the magnitude of the emergency caused by the ongoing oil leak;

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution and the Laws of the Federated States of Micronesia, including in particular Article X Section 9(a) of the FSM Constitution, 41 F.S.M.C. 705, et seq., and 55 F.S.M.C. 610, et seq., I hereby declare and direct as follows:

1. I hereby declare a state of emergency in the State of Chuuk; as such, the resources of the National Government are committed to supplement the available resources using foreign assistance and then such domestic resources as are needed, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

2. This declaration is based on the state declaration of emergency made for Chuuk, finding that the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the present capability of Chuuk State.

3. The National Emergency Task Force (the "Task Force") is immediately constituted to take immediate steps and to act as required under this emergency declaration and shall systematically develop a plan to alleviate or mitigate the adverse effects of the oil leak from the Rio De Janeiro Maru in the Chuuk lagoon, determine the most effective manner in addressing the emergency given the limited available resources of the National Government and the State



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Government and take such immediate steps to support relief efforts towards citizens impacted by the emergency. Under this declaration, the emergency task force shall act swiftly, coordinate with the State of Chuuk and international partners, and report back to the President with concrete recommendations on how to address the situation.

4. The Task Force shall be comprised of the following departments and agencies:

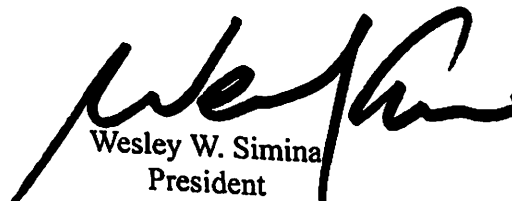
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, as chair;
- Office of National Archive, Culture and Historic Preservation, as co-chair;
- Department of Resources and Development, as a member;
- Department of Justice, as a member;
- Department of Foreign Affairs, as a member;
- Department of Finance & Administration, as a member;
- Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure, as a member;
- Department of Education, as a member; and
- Department of Health as a member.

5. The Disaster Relief Fund under Chapter 6 Title 55 of the FSM Code, the Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) in accordance with the Amended Compact, and other emergency-related funds available to the FSM National Government and the State Government of Chuuk are activated to be used to assist, support, and supplement the National and State relief, rehabilitation and mitigation efforts. The Office of Compact Management and the Department of Foreign Affairs shall coordinate with the US Embassy in Kolonia to ensure the immediate and expeditious release of the DAEF and other emergency Compact funding and assistance in response to the emergency.

6. The competitive bidding required in the Financial Management Act and Regulation, to the extent otherwise applicable to any government procurement, and the import tax for purchases and donations in connection with the declared emergency, are hereby waived.

7. The Task Force is mandated to coordinate with Chuuk State in implementing any emergency response and shall keep the President timely informed through the submission of periodic written progress reports.

SO DECLARED on this 22nd day of September 2025.


Wesley W. Simina
President