



The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

President Mori's National Day Message
To
The People of the Federated States of Micronesia
November 3, 2009

My fellow Citizens,

On this *twenty-third birthday* of our Nation, I am pleased to extend warm greetings *to all of you* as your President. I am joined by Vice President Alik and our families, in offering congratulations and *best wishes* to all *of our* citizens and friends throughout the Federation on this special day in honor of the anniversary of our independence. Twenty-three for a country is still very young but I know we have *continued to grow and mature* as a sovereign and independent people, aspiring to work and live *in peace* as a united people for our common *good*.

On this occasion we also like to pay special tribute to our traditional, community and *church* leaders, who over the years have been our Nation's source of wisdom, *strength* and guidance.

On this anniversary day, we *should* be proud of the accomplishments we have made in the face of formidable challenges and adversities. Our unity as a Federation remains strong, despite the diversity of our people, the vast distances *separating* us, and *our meager resources*. We *should also* be proud of our unique political system which is reflective of our varied circumstances, and yet still provides for the enjoyment of peace, freedom and respect for our diversity.

Our Federation has also *gained* respect and recognition in the *international* community. We speak with an equal voice in the *United Nations* and have made friends who share our concerns, interests and values. Our Nation is a *responsible and active* member of the international *and regional* community which has borne beneficial fruits for our nation-building efforts. Given our inherent shortcomings and the myriad of challenges confronting our *nation*, we will continue to count on the *generous* assistance of our friends and partners such as the United States, Japan, China, and Australia, among others.

As a member of the world community, we take our responsibility seriously and will continue to collaborate with nations of the world to find solutions to our most urgent problem of climate change as well as the current financial turmoil impacting the global economy. At the same time, FSM will endeavor to strengthen its resilience to these major challenges by becoming more self-reliant.



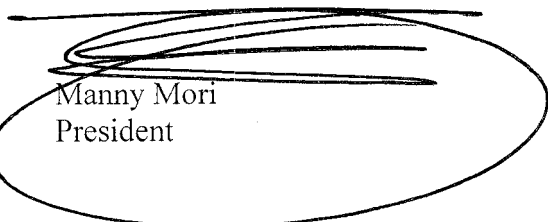
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On this historic occasion, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable assistance provided by our development partners and urge their continued support for our development efforts. The congratulatory messages received from the resident missions, and perhaps others from abroad are indicative of the strong bonds of friendship we have with them, and I want to thank them all for their kind words *and best wishes* on this special day *for us and our Nation*.

I also want to summon the strong spirit and dedication of all our citizens to the continuing cause of nation-building. Vice President Alik and I have benefited tremendously from your individual and collective support and cooperation during the past year, and I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one for the contribution you have made, whether *large or small*, to the *all-important task of building a nation that we can be proud of calling home*.

Having inherited what we have today from our founding fathers, it is only appropriate that we recognize their pioneering work in the formative stage of our Nation and pay tribute to them by making this twenty-third anniversary of our independence a true celebration of their enduring legacies, *and more importantly by remaining true to the principles upon which our Nation was founded*.

Once again, congratulations, and May the Almighty God keep us safe, united and at peace *now and forever*.



Manny Mori
President