



# KIDID KWŌJKWŌJ

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## President Heine Issues Out Statement Regarding the Vote Of No Confidence



President Dr. Hilda C. Heine delivered a video statement regarding the Vote of No Confidence on November 9.

In her statement, President Heine stated that the VONC is baseless and calling it a smokescreen for the RASAR, which was not approved. She shared several examples of the progress that were made over the years. To watch the video, click [here](#).

President Heine and the Cabinet faced a vote of no confidence motion that was officially brought forth on November 2. The petitioners of the intent for a motion of No Confidence were Senator Alfred Alfred Jr., Senator Jerakoj Bejan; Senator Bruce Bilimon, Senator David Kabua, Senator Leander Leander Jr., Senator Casten Nemra, Senator Eldon Note, and Senator Atbi Riklon.

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## Steady Progress on Agenda 2020

A review of Agenda 2020 finds satisfactory progress on the plan's major objectives, as well as some areas for improvement. Adopted by President Dr. Hilda C. Heine in 2016, Agenda 2020 is the government's roadmap for progress and reform.

The plan identifies 20 major challenges and reforms to be addressed by the year 2020. Its main aim is to improve the social, environmental, and economic well-being of the Marshallese people. President Heine is the first RMI President to adopt a four-year roadmap, in line with the four-year political cycle.

Implentation of Agenda 2020 ...(continued on page 6)

# Chronological Order of the Vote Of No Confidence

Below is the list (in chronological order) the motions of no confidence in the political history of the Marshall Islands:

- 1) September 2, 1998 - Motion moved against President Imata Kabua and his Cabinet Members.
- 2) January 15, 2001 - Motion moved against President Kessai Note and his Cabinet Members.
- 3) October 21, 2008 - Motion moved against President Litokwa Tomeing and his Cabinet Members.
- 4) April 8, 2009 - Motion moved against President Litokwa Tomeing and his Cabinet Members.
- 5) October 13, 2009 - Motion moved against President Litokwa Tomeing and his Cabinet Members.
- 6) November 14, 2013 - Motion moved against President Christopher Loeak and his Cabinet Members.
- 7) March 7, 2014 - Motion moved against President Christopher Loeak and his Cabinet Members.
- 8) January 18, 2016 - Motion moved against President Casten Nemra and his Cabinet Members.
- 9) November 05, 2018 – Motion moved against President Dr. Hilda C. Heine and her Cabinet Members.



“Elane jen kar kommane juon ekkatak rainin im lale ewi weween an armej lomnak, ij tomak jenaj loe bwe ilon in lok 60% rejjab erra ilo vote in jelke in kinke emoj an allikar ilo aolep jerbak ko an maantak, ke Kien in ear, ej, im eban jemlok an komaat an maron nan kokmanmanlok mour in armej in Majol im kinke keidi nan tobrak ko an Kien in, un kein jaki maantak, re-pejpej.”  
-President Dr. Hilda C. Heine’s response to the Vote Of No Confidence.

## RMI DELEGATION FOCUSING ON CANCER EXPLORES NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The RMI’s National Nuclear Commission (NNC), in collaboration with the RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services (HHS), participated in a series of meetings in Seattle, Washington to explore opportunities for new partnerships to improve cancer screening and treatment for Marshallese. This meeting represented the first time that the RMI Government moved outside of traditional US-RMI bilateral government discussions about cancer care and demonstrates the commitment of the RMI to pursue all avenues to provide adequate healthcare for the Marshallese impacted by the U.S. nuclear weapons testing program.





## RMI ATTENDS 2018 NYIFF FOR THE FIRST TIME

In early October, Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs Amenta Matthew led a delegation to participate at the 2018 NanYing International Folklore Festival (NYIFF) held in Tainan, Republic of China (Taiwan.) The RMI delegation comprised of Irojilaplap Boklong and Lejla Kasko Zackious, Mayor of Wotje Ota Kisino and spouse, Secretary of Culture and Internal Affairs Wallace Peter, officials from the RMI Embassy to ROC(Taiwan), and the Jebo Cultural Group. This is the RMI's first appearance at the nationally televised event.

The Cultural Affairs Division of Tainan City Government has been hosting the NYIFF for the last 23 years. It is one of the largest and most renowned festivals held in ROC (Taiwan.) The festival, brought more than ten thousand participants and spectators alike, aims to preserve the cultural heritage from countries all over the world and provide an opportunity for international cultural exchanges. This year 18 countries, including the RMI were selected to participate at this year's NYIFF.

## HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS QUARTERLY MEETING



The quarterly meeting for head of departments from government agencies, state-owned agencies and entities took place November 6 at the International Conference Center. This is the second quarterly meeting for head of departments, the first quarterly meeting was held in late March. The meeting discussed methods to improve performance, issues relating to ethics, updates from Ministries and SOE, among others.

President Dr. Hilda C. Heine attended the quarterly meeting where reiterated that customer service has always been a priority for her administration and their roles as Head of Departments is pivotal. "Your thinking and your work would help the government. This government has been interested in making sure that people are at the center of what we do. We have shown our commitment in several areas but need to improve in others. We need to ensure that the service is efficient and reaching everyone equally."

## ROC (TAIWAN) TRADE MISSION COURTESY CALL

On November 2, the Trade and Investment Mission of the Republic of China (Taiwan) paid a courtesy visit to President Dr. Hilda C. Heine. Ambassador of ROC (Taiwan) Jeffrey Hsiao accompanied the delegation which was led by Assistant Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hsiao-Feng Tseng and comprised of six representatives from various private sectors in ROC (Taiwan.)

President Heine expressed her gratitude for their visit. She hoped that their visit will create opportunities to start and build connections stating that their visit enhances the economic exchange and cooperation for the two countries.



## PRESIDENT HEINE & CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SIGN HISTORIC PACT



Government took a major step forward in strengthening its partnership with civil society with the signing of a new Partnership Framework Agreement between the government and the Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organizations (MICNGOs). The agreement supports President Dr. Hilda C. Heine's Agenda 2020, which aims to improve social, environmental, and economic well-being in the country.

MICNGOs is the national umbrella organization for Civil Society Organizations (CSO), composed of numerous organizations that address a wide range of development challenges. These include health, education, environment, women's rights, youth, climate change, and more.



Although government has worked with various groups in the past, this is the first time that a formal partnership agreement with CSO has been forged. Under the agreement, Government will provide an annual grant of \$120,000 to strengthen MICNGOs and its member organizations, and in return these groups will provide advice and support to Government on its objectives under Agenda 2020 and the National Strategic Plan.

The historic agreement was signed on November 8 at the Cabinet Conference room by President Dr. Hilda C. Heine and MICNGOs Chairman Alson Kelen. During the signing ceremony, President Heine stated that "Including civil society strengthens the conversation about sustainable development among key stakeholders; and where civil society can supplement as well as scrutinize government reports, we will be able to serve everyone better and ensure no one is left behind."

## RMI FOCUSING ON CANCER EXPLORES NEW PARTNERSHIP CONTINUED

The delegation was led by Deputy Secretary Mailyynn Konelios-Langinlur, and included several sectors of cancer care that were essential to bring into the brainstorming session in Seattle, including patient and clinical care in the RMI, cancer registry, and cancer screening and cancer prevention. Other HHS Ministry representatives included: Neiar Kabua, Suzanne Philippo, Dr. Aina Garstang, Erma Myazoe, and Daisy Pedro. The NNC was represented by NNC Commissioner Dr. Holly Barker and NNC Public Education and Awareness Coordinator Ariana Tibon.

According to the NNC Chair, Rhea Moss-Christian, the brain storming session in Seattle was an overwhelming success: "NNC's collaboration with HHS is essential to ensuring that health care needs arising from the nuclear testing program will be addressed. This collaboration will require even greater stakeholder input if we are to be successful but as an initial step, the commitment by the HHS team to the Seattle discussions is inspiring and the NNC looks forward to building on the momentum that this group has started."

The centerpiece of the Seattle meetings was a half-day brainstorming session at the Fred Hutch/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility co-hosted the meeting with the NNC and highlights the types of partnerships the RMI Government is trying to develop in the pursuit of nuclear justice. Participants at the brainstorming included world-renowned cancer care physicians, epidemiologists, clinical physicians in Washington State working with Marshallese communities, international healthcare delivery organizations, and Marshallese community members in the greater Seattle area. The involvement of Marshallese in Washington was essential to the meeting because it helped participants to better understand the range of

## HISTORIC PACT CONTINUED

In his remarks, Chairman Kelen thanked President Heine for her pioneering leadership and commitment to helping the Marshallese people improve their lives.

## CABINET APPROVALS

At the meeting dated October 18, Cabinet recently approved Isabela Silk as a new member of the Marshall Islands Postal Services Authority (MIPSA) Board of Directors and appointed Catalino Kijiner as the new Chairman of the MIPSA Board, replacing the former Chairman Ainrik George, who is now the new Postmaster General. MIPSA Board of Directors include Sophia Fowler, Abon Jeadrik, and Misao Joe. FOR THE CABINET DECISIONS, CLICK [HERE](#)



### Inform Project Launch

The launching of the Inform Project took place in early August at Marshall Islands Resort Lomalo Conference Room. The project intends to strengthen, improve, storage, and use the environmental information. This will assist with Inform's aim to systematize environmental information and place it in a single national database.

During the inception of the Inform project, Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination Director Clarence Samuel stated "I am pleased to see the Inform project responding to key outcomes and recommendations of the RMI National Capacity Self-Assessment report."

To read more on Inform Project Launch, click [here](#).

## RMI FOCUSING ON CANCER EXPLORES NEW PARTNERSHIP CONTINUED

barriers facing cancer care both in the islands and the US, as well as to identify potential areas to overcome those obstacles. David Anitok, Jiji Jally, and Rachel Hoffman connected the experiences of stateside Marshallese to the need for improved cancer services in the RMI. Dr. Neal Palafox did an outstanding job of communicating to the cancer innovation experts the ways that healthcare needs in the RMI intersect with nuclear justice.

As a result of the brainstorming session, the RMI Government is pursuing an additional site in Auburn, Washington to refer Marshallese cancer patients for treatment, and the RMI received extensive interest by physicians to travel to the RMI to bolster RMI Government medical missions. Physicians working with Marshallese families in community clinics in Washington believe that volunteering on the medical missions will both support RMI healthcare efforts as well as improve physicians' understanding of issues impacting the well-being of Marshallese patients in the U.S.

Another major activity for the RMI delegation was visiting with PATH, a Seattle-based international healthcare organization (which used to stand for Partnerships in Appropriate Technology for Health). An executive leader within PATH, a former Peace Corps Volunteer in the RMI, Katharine Kreis, is particularly interested in working with the Ministry of HHS to write grants that support cancer screening, prevention, and treatment.

The meetings in Seattle were a continuation of conversations started in Majuro about ways that all stakeholders can better support cancer care for Marshallese patients. The NNC requested that HHS participants in the Seattle meeting report their recommendations for further action to the NNC and the RMI Government so the NNC can facilitate initiatives identified and maintained by HHS.



## RUSSIAN FEDERATION AMBASSADOR COURTESY VISIT

President Dr. Hilda C. Heine received a courtesy call from the Russian Federation Ambassador Igor A. Khovaev at the Cabinet Conference room on October 31. Accompanying Russian Federation Ambassador was Honorary Consul of Russia Philip Muller and Embassy of the Russian Federation First Secretary Dmitry Larionov. President Heine welcomed Ambassador Khovaev on his third visit to the Marshall Islands. President Heine and Russian Federation Ambassador Khovaev discussed Russia's candidature for the next World Expo in 2025 and other areas of mutual interest.

## STEADY PROGRESS ON AGENDA 2020 CONTINUED

...is monitored by the Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office, with broader oversight by the Office of the Chief Secretary. In reviewing Agenda 2020, Chief Secretary Benjamin Graham has found steady progress on the majority of actions, with numerous reforms, projects, and initiatives underway to address the country's most pressing challenges. For example, since 2016 actions have been taken to: initiate reforms and begin preparations for the 2023 Compact of Free Association transition, improve basic health facilities and services, undertake education reforms and improvements, directly support vulnerable groups, address climate change mitigation and adaptation, strengthen disaster preparedness, enhance water and energy security, and improve the welfare of people in the outer islands, Majuro, and Ebeye.

In reviewing Agenda 2020, the Chief Secretary expressed that, "We have more reforms and major projects underway now, with more development partners, than ever before in our history. This brings new opportunities and resources but also requires that we improve the way we work to maximize the results."

Within the government, good progress has been made in reforming key operations. Reforms underway will improve fiscal and financial management, procurement, state-owned enterprises, and the operations of Ministry of Finance, Banking, and Postal Services. (Continued page 11)

## 5TH KOREA-PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Bruce Kijiner represented the RMI at the 5th Korea-Pacific Islands Countries (ROK-PIC) Senior Officials Meeting which took place from October 22 to 23.

The meeting reviewed and provided updates on the outcomes from the last Ministerial meeting in December 2017 and discussed current regional priorities and cooperation including climate change and resilience, sustainable oceans management and conservation, fisheries, 2030 agenda for sustainable



development and regional security matters within the context of the Forum Leaders' Boe Declaration. Secretary Kijiner led the discussions around sustainable management and conservation, and some focus on President Heine's recently launched IUU Free Pacific 2023. They held discussions with Executive Team of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) where countries were provided updates of state of proposals. For the RMI, the GCF Board approved the Pacific Resilience Project Phase II for the RMI in the amount of US\$44.1 million and another proposal in the pipeline to strengthen National Designated Authority (NDA) and coordination in the country estimated at US\$3 million.



## PACIFIC ISLANDS TRANSPORT FORUM & EXPOSITION

From November 8 - November 10 is the Pacific Islands Transport Forum and Expo hosted by the governments of Republic of Fiji and RMI and the University of the South Pacific. The forum will provide an opportunity for Pacific Island Ministers and senior officials to discuss decarbonizing the transport sector.

President Dr. Hilda C. Heine sends a video message to the Transport Forum. RMI Embassy in Fiji Deputy Chief of Mission Albon T. Ishoda is representing the RMI.

## RMI EMBASSY IN TAIWAN HOSTS RMI BOOTH AT 2018 ASIA-PACIFIC CULTURE DAY

RMI Embassy to the Republic of China (Taiwan) hosted a Marshall Islands booth at this year's Asia-Pacific Culture Day (APCD). Organized by the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two-day event brought over 100 thousand people and highlighted the cultures of participating countries and local municipalities; provided the unique opportunity for cultural exchanges; and in-depth and meaningful people-centered interaction. The Marshallese



Students Association once again complimented the efforts of the Embassy to promote the Republic and its unique customs and traditions through the display of cultural performances and music.

Charge' d'Affaires at the RMI Embassy to ROC(Taiwan) Anjanette Kattil stated through the Embassy's social media page that, "cultural diplomacy is vital in fostering friendships and mutual understanding between peoples and countries and who better to help promote Marshall Islands and Marshallese customs and traditions in Taiwan than the Marshallese students who live and study in Taiwan themselves?"



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

October was the month for Breast Cancer Awareness. To increase the efforts of awareness of the disease, the committee of the campaign have planned several activities throughout the month. Members of the committee included members from Mejerik Club, the Cancer Support Group, the Breast Cancer Society, official from the Ministry of Health and Human Services, and others.

The Breast Cancer Awareness month kicked off with the 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and Run held on 19 October. Minister of Health and Human Services Kaneko delivers remarks at the 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and Run.

In his remarks, Minister Kaneko acknowledged the power of collaboration. He conveyed his gratitude towards Marshall Islands Breast Cancer Society, Mejerik Club, and the Cancer Support group for collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Human Services for the success of the event and



## INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF ASSOCIATE JUSTICE WITTEN T. PHILIPPO

The investiture ceremony for the Honorable Witten T. Philippo, Associate Justice of the High Court, was held on October 29. In his welcoming remarks High Court Chief Justice Carl Ingram, expressed his gratitude to those who attended and conveyed his appreciation to outgoing Associate Judge Colin Winchester. Chief Justice Ingram stated that Judge Winchester demonstrated diligence and exemplified integrity. Following his remarks, was presentation of gift to Judge Winchester. The administration of oath was conducted by Chief Justice Ingram. Witnessing the event were President Heine, representatives from the three branches of the RMI Government, diplomatic corps, and family and friends of Associate Judge Philippo.

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH EVENT CONTINUED



believed that the other breast cancer awareness events will be informative, enlightening, and valuable.

Minister Kaneko briefly touched on breast cancer statistics in which he revealed that from 1994 to 2018, 103 Marshallese were diagnosed with breast cancer. He further expressed that of the 100, three of those diagnosed were male. He shared that there are 29 survivors out of the 103. Concluding his remarks, Minister Kaneko extended his appreciation to both the men and women who attended the walkathon; paid tribute to those who have fought against breast cancer; and recognized the breast cancer survivors that participated in the event.

Following the 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and Run, twenty-two teams participated in the 5th Annual Breast Cancer Fishing Tournament that took place on October 20. Nurses from the Ministry of Health and Human Services provided free health screening.

The first annual Pink Ribbon Event – Pink Tea Party was held October 25 at Marshall Islands Resort Lomalo Conference Room. Many women of all ages occupied the venue with their pink outfits and festive hat.

Remarks came from President Dr. Hilda C. Heine, Secretary of Health and Human Services Julia Alfred, and Mejerik Club President Brenda Alik.

In her remarks, President Heine extended her gratitude to the organizers (Ministry of Health and Human Services, Mejerik Club, Marshall Islands Breast Cancer Society, and Cancer Support Group) for the invitation and conveyed appreciation that this event supports breast cancer awareness and efforts in the Marshall Islands. She paid tribute to those who have fought and recognized those who are currently fighting.





Photo Courtesy: CVF Facebook page

## “CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN ECONOMIC PROBLEM...”

Minister of Finance, Banking, and Postal Services Brenson S. Wase collaborated with Philippines Climate Change Commission Emmanuel de Guzman in writing an op-ed for the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

In their piece, Minister Wase and Mr. de Guzman explain why international banks should fund action on climate change. To read their opinion editorial, click [here](#).

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH EVENT CONTINUED



President Heine stated that health is both government responsibility and an individual choice. She underscored that health is an important right for all and that it is the Government’s responsibility to ensure that there are facilities and specialists to assist the people. She further added that individuals have the choice to seek health care. She explained that the series of Breast Cancer Awareness events is a prime example of raising awareness- individuals gain more knowledge of breast cancer, what they can do, and where they should go to get checked up. She emphasized that it is pivotal for the attendees to share with other women and men (who did not attend the tea party) the new information they gained from the event and that the Ministry of Health and Human Services is offering free mammogram services for the entire month of October.

President Heine stated that according to the report from the Ministry of Health and Human Services, the second-leading cause of death in the RMI is cancer and that breast cancer is the third most common cancer in the RMI. She advised everyone to get their mammogram test yearly.

During her remarks, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alfred shared the recent RMI Hybrid survey for NCD Factors: 73% of adults in RMI are overweight and obese; 5% of adults in RMI consume 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day; 66% of women ages 21-65 years have not tested for cervical cancer; and that 78% of women ages 50-74 years did not get tested for breast cancer.

Adding on to the RMI Hybrid Survey for NCD Factors, Secretary Alfred revealed that since the beginning of October 2018 only twenty-nine women got their mammogram. She reiterated that the screening is free and hoped that the numbers would increase in the next few days. She suggested that the pink hats and pink decorations should adorn the Radiology Hall to encourage more people to get their mammogram.

Meanwhile in Ebeye, the Ministry of Health and Human Services, Public School System, and Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGOV) organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk-a-thon October 29. Attending the event were children, youth, seniors who colored Ebeye with pink. Remarks came from Ministry of Health and Human Services, Office of the Chief Secretary, KALGOV, and Breast Cancer Survivor Maryia DeBrum.



## KOBEJ NAN JAAN (TRASH FOR CASH) UPDATE

The Kobej Nan Jaan (Trash For Cash) that was launched in August 10 has over more than a million cans and bottles. RMI Environmental Protection Authority recently revealed in their Facebook page that 1.5 million cans and bottles were collected from mid-August till early October. Sixty percent of the collected cans and bottles were aluminum and forty percent were PET bottles.

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, IMMIGRATION & LABOR RETREAT

Ministry of Justice, Labor and Immigration to have their first Ministry retreat. The retreat was held for two days (November 2 – November 3) and brought together officials from various departments within the Ministry. The purpose of the retreat was to strengthen the Ministry by understanding each divisions objectives, gain a deeper perception of the roles and responsibilities of each division, identifying divisions strengths, develop strategies to address the challenges, and increase efficiency in everyday work.

Opening remarks came in from Minister of Justice, Labor and Immigration Jack Ading. He emphasized the importance of understanding roles and how it supports the mandate and structure of the Ministry. He further added that the coordination and collaboration is essential in harmonizing the flow in the Ministry.

Following Minister Ading's remarks, the dialogue session took place in which officials from Office of Attorney-General, Marshall Islands Department of Public Safety, Division of Labor, Division of Immigration, Office of the Public Defender, and Land Registration Authority discussed each department's organizational structure, mission statement, and vision and goals.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 19TH WUTMI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 19th Annual Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) is scheduled to take place from November 10 -17. The conference convenes under the Being Resilient.

The opening ceremony will be on November 12 at the International Conference Center at 4pm. Guest speakers include representatives from the Council of Iroj, National Government, Marshall Islands Mayors Association, and UNDP, and WUTMI Officers.

### PRESIDENTS DAY

November 17th, a public holiday established to honor the birthday of RMI's founding father, the late President Irojlaplap Amata Kabua. In observance of the holiday, government offices will be closed on Friday November 16.

This year's President's Day Committee have planned several activities which include walkathon, outrigger canoe racing, fishing tournament, and many more.

### CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

This year, RMI is hosting the Climate Vulnerable Forum Virtual Summit on November 22. This is the first summit entirely online that will bring together leaders from all over the world to show solidarity for climate action.



Blessing of Jaluit Atoll Airport pavement



Launch of mass TB and Leprosy screening program

## STEADY PROGRESS ON AGENDA 2020 CONTINUED

Reforms are also underway to strengthen the performance of senior public servants and step up accountability and ethics among government employees. Increased support to the offices of the Attorney General and Auditor General will allow them to hire a Special Prosecutor and additional investigators, respectively. The Government Ethics Board has also been revived and is now directly addressing issues such as conflicts of interest and abuse.

Many other achievements and initiatives under President Heine's administration can be highlighted. For example, since 2016 government has: Increased the national minimum wage to \$3 per hour; Raised the price of copra to 50 cents a pound to support all copra farmers; Commenced paving of outer island airport runways for the first time; Improved the frequency of outer island shipping services. In addition, MV Enin Kio is ready to launch in two months; Raised the reliability and performance of Air Marshall Islands; Established ties to strengthen the relationship between the Government and Civil Society (NGOs); Placed all Secretaries on fixed-term, performance-based contracts; Taken a more assertive stance on local government accountability; Secured funding for a major early childhood development program; Expanded school feeding programs across the entire country; Provided financial support to sustain the Social Security Administration; Directly invested \$3 million into the Compact Trust Fund; Improved the timeliness and results of national government audits; Strengthened the fiscal position of government, with major fiscal surpluses; Completed a new Climate Strategy 2050 and Electricity Roadmap to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050; Expanded financing programs for new homes and renewable energy; Increased financial support for residential seawalls and coastal protection; Designed a new pension savings plan for national government employees; Conducted a national mass screening program to address TB and leprosy; Commenced construction on the long-awaited Majuro Hospital project; and Kick-started the Seniors Discount Program, the Microloan for Women (Kora im An Kol Fund), Container Deposit Legislation (Kobej nan Jaan), and others.

While these and other examples can be highlighted, more attention and action is required in some key areas. For instance, basic customer service in government still has to improve and growing the private sector and employment remain major challenges. Furthermore, the RMI needs to revisit the tax and expenditure reform agendas, health and education outcomes need to improve, and challenges such as solid waste management, high consumer debt, and seeking fair resolution to the US nuclear legacy demand more attention and action.

Even with these challenges, the Chief Secretary concludes that progress is being made: "My office works directly with all ministries and agencies of government, as well as all our major development partners. The consensus is positive, suggesting that under the leadership of President Heine and with Agenda 2020 this country is making steady progress and heading in the right direction. It is a demonstration of Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan, or accomplishment through joint effort."