

POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT
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Stevenson A. Joseph
Governor

Francisco L. Ioanis
Lt. Governor

EMERGENCY DECLARATION 2024-01

Declaring a state of emergency relative to inadequate water supply for the main island of Pohnpei including the outer islands of the State due to very dry conditions from the effect of the El Nino phenomenon, pursuant to Pohnpei State Constitution Article 13 Section 9 subsection 1; The Governor may declare a state of emergency and issue appropriate decrees, to preserve the public peace, health, or safety, at a time of extreme emergency caused by civil disturbance, epidemic, natural disaster, or immediate threat of war.

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2024 an El Nino Advisory, issued by the US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration through Pohnpei Weather Services advised that the weather outlook from January to March 2024 for the State of Pohnpei has high chance of very dry condition due to lack of rainfall; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2024 Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Water Division and Pohnpei Disaster Coordinating Office had corroborated that the central water supply source and potentially other main sources cannot sustain the normal water supply need for the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2024, Governor's Disaster Advising Committee in its official deliberation on the water shortage situation statewide, further revealed the extent of the severity of this situation that is now evident creating hardship and affecting the livelihood in the communities, schools, community health centers, businesses, private and public enterprises and government operations and others; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee reports on the following disaster concerns relating to shortage of water supplies in Pohnpei and its outlying atolls and outer islands;

1. Pohnpei State and all its outer islands are experiencing shortage of water, Pohnpei Island as well as its smaller islands, and outer islands.
2. Pressing need for all schools, hospitals and dispensaries to be prioritized for water availability.
3. Environmental Protection Agency report to prioritize all schools sanitary and water supplies.
4. Price Control is urged to ensure protection from water supplying business to ensure the prices are lawfully sustained within the parameters of Pohnpei law.
5. Governor's Disaster Advising Committee through its office of the EPA shall undergo with speed, inspection of water sources in the communities and shall prioritize information on safety, sanitation upon all communities.


WHEREAS, in order to ensure that appropriate measures are devised and implemented in a timely manner by the Pohnpei State Government, appropriate and relevant agencies and private enterprises to mitigate and alleviate the adverse impact of this serious situation; and

NOW THEREFORE by the Authority vested in me by Article 13 Section 9 (1), I hereby declare a state of emergency for Pohnpei State and Order as follows;

- (1) That all Schools shall be on half day schedule for students only until further notice;
- (2) That the Governor's Disaster Advisory Committee Shall coordinate with PUC Disaster Advisory Committee and shall provide daily report to the Governor on developing strategies to address the pressing urgent need to have water supply available to the Communities, prioritizing the schools and hospitals, extending this priority to the communities with homebound individuals with disability and senior citizens.
- (3) The applicable financial management and public service system laws and regulations and other relevant statutes and rules are hereby waived to the extent necessary to effectuate the purpose of this Declaration.

Copies of this Order shall be transmitted to the President of the FSM, the Speaker of the 11th Pohnpei Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, the local chief executives of each municipality, members of Mwoalen Wahu, the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee, all other relevant stakeholders.

SO, ORDERED;



Hon. Stevenson A. Joseph
Governor

1-12-24
Date