



Supreme Court Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM THE NMI JUDICIARY ON THE PASSING OF CHIEF JUSTICE REPEAT R. SAMUEL

Saipan, CNMI— It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Chief Justice of the Chuuk State Supreme Court, the Honorable Repeat R. Samuel. On behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary, we express our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and the people of the State of Chuuk and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Over the last two and a half years Chief Justice Samuel successfully navigated the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. He was able to adapt the practices of the Chuuk State Judiciary and transition judicial proceedings to a virtual setting to ensure access to justice remained open to all. Chief Justice Samuel accomplished all of this while the Chuuk State Judiciary was also mourning the untimely passing of Chief Justice Camillo Noket in May of 2020.

Chief Justice Samuel's dedication to the people of Chuuk began as a trial counselor at Micronesian Legal Services Corporation and in various positions at the Department of Public Safety. He also served as a pastor at his church in Wichap, Weno. His ascension to the bench made significant progress to the Chuuk State Judiciary and increased access to justice. In his role as Chief Justice, he was also a member of the Pacific Judicial Council, assisting in the delivery of judicial education and training in the region. We should all aspire to lead a life that benefits our community the way that Chief Justice Samuel contributed to his.

Once again, our sympathies go out to all those affected by his passing.