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The Marshall Islands

\$1 on Majuro



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Movie stars Salome and Toufina Fakatou. Photo: Becky Albright

# State agency debts are crippling RMI

GIFF JOHNSON

If you want to know one reason that the RMI government is chronically broke and has difficulty paying the private sector in a timely manner for services rendered, look no further than a government economic report released this week.

This report shows that the national government is throwing nearly one in every four dollars from the General Fund into subsidies for so-called state owned enterprises that are combining to lose millions of dollars annually.

Nine state owned enterprises have become a huge drain on limited financial resources of the Marshall Islands, says the report on the RMI economy.

All nine of these agencies lost money the past three years, with the government forced to provide an average of \$8.2 million annually to these entities.

"The operations, profitability and subsidies to the state owned enterprises (SOE) sector have become a major and pervasive problem for the RMI," said the RMI Fiscal Year 2011 Economic Review Preliminary Report, which is produced annually by the Graduate School USA, with funding from the Department of the Interior.

A graph included with the SOE section of the report shows that of the nine SOEs, none generated a profit in the 2009 to 2011 period. It also compares their performance to the 1999-2001 period, and shows that only two — MEC and NTA — were profitable more than a decade ago. In those days, the RMI government provided an average of \$4.5

Continued page 3



## Salome wins acting award

SUZANNE CHUTARO

Of the nearly 200 films from 27 countries that were submitted to the Guam International Film Festival, only 53 films were chosen for last weekend's festival. These films put hundreds of actors and actresses from all over the world into the spotlight at the festival. From all of these films, Guam organizers honored Salome Fakatou, a 10-year-old Bikini girl, with the Grand Jury Award

Continued page 2

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**Meanwhile, in Guam...**

One of our readers in Guam sent the Journal a comment of concern, wondering what, if any, significance there was to Jack Niedenthal standing in front of a podium emblazoned GIFF. "Is Giff relocating to Guam?" asked our reader. We emailed back that we had no information regarding such a move and suggested they contact Giff directly. Mike Trevor (on the screen, rear of Niedenthal) has taken up residence in the US Embassy in RMI and indicates his intention to increase visa provision days to two days per week.

**Movie wins Guam award**

**Nuclear film**

From page 1  
 for Achievement in Acting for her starring role in Ainikien Jidjid ilo Boñ (The Sound of Crickets at Night).

It was the only acting award given at the Guam festival and film co-producer Jack Niedenthal was on hand to receive the award on behalf of Salome.

Back in Majuro, we talked to Salome about her part in the film.

"My favorite part about making the movie was when Jack buys me stuff, like treats," says Salome who plays "Kali," the lead character in the film. "What I don't like the most is when they made me repeat the lines over and over again, but now I understand why they did it."

Unlike most 10-year-olds, Salome had a very full plate between school and making a full-length feature film this past year. Salome lives in Long Island with her parents Deborah Kilon Fakatou and Saimone Fakatou and younger sister Toufina, who also co-starred with her in the film. The sisters had to commute every morning to the end of Rita to catch a small boat to get across to Ejit Island for school. Then, weekends, rather than relaxing and playing with friends, she'd be up early in the morning — sometimes even before the sun rose — to get to Ejit for a full day of filming.

"It was hard for her but she didn't want to quit," her mom Deborah tells the Journal. "Salome has always been very determined and is always interested in new things. She got tired at times but she'd tell me she didn't

What may be the last public or theatrical showing in the United States of "Nuclear Savage: The Islands of Secret Project 4.1" is scheduled for the Hawaii International Film Festival.

The recently released film will show in Honolulu on October 18, at 9:15 pm.

The film, by director Adam Horowitz, recently premiered in New York City and has been showing in various film festivals worldwide.

want to quit because she said she wanted to see how a movie actually got made."

It's been a month since the film debuted in Majuro at the Marshall Island Resort's Melele Room and Salome has already started the new school year at Seventh Day Adventist in Delap. But the fame of being in a film that has now been a winner at film festivals in both New York and Guam has actually not been easy for this young lady.

"I was so proud, and I know that God was always there watching over me as I was making this film," said Salome. "But, they tease me now." This is similar to the experience of actors and actresses in earlier movies made by Majuro's Microwave Films.

Salome and Niedenthal, however, are delighted with the acting award honor from the Guam festival. "It's really what we have been trying to promote with these films, self-esteem for the children of the RMI," said Niedenthal.

Ainikien Jidjid Ilo Boñ will be featured on October 17 and 19 at the Hawaii International Film Festival in Honolulu at Dole Cannery Theaters.

**KOJUELA**  
**Saturday, October 6th 2012**  
 Rally an Good News Club ko jen kajojo eklesia ko an Assembly of God, jen Rita lok nan Laura. Unin rally in ej nan aer kwalok im bwebwenato kin news eo eman kin Jesus. Komman ilo mon jar eo an Assembly of God ilo Delap. Jen Good News Club Department eo an Assembly of God. Aolep Rej Riwainene.