

ONPA CONDUCTS FRAUD AWARENESS TO THE CLOSE-UP PROGRAM STUDENTS

The Office of National Public Auditor (ONPA) Compliance Investigation Division (CID) conducted a presentation to the students and coordinators of the Close-up Program at the FSM Central Facilities Building in Palikir, Pohnpei.

The Close-up Program was coordinated by the Department of Education (DOE). This annual program brings students from the four FSM states to the capital to experience a close up observation on how the National Government functions. As part of the program, ONPA was invited and on January 21, 201, Sophia Pretrick, the Chief of CID and Investigator Kelly Samuel conducted the presentation on behalf of the office.

Using the Fraud Awareness Program as the basis of the presentation, Chief Pretrick also discussed the roles and responsibilities of ONPA. ONPA's role in promoting transparency and accountability in government activities are crucial so that the public can know where the government is spending its monies and if the funds are used properly. Pretrick also discussed the impact of fraud in government operations, where to report fraud, and how ONPA handles citizen's complaints regarding white collar crimes.

The briefing also emphasized that educating the students on these issues at an early stage is very vital as they will be the future leaders of the FSM.

Over 30 students and staff participated. At the end of the presentation, students were given a chance for questions/answers. The Secretary of DOE, Casiano Shoniber was also present and actively involved in the question/answer session.

Promotional tools such as shirts, pens, key chains, ACFE Fraud magazines, posters and the ONPA Annual Report for 2010 were distributed to the attendees.

