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The Marshall Islands

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Chris praised for shark ban: P10



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Store shut down, students expelled

Four Majuro Middle School (MMS) students have been expelled from school and a take-out store has been shut down by Majuro Atoll Local Government (MALGov). With the closure of the Family

SUZANNE CHUTARO

Center Store in Utirikan by local police last Thursday, Majuro Mayor Mudge Samuel has put mom and pop stores on notice that his administration will not tolerate the sale of alcohol or tobacco to minors.

Local police and Marshall Islands Police Department officers raided the store last Thursday arresting the owner Pei Shu Huang and ordered the closing of his store. He was released the following day.

In a letter issued from MALGov to the Family Center Store, Mayor Samuel cited as his reasons to close the small take-out Business License Ordinance 1986-5 Section 6, which grants the mayor authority to suspend and revoke a business license, and Public Safety Ordinance 1994-37 section 2(b)

which makes illegal the selling of alcohol substances to a minor under 21 years of age.

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US officials disappointed by hospital

The people of the Marshall Islands deserve better services than they are now getting at Majuro Hospital, US Interior Department Director of Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula told RMI leaders at the JEMFAC meeting Wednesday in Majuro.

Pula and other US officials toured the hospital Tuesday.

"As Chairman of JEMFAC I was very disappointed," Pula said in opening remarks. "There is a lot of work to be done."

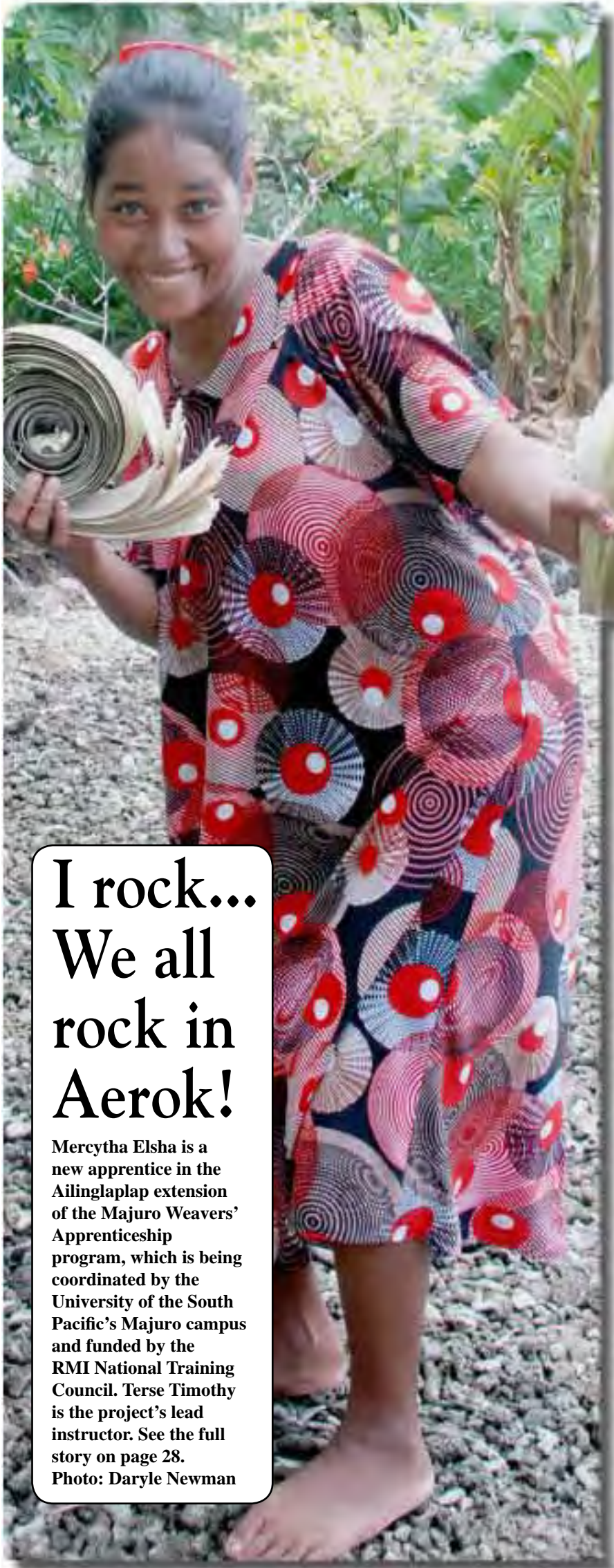
Pula's comments followed an opening statement from Foreign Minister Phillip Muller, who led the RMI delegation at the Joint Eco-

Minister Phillip: 'Please don't punish us.' Page 2

nomic Management and Financial Accountability Committee meeting held at the Marshall Islands Resort (see story, photo on page 4).

Responding to Muller, Pula said, "You mention the delays with the hospital and your desire to move forward with that project. So does the US. As we walked through different parts of the hospital and saw the people and the supplies, I'd like to assure that we are committed to do

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**I rock...
We all
rock in
Aerok!**

Mercytha Elsha is a new apprentice in the Ailinglaplap extension of the Majuro Weavers' Apprenticeship program, which is being coordinated by the University of the South Pacific's Majuro campus and funded by the RMI National Training Council. Terse Timothy is the project's lead instructor. See the full story on page 28.

Photo: Daryle Newman