

Name: Aichen Rayphand

Date: 09/04/23

### **Arduous Journey**

The road,  
You know it's a big problem but you ignore.

You say- gosh I hate this bumpy road  
Yet you don't put your money to use and fix it.  
U say- wechh, ekk, weunee  
When u ride ur fancy car around the island,  
Yet you don't put it as your first priority.

When we try to contribute and help fix the road.  
You say NO- This is my land!

How are we supposed to better our home land when even you can't cooperate?  
How are we supposed to have a comfortable car ride when the landowners and government can't even get along.  
How am I supposed to sleep peacefully on the bus when I keep waking up when we enter a mud hole?

Have you ever thought about us?  
Have you ever thought about the future?  
Have you ever thought about what might happen?

Are you too scared that your lands might get taken away?  
Are you too scared to see a better change?  
Or are you too scared to lose a voter?  
So what??  
They're gonna argue now but be thankful later.  
Think about being better  
We keep talking yet are still not cooperating.  
Nor stepping up.  
Such cowards!

We get embarrassed when visitors or entitled people come to visit our island.  
We overthink about what people think of us.  
"Ay ina repwe ne asita ei an"  
Well, stop talking and start doing.

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The government has ignored this big problem because you can't cooperate nor want the government working on your land. We can't move on, with all this yapping and no action. We can't move on when you put up your borders when help is coming your way.

Don't you want change?

Don't you want a peaceful night cruise on the road?

Don't you want to hear- "Damn, Chuuks road is so smooth"?

We'll get out on the road and start filling up those puddles.

If they won't get up then it's up to us, get up!

Fight if you have to, for the sake of our community.

We can't move on if we're just complaining and not moving.

Let's pave the road for a fresher start.

Let's all work together in mind, hand, and heart.

It's not an "I think", it's a must."

If they can't, we can,

If you can, I can!

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Explanation:

My poem is about the bumpy roads in Chuuk. My title is Arduous Journey, which is a synonym of a bumpy road and it is a brief and clear description of how the roads are like here in Chuuk. The roads are very difficult and tiring. In this poem I am referring to the government, landowners, and us citizens. When I say “you”, I mean everyone, because I believe that everyone has a part in making our home better. My concerns and rants are not only towards the government/leaders, but all citizens of Chuuk or Weno residents in general. I believe that we could better our home if we all work together. I know we rant and complain about the roads, blaming it on the government, yet we can do something about it too. It’s not only the government's job, it is also up to us. This Chuukese phrase in my poem, “Ay ina repwe ne asita ei an”, means “Gosh they’re gonna make fun of us for our bumpy road”. I thought this phrase was so relatable, because I’ve heard it from many Chuukese whenever elite leaders or people and tourists visit Chuuk. We are ashamed of what we have to give, yet don’t have the courage or initiative to take part and make a change. It’s always blaming each other, it’s never stepping up and going beyond. A way to solve this problem is to work and cooperate. It depends not only on the government but on us too. Instead of waiting around on the government and avoiding stingy landowners, we the people can start little by little. With this start we can eventually turn it into something bigger. My way of calling people to action is to actually DO IT! I know for a fact that protesting, making proposals, and complaining isn’t going to do much, since we’ve already been doing it yet where has it gotten us?... Nowhere. I believe that it is up to us, the citizens of Chuuk, to go out on the road and fill up the mud holes. We can start our own little programs and projects to make our roads smoother. I believe that if we do these things, we will stir the attention of the government, landowners, and more people. In that way they will be motivated to join and help, leading us to all work together for the betterment of our home island, Chuuk.