



**Republic of Palau**  
*Office of the President*

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
*President*

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 396**

*Requiring all relevant Government agencies, particularly those in the forefront of customer service dealing with licensing and permitting requirements for businesses and foreign investments, to collaborate and cooperate closely in order to create a friendly business environment with the One-Stop-Shop concept that will offer streamlined and efficient review of business applications for licenses and permits and expedite commencement of quality investments that will complement our policy for high-value low-impact tourism development.*

**WHEREAS**, it is the official policy of the National Government to promote, develop, and manage a high-value, low-impact tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, this vision of sustainable economic development requires a fundamental commitment by the Government to provide for a friendly business environment which will encourage investors to focus on the type of visitor experience expected by travellers; and

**WHEREAS**, among the highest priorities in this undertaking is attracting and incentivizing investment in high-value, low-impact establishments and accommodations which will provide the type of services and amenities that appeal to the desired tourist demographic; and

**WHEREAS**, despite significant private sector interest in new hospitality development projects, such projects are being delayed by an administrative backlog in the bureaucratic process for issuing the necessary licenses, permits, and certificates required for new projects to commence; and

**WHEREAS**, this is a substantial deterrent to and bottleneck in the desired development of new and modern accommodations within the Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing such barriers is necessary to encourage and attract continued investment in high-end, low-impact development,

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., do hereby order as follows:

All relevant agencies including but not limited to the Foreign Investment Board ("FIB"), Environmental Quality Protection Board ("EQPB"), Historical Preservation Office ("HPO"), Bureau of Revenue and Taxation ("BRT"), Bureau of National Treasury ("BNT"), Social Security Administration ("SSA"), Division of Labor ("DOL"), and



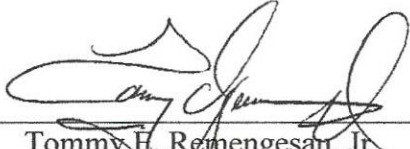
Bureau of Public Safety (“BPS”), shall meet regularly, at least twice a month, to explore the One-Stop-Shop concept by:

- a. discussing ways to streamline functions and processes in order to create a friendlier business environment by simplifying the investment process and minimizing unnecessary layers of bureaucracy; and
- b. expediting the issuance of licenses and permits required for businesses and foreign investors, giving priority to certain high-value, low-impact investments; and
- c. coming up with recommendations to better collaborate on the issuance of the licenses, permits, and certificates required to start new businesses, construct new tourist accommodations, or expand existing tourist accommodations; and
- d. determining via consensus which, if any, pending applications are consistent with the National Government’s policy of developing a high-end, low-impact tourism industry, as more particularly set forth in the *Palau Responsible Tourism Policy Framework* published by the Bureau of Tourism, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism (“the Framework”); and
- e. for each project deemed consistent with the Framework, and therefore most desirable, working together using all available means to expedite the process of issuing all necessary permits and certificates for the project to commence.

Especially in the early phases of this collaboration, the relevant agencies shall explore the important qualities of a centralized processing center (“One-Stop-Shop”) at which, in the near future, each relevant agency shall supply necessary representatives in order to facilitate the streamlined approval of high-value, low-impact development projects. Consideration of this processing center, especially as it relates to a spatial requirement or special need of any involved agency, shall be given high priority by this working group, as the structure is currently being designed.

In order to facilitate the expeditious implementation of these high-priority National Government policies, this working group shall be led directly by the President. When the President is not available, it shall be led either by the Vice President or the President’s Chief of Staff, as designated by the President.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017:

  
Tommy H. Remengesau, Jr.  
President  
Republic of Palau