



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 405

To establish a Task Force to recommend and implement a plan of action to combat human trafficking in the Republic of Palau.

WHEREAS, the steady rise in human trafficking has become a serious challenge to nations around the world, and the Republic of Palau recognizes the immediate need to combat these international crimes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State (DOS), while acknowledging Palau's significant efforts to combat human trafficking, including reconvening the National Human Rights Working Group and prosecuting corrupt officials, has recently determined that Palau is failing to fully meet anti-human-trafficking standards (thus earning a "Tier 2" rating); and

WHEREAS, the DOS has provided specific recommendations for the Republic of Palau to consider in order to achieve the desired Tier 1 ranking, the first step of which is the establishment of a plan of action; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish a plan of action, a knowledgeable Task Force is required;

NOW THEREFORE, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the Constitution and applicable laws of the Republic of Palau, it is hereby ordered that a Task Force, to be overseen by the Ministry of Justice, be established in order to recommend and implement a plan of action to allow the Republic of Palau to achieve a Tier 1 ranking, as follows:

Creation of a Task Force; Duties. There is hereby established a Special Presidential Task Force ("Task Force") that shall, as directed by its Chairman, meet to discuss recommendations for implementing a plan of action to combat human trafficking and improve Palau's Tier 2 ranking. Task Force members shall be appointed by the Vice President or his/her designee. The Task Force shall consist of the following persons, and such other persons as the Vice President may, from time to time, designate:

1. The Attorney General or her/his designee who shall serve as Chair;
2. Director of the Bureau of Public Safety who shall serve as a Co-Chair;
3. Director of the Bureau of Labor and Immigration;
4. One Senior Officer at the Bureau of Public Safety;



5. One Senior Officer from the Bureau of Labor and Immigration; and
6. One Representative from the Olbiil Era Kelulau (a designated Senator or Delegate, or a designated Senior Member of the Joint Staff).


Task Force Report; Deadlines. The Task Force shall prepare and submit to the President a preliminary report no later than sixty (60) days after the execution of this Executive Order. The report shall specifically address the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report (the "TPR"), created by the DOS's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and shall precisely identify the recommended measures to be taken in order to effectuate the Republic of Palau's ascension to a Tier 1 ranking. The report shall address individual TPR findings, including Palau's alleged: failure to secure convictions under trafficking provisions, issuance of light penalties for trafficking-permissive violations, need to increase funding for/access to victim protective services, and need to develop a national action plan to combat human trafficking in general.

The report should also include any other comments and recommendations for action that the Task Force deems appropriate.

Administrative Support. All Ministries and agencies of the Executive Branch of the National Government shall make available staffing and other resources as requested by the Chairman of the Task Force and shall cooperate with and provide such information as is requested by the Task Force. The Social Security Administration is requested to cooperate with and provide such information as is required by the Task Force.

Effective Date and Duration of Task Force. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force and effect until the President has determined in writing that the duties of the Task Force have been completed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this the 10th day of October, 2017 in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.


Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President Republic of Palau