



CABINET MEETING

MOH Cafeteria | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Thursday, February 1, 2018

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|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 18. Director Melson Miko | 35. PNCC AGM LeoBen Teriong |
| 2. Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch | 19. Director Gail Rengiil | 36. Gaafar Uherbelau, MOH |
| 3. Minister Emais Roberts | 20. Director John Tarkong, Jr. | 37. Cindy Bai, MOH Finance |
| 4. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton | 21. Director Olympia Morei | 38. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS |
| 5. Minister Umiich Sengebau | 22. Director Naomi Ngirakemerang | 39. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Project Mgr |
| 6. Minister Sinton Soalablai | 23. Director Fred Sengebau | 40. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO |
| 7. Minister Charles Obichang | 24. Director Debbie Tkel-Sbal | 41. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel |
| 8. Director Casmir Remengesau | 25. Acting Director Edolem Ikerdeu | 42. Daniel Klopper, Legal Counsel |
| 9. Director Darnelle Worswick | 26. Acting Director Sylverius Tellei | 43. Rufina Takashi, MOH Nurse |
| 10. Director Umerang Imetengel | 27. Chief of Staff Secilil Eldebechel | 44. Marciana Ngirailemesang, MOH Nurse |
| 11. Director Antonnette Merur | 28. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei | 45. Bisayang Ush Luii, MOS |
| 12. Director Sunny Ngirmang | 29. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo | 46. Tutii Chilton, Energy Office |
| 13. Director Eunice Akiwo | 30. Nace Soalablai, Spec. Asst. Legislative | 47. Foober Skebong, MNRET PAN |
| 14. Director Sterlina Gabriel | 31. Chief Public Defender Dan Mizinov | 48. Percy Rechelluul, MNRET BMR |
| 15. Director Hayes Moses | 32. Chief Klouldil Singeo | 49. Bibrekei Rengulbai, MOH Admin |
| 16. Director Ngirachisau Mekoll | 33. Chief Thomas Tutii | 50. Elle-Via, MOH |
| 17. Director Ltelatk Fritz | 34. Peter Polloi, MPIIC Special Advisor | |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Ministry Presentation at Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President requests for participation and attendance from all Ministers, Directors and key staff of Cabinet Meetings as the Cabinet continues to visit each Ministry and to learn more about their respective progress. The main objective of this Cabinet arrangement is to enhance communication, understanding of role and responsibilities of Ministries to encourage better teamwork and collaboration between each Ministry. Better understanding of Ministry or agency's goals and objectives enables other Ministries and individuals to also provide assistance and support in sharing or explaining information of issues facing each Ministry. Implementation of the "Year of Good Health": The Ministry of Health is the lead implementing agency of initiatives for the Year of Good Health. President Remengesau emphasizes each Ministry can contribute to the overall objective and goal of the Year of Good Health.
Ministry of Health Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year of Good Health Programs: MOH is set to host the Year of Good Health Committee meeting at 2:00 pm on Monday, February 5th. A letter soliciting Committee representatives from each Ministries and agencies has been distributed to all. The Committee will be responsible to develop a calendar of activities, marketing tool and other matters in support of the implementation of the Year of Good Health Campaign. Minister Roberts reports the Kebeas Eradication Project is anticipated to be included in the Year of Good Health program falling under environment and physical health as discussed with the Rubekul Belau. The President welcomes and encourages the proposed calendar of events for the Year of Good Health. Current Ongoing Health Programs: MOH continues to implement monthly activities such as health screenings, radio programs, and prevention and awareness programs. Comprehensive and prevention outreach program under implementation in Peleliu. Employee Health Wellness Framework: MOH has commenced efforts with Ministries and agencies, in particular the Human Resources Department towards the development of a standard

	<p>work site wellness framework or policy for employees in the National Government. The objective of this initiative is to promote good wellness and wellbeing in the workplace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President mandates each Ministry to implement at least one program that is tied with the Year of Good Health. Strong recommendations made to provide incentives to encourage public participation, commit the \$200,000 India Grant for implementation of the Year of Good Health and to seek grants and other funding in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. The President further suggests for MOH to explore potential programs with State Governments through the use of the NCD Fund. The MOH requested to bring the physical health check-up to the community. Minister Roberts reports MOH is looking into an initiative for community profiling as part of a criteria for the national health insurance, requiring health check-up. The initiative to be discussed further with the 10th Olbiil Era Kelulau. MOH is looking into Rubekul Belau’s suggestion to ban the sale of alcohol at least once a week. Minister Temengil requests MOH to look into stress monitoring or management in terms of overall health. Minister Temengil further suggests for male employees of the Government to participate in Men’s Clinic through administration leave. Minister Roberts reports Ngardmau State is anticipated to host Men’s Conference similar to the Women’s Conference around August 2018. MOH to bring Men’s Health Clinic to men frequenting coffee shops such as Donut House, Did Ra Ngmatl and others. Minister Sengebau suggests bringing the Clinic to the Capitol to cater to individuals who are unavailable to travel to Koror to participate in the Clinic.
<p>Ministry Briefings and Other Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism: Minister Sengebau reports efforts is going in collaboration with the Bureau of Public Works. The team has been focusing efforts in Ngkeklaui, Ngaraard. Minister Sengebau has met with Ngatpang Governor in regards to addressing the issue of kebeas. Minister Sengebau instructed to prepare an update of the project for reporting before the next leadership meeting with Governors and State Speakers planned for next week. • Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce: Tuvalu Minister and delegation of 12 staff members representing various sections of the government recently visited Palau to conduct a study on the Redemption Center Program and the PAN Program. Their visit included a tour of the facilities. The Tuvalu Government is interested in implementing similar programs in their country. The President shared the Airport project took place following extensive meeting with the OEK and all the national and state leaders. The partnership agreement followed national consensus from leaders. The financial aspect of the project has not been materialized. A section in the Open Government Act protects the sensitivity of information of negotiations with foreign governments and/or companies if Palau determines negotiations have not been completed. The government has yet to receive the financial package of the project for legislative action to enable information sharing in regards to the project details. Minister Obichang has provided all necessary documents and information to the 10th Olbiil Era Kelulau. The Executive Branch requested for the leadership to refrain from sharing information with the media in the interim until the negotiation comes to an end. The Attorney General is addressing the lawsuit filed by members of the Senate. The project approved the basic design and is now in the detailed design phase. Once completed and approved, the final financial package will be shared with the OEK for action. • Ministry of Education: MOE is in discussion with Japan’s JCM in implementation of solar panels in schools. Discussions have expanded to bring forth the idea of installing solar panels at all school rooftops to the Japan government. The rooftop panels are anticipated to contribute to the nation’s 45% renewable energy target and to reduce costs of energy consumption. MOE requests for support and cooperation of personnel actions of teachers and other replacement personnel for the Ministry to address vacancies. The President instructs Director Remengesau to address personnel action issues. • Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs: MCCA and MPIIC met with PPA to express appreciation to the airlines of their previous charter of athletes to the Yap Invitational Games in

December 2017. PPA agreed to provide charter services again for athletes to the Micronesian Games in Yap in July 2017. Minister Temengil requests for participation from MOH and MOJ to Yap. MCCA partnering up with sports program and MOH to provide health screening for athletes ahead of the Games. MCCA working on Youth Forum in terms of the process of Youth Policy for the upcoming Youth Day on March 15th and youth program for the remaining year. Historical Preservation is working with U.S. representatives of the recovery of bones. U.S. vessel off the coast of Meyuns has completed their mission and have also recovered missing soldier off Malakal. U.S. awarded Director Sunny Ngirmang a medal of honor and certificate of her on the ground work as a representative of Palau. MCCA successfully completed Palau's second report on the Right of the Child with the Human Rights Committee in Fiji. Minister Temengil suggests for exposure of young Palauan to careers in archaeology and anthropology.

- **Ministry of State:** U.S. Naval Academy and the West Point Academy C period have passed. U.S Coast Guard application deadline is Tuesday, February 6th. Application information disseminated to MOE and the Scholarship Board. The President requests for background information of applications for recommendation letters.
- **Ministry of Finance:** Forum Economic Minister's Meeting is a high-level event. All details set in regards. MOF continues to requests for assistance with transportation. Tentative date confirmed for Economic Symposium on February 22nd at Ngarachamayong Cultural Center. Theme is "Palau's Fiscal Sustainability beyond Year 2024". Three key areas to focus discussion on Pension Plan, tax reform, and the financial and investment supporting high-value investment. MOF spearheading new financial system. Consideration of joint procurement with the Marshall Islands and the FSM who are faced with the same challenge. Meetings have been conducted in regards. Looking into including the matter before the Micronesian Presidents' Summit to be held in February 2018. MOF invites everyone to join them in their exercise program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm at SDA.
- **Ministry of Justice:** U.S. representatives have commenced their survey of lands for aerial and maritime surveillance. Negotiations have begun with landowners. Walk and Run for MOJ is scheduled to begin at 5:00 am on February 2nd from the police station to the hospital and back. A Committee has been established to look into camera surveillance and security. MOJ and MOH are on target to EMT certify all fire fighters.
- **Status of Bills Pending in OEK:**
 - 1) High-End Accommodation, Pristine Paradise Palau Bill: The bill was amended by the House of Delegates to accommodate 5-star hotels. Five amendments were made on the floor. Passed third reading in the Senate and has been forwarded to the House of Delegates. Copies have been submitted to the Chief of Staff, Director Remengesau and Minister Sadang.
 - 2) Minimum Wage: Pending under Senator Rudimch's Committee. The President requests for everyone's support in lobbying for the increase of minimum wage.
 - 3) Campaign Finance Reform: Senate JGA Committee is taking the lead and has solicited comments. Comments are due to the Senate by Friday, February 16th.
 - 4) Social Security Increase: Senator Rudimch expressed concerns of lack of funding. Delegate Isechal's version has passed the second reading, which also appropriates \$2 million in the 2019 Budget.
 - 5) Amendments to the Procurement Act: Pending under the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Waiting for further information from the Public Auditor's Office regarding the State Governments poor accounting.
 - 6) Pension Plan: Pending result of actuarial study.
 - 7) Exempt of Foreign Workers to State Governments: Passed on January 31st and is anticipated to be submitted to the President for his review in the next couple of days. Amendments made for hiring of skilled foreign workers only. Amendment also included for PPUC not to increase the tariff until June 2018 until 5 conditions are addressed and reported to the President, the 10th Olbiil Era Kelulau and the Public Auditor's Office.

	<p>\$100,000 was also included to Our Ocean Trust Fund Account.</p> <p>8) Our Ocean Trust Fund Account: Amendment made for remaining balance of funds to the National Marine Sanctuary.</p> <p>9) Tightening Bail Procedures: Pending in the Senate JGA Committee. Seeking comments in regards. Comments are due by Friday, February 16th.</p> <p>10) PNEC (Energy) Amendments: Pending in the Senate.</p> <p>11) Nagoya Protocol – Access and Benefits Resolution: Introduced on January 30th and referred to Committee. United Nations requested for Palau to ratify this convention.</p>
<p>Agency Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNCC Update: No new projects or programs since the last Cabinet update, however PNCC continues to work with customers on service network issues. Fiber optic is operating as it should. The Board and management recently returned from Hawaii in attendance of annual Pacific Telecom conference. PNCC anticipates discussing solutions for Kayangel cable services soon. PNCC have received satellite plate from MOH and MOE, and are in the process of testing the equipment to bring services to the Southwest and Kayangel. The President requests PNCC to work with the National Government IT to improve fiber services and further requests to cover death spots areas for cell services in Babeldaob. PNCC continues to work on covering services in Ngardmau and are working to identify area for installation for cell tower in Ngesaol. PNCC anticipates announcing a special program for Valentine’s Day. • PPUC Update: Water Improvement Project is now 85% complete. All piping is completed. Valve connection and road paving from the bridge to Ngermid are ongoing. PPUC has initiates project connecting residents to the new water pipes. William Company is working with PPUC on this aspect of the project. Water project completion targeted for April 25. Sewer Project: PPUC has met with the two companies working on the project. Discussion on catching up on the project made. Looking into June or July. Continues to coordinate with agencies in regards to other pipes and PPUC fiber wires found the project sites. The project has improved the rate of pipe installation to three pipes a day. Continues to coordinate with the Public Safety on traffic management.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Minutes: All Ministers and Directors are reminded to review all meeting minutes of discussion in the Cabinet as well as to ensure information recorded are accurate as the minutes are considered official records. • All Ministers are requested and reminded to note the following upcoming events for attendance and participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slaughterhouse Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Friday, February 9th in Ngchesar - Ribbon Cutting of Hatohobei Health Dispensary: Departure to Tobi is February 12th. - Nippon Foundation Project Handover Ceremony: 10:00 am, Tuesday, February 13th at Marine Law Building. The President announced Chairman Sasakawa is anticipated to attend the ceremony. Full participation requested for this event. - Forum Economic Ministers’ Meeting: Wednesday to Friday, April 25-27, 2018. This is high-level Ministerial meeting. - Pacific Partnership 2018: To arrive in Palau on Wednesday, April 28, 2018. Military program to include health, education and community programs. - PALM Summit: May 2018 in Japan. The President emphasizes advance and proper preparation of issues to be presented at the PALM Summit. • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” on all initiatives. • The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am, Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at the Ministry of Education’s Conference Room.

***Meeting minutes is subjected to change and approval**

