



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 ARFF Station | 9:16 am – 10:54 am
 Monday, April 3, 2017

In Attendance:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. 2. Vice President Raynold Oilouch 3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang 4. Minister Charles Obichang 5. Minister Umich Sengebau 6. Minister Sinton Soalablai 7. Director Brian Melairei, Public Works 8. Director Hayes Moses, Commercial Development 9. Director Umerang Imetengel, Public Service System 10. Director Bouveau Anastacio, Tourism 11. Director Melson Miko, Youth Applied Artss 12. Director Naomi Ngiramekerang, Archive 13. Director Darnelle Decherong, Health Administration 14. Director Sherrilyn Madraisau, Public Health 15. Director Fred Sengebau, Agriculture 16. Director Ngirachisau Mekoll, Hospital & Clinical Services 17. Director Debbie Sbal-Tkel, Curriculum 18. Director Peter Polloi, Aviation 19. Director Antonnette Merur, Nursing 20. Acting Director Gloria Mengloi, Revenue & Taxation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Acting Director John Tarkong, Jr., Customs & Border Protection 22. Acting Director Ibuuch Tomoichi, Ed. Administration 23. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 24. Exec. Director Olympia Morei, BNM 25. Chief Danny Higa, Protocol 26. King Sam, Special Assistant to Minister Sengebau 27. Stalin Pedro, Special Assistant to Minister Obichang 28. Calvin Emesiochel, Historical Preservation Officer 29. Foober Skebong, MNRET 30. Tutii Chilton, Energy Grants Coordinator 31. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator 32. Claire Harvey, NDBP President 33. Jeff Ngirarsaol, NDBP Agri/Aquaculture Loan Broker 34. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Water Project Manager 35. Deputy Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 36. COS Secilil Eldebechel 37. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 38. Anthony Papiian, Spec. Asst. to the President on Communication & Projects 39. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 40. Judy Dean, Grants Coordinator |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
NDBP Update on the Agri/Aquaculture Mega Loan Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP approved a loan for a rabbit fish operation in Ngaraard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDBP is working with the Embassy of Republic of China-Taiwan for an expert assistance on animal production (piggery, chicken and egg operation). Additionally, an animal production workshop in joint partnership with PCC-CRE program is set to be held in Ngeremlengui from April 12-13. - NDBP is also working on a proposed training on agriculture. Once finalized, NDBP will disseminate information to the public. - As per last week's joint meeting with EQPB and the President, NDBP is anticipating to follow up matters discussed and agreed to with EQPB. - <i>President instructs Deputy Chief of Staff Kesolei to ensure participation from EQPB at Cabinet Meetings.</i> • President reiterates importance of disbursing the \$5 million loan by year end, and requests NDBP to improve and strengthen efforts toward achieving this goal.
PPUC Update on Water and Sewer Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water project excavation and pipe installation ongoing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Ngerbechedesau ~ Airai ~ Ngerbeched ~ Medalaii - PPUC has met with Bureau of Public Works (BPW) Safety Officer regarding completion of the survey in Malakal. PPUC reporting discovered an artillery. PPUC to meet with contractor and the



	<p>Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) today to begin coordination efforts in regards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reminds PPUC of the importance of restoring road conditions. ~ PPUC reports restoration work has been completed in front of Supreme Court. From April 3 to next week, contractors to continue improving road conditions from Mokko onwards before moving on to Airai. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President Requests for Coordination in Traffic Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns expressed regarding three car accidents occurring near and/or around construction areas. Request made for PPUC's cooperation particularly for flagmen to be alert and attentive in traffic control. - PPUC reports one incident that occurred was suspected to be alcohol related during early morning hours. PPUC to follow up and develop report in regards for the Cabinet. • BPW Requests Assistance from PPUC on Road Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BPW requests for PPUC's assistance with subcontractor for road maintenance of incidental damages in Airai. PPUC agreed to look into the request. • UAE/Mastar Project in Peleliu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The amended agreement was signed by both PPUC CEO and Minister Sadang on Tuesday, March 28. - Minister Sadang is working on \$150,000 to cover cost of constructing housing extension for the new generator. • Angaur Water Billing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reports issues of payment via allotment process by Angaur residents to PPUC on electric bills. PPUC reportedly continues to deduct portions of allotment meant for electric services towards water services despite agreement from PPUC board and management to comply with the mandate provided by the law. - President requests PPUC representatives to bring the matter to the attention of PPUC's leadership for immediate resolve. • Sewer project is set to begin on Monday, April 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pipe installation to begin in Meketii. - Schedule for CIP to Malakal section yet to be confirmed.
<p>Ministry Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOJ launched its Biggest Loser program on April 3. - Police Academy is confirmed to begin on April 9. - Vice President Oilouch reports discussion with Director Melairei on potentially scaling down demolition of the BRT Building concentrating on 2nd and 3rd floors to save costs as well as reduce impact to surrounding offices as well as save the ground floor. - Vice President Oilouch announces MOJ's intention to strengthen enforcement of laws and regulations on illicit drugs, vehicle registration and tinting to the public as a whole, and requests for cooperation from all Ministries in regards. The Directive on use of illicit drugs, vehicle registration and tinting was recently implemented within MOJ. • Ministry of Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2nd Quarter is completed. Minister Sadang is working with MOF staff in regards to supply and equipment purchase particularly books and medication supplies. - Manila Trip: Agreement made to procure 3 units. MOF working to finalize payment plan. The whole complex is expected to be ready by the end of July. MOF and MOH working with our Palau Embassy officials in the Philippines on furnishings. Delegation met with Philippine officials: discussion included security of labor. MOF working with Palau Embassy on existing



MOU in regards. Thereafter, agreement will be finalized in Palau. Discussion was also made for the Philippines to consider developing a small office in Palau. Senator Nakamura to spearhead OEK efforts in developing a resolution to establish the small office. ADB Meeting: Orientation was conducted on assistance received thus far. Included in the discussion was the Green Climate Fund. ADB is able to assist Palau in accessing the GCF. MOF to work with Director Remengesau and Grants Coordinator Judy Dean in regards.

- Minister Sadang requests for direction in terms of the Micronesian Conservation Trust (MCT) and the Micronesian Challenge. At this point, Guam and CNMI have yet to contribute their share. Palau funds 99% of all initiatives. FSM and RMI have only contributed to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Conservation International (CI). Suggestion made to utilize the \$10 million contributed thus far for other matters.

- **Ministry of Education**

- In terms of the food program, MOE has increased funding to \$1,000 for Principals to access for fresh food supplies within states.
- MOE requests for copies of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) posters. 200 copies are being requested for classrooms.
- Police Academy request: Minister Soalablai inquires if a component of the academy include course on customer service? And if so, request is made for MOE to participate. Vice President Oilouch reports he will look into the matter.

- **Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce**

- Minister Obichang reports delaying the schedule of the water project was a request made by JICA not PPUC.
- Discussions are ongoing on reverse osmosis in Peleliu. Being considered for connecting to water system. Israel Ambassador agreed to discuss matter with owner to complete said project.
- Registration Officers complete. Bill in regards have passed in the House of Delegates and now pending in the Senate. It is anticipated to be acted upon on April 11th regular session. Language to retroact.
- \$20,000 in cash and checks were recently found at the Airport and immediately reported to the police by Frida Emesiochel, airport custodian. Another custodian also found \$3,000 plus two new cellphones that were returned back to the owner. President emphasizes the importance of recognizing employees for their exemplary work particularly during the Employees Appreciation Luncheon in November. Similar exemplary acts and acts of heroism by employees were shared by officials present at the Cabinet. The President requests the whole to record and note such actions for recognition and award in November.
- BPW Update: Engineers are looking into submitting two bidding options for the BRT building demolition project. One for full demolition and another for two floors only. BPW's 100 day recycle challenge in line with the Year of the Family will come to end on April 28. So far 32 families have registered to participate. BPW to schedule awarding ceremony one week after the Micronesian Islands Forum in early May.

- **Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism**

- MNRET is working on making arrangements for a small scale canning workshop for local fishers in June.
- Within one week after announcement, MNRET have exhausted the first \$5,000 for purchase of female mangrove crabs intended for the Mangrove Bank Program. MNRET anticipates releasing seedlings around June and purchasing additional female crabs. Several areas throughout Palau have been identified for release of seedlings.

- **Ministry of Health**

- President and MOH management team present at the Cabinet Meeting agree to set up family day program for Sunday, April 23.
- MOH reports four rooms have been adopted under the Adopt-a-Room program encouraging



	<p>partnership with private companies, families and/or groups to renovate and improve hospital rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOH continues to maintain hospital cleanliness everyday with assistance from community volunteers. MOH reports experiences challenges with wheelchairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNMS Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EO 395 streamlines the PNMS office and the Executive Committee to focus on six primary areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Surveillance and Enforcement b) Sustainable Finance c) Outreach and Education d) Tourism and Marketing e) Fisheries and Food Security f) Science and Monitoring - First executive meeting to be held on Thursday, April 20. - PNMS is coordinating efforts with all on existing fish aggregated devices (FADs) concentrating on local fishers and for sports fishing. FADs under development are for both near-shore and off-shore fishing. PNMS is working with the Bureau of Marine Resources to install additional 10 near-shore FADs. PNMS will fund construction. • Italy Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall project is \$800,000 split into two phases. On April 2, Dr. Yimnang Golbuu and Italy team confirmed project proposal and breakdown. This will be submitted to Italy’s Environment Minister and Minister Obichang. - First phase of project include feasibility study and implementation of new well water sources. - Second phase include education and awareness. Energy office is coordinating with PPUC in regards. Re-commissioning of existing wells as contained in the NEC report is not included in the project as the team specifically targeting connecting new water sources. - President requests for a coordinated effort with NEMO.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire at Landfill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fire reported at the Landfill on April 2 has been contained. The cause is unknown, however BPW officials are suspecting combination of heat discharge from butane and battery or other similar waste may have been the cause. It is difficult to pinpoint the actual cause at this time. BPW as well as other officers are continuing to monitor the situation and to fully extinguish the fire. - <i>President instructs Director Melairei to find out if any businesses around the area where affected as a result of the fire.</i> • Kabeas Eradication Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Bureau of Agriculture (BOA) is working on procuring machetes and tools needed for the project. The project is anticipated to launch in June. Director Sengebau to determine specific date to launch project. - <i>President instructs Director Sengebau to draft memorandum or communication to all Ministries, Governors, and State Legislators regarding the planning launching of the kabeyas eradication project this summer.</i> • Rat Eradication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director Madraisau reports KSG are bidding for construction of new restroom facilities at Rock Islands. Efforts to eradicate rodent at the Rock Islands are ongoing. - <i>President instructs Director Sherrilyn Madraisau to strengthen efforts and to “follow up” on all related matters concerning rodent and restroom facilities issue.</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of the Jellyfish Lake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Sengebau has met with the Coral Reef Research Foundation (CRRF) who has reported recovery is slow. There is currently no jellyfish at the lake. - President expresses serious concerns of visitors paying \$100 to visit the lake with no jellyfish. President emphasizes the national government’s responsibility in address the matter with Koror State immediately. - <i>President instructs Minister Sengebau to draft communication to Koror State Government regarding closure of the Jellyfish Lake. Additionally, Minister Sengebau instructed to include report and/or communication from Palau International Coral Reef Center in regards.</i> • Minister Temengil elected Vice President of the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC). The first woman to take vice presidency position at the ONOC and in all five regional associations in the world. President and the whole congratulate Minister Temengil. President: This is not only a great accomplishment for women, but women in sports and for Palau. • Director Ringang has been sworn-in as Director of the Bureau of Public Safety. A swearing-in ceremony was held at the Vice President’s office last week. • The President introduces new staff member: Anthony Papiian, Special Assistant to the President on Communications and Projects. A new legal counsel replacing Pramod Thummala has arrived and will be introduced at the next Cabinet Meeting. • President announces program to award all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong Disneyland to all high school valedictorians selected ending this current school year. The program will cover up to 4 members of the family including the awarded student. An official announcement will be made on Tuesday, April 4 with Minister Soalablai, principals and MOE management.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers and Directors are instructed to familiarize themselves with the following RPPL’s and Executive Order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) RPPL 10-1: FY2017 Annual Budget b) RPPL 10-2: Environmental Impact Fee (EIF) renamed as “Pristine Paradise Environmental Fee (PPEF)” c) RPPL 10-3: Salary adjustment for justices and amending the social security retirement age d) RPPL 10-4: Wireless service coverage maps e) Executive Order No. 395: Restructuring Palau National Marine Sanctuary and Executive Committee • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to “follow up” on all initiatives including unfinished business. • All Ministers and Directors are requested to note the following upcoming events in their calendars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) April 9: Imperial Visit Anniversary in Peleliu b) April 13: State of the Republic Address c) April 23: MOH Family Day d) May 1-3: Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) e) May 5: Senior Citizen’s Day (National Holiday) f) May 7: Republic of China (ROC) Friendship Fleet Visit g) June 1: President’s Day (National Holiday) • The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Monday, April 10 at the Office of the President in Ngerulmud.

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