



CABINET MEETING

Office of the President

MOE Conference Room | 9:11 AM – 11:17 AM

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

In Attendance:

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| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 15. Director Fred Sengebau | 29. Chief Ricky Ngiraked |
| 2. Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch | 16. Director Melson Miko | 30. Chief Ebil Orrukem |
| 3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang | 17. Director Naomi Ngiramekerang | 31. Chief of Staff Secilil Eldebechel |
| 4. Minister Sinton Soalablai | 18. Director Ismael Aguon | 32. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei |
| 5. Minister Charles Obichang | 19. Director Sunny Ngirmang | 33. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo |
| 6. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg | 20. Director Sterlina Gabriel | 34. PNCC AGM LeoBen Teriong |
| 7. Minister Emais Roberts | 21. Director Eunice Akiwo | 35. PNCC Chair Norman Ngiratecheboet |
| 8. Postmaster General Timothy Sinsak | 22. Director Brian Melairei | 36. Legal Counsel Austin Gaylord |
| 9. Attorney General Ernestine Rengiil | 23. BNM Director Olympia Morei | 37. Legal Counsel Daniel Klopper |
| 10. Director Darnelle Decherong | 24. SBDC Director Ltelakt Fritz | 38. Nace Soalablai, Spc. Asst. Legislative |
| 11. Director Antonette Merur | 25. Acting Director Thomas Tutii | 39. Nick Ngwal, Spc. Asst. Maritime |
| 12. Director Gail Rengiil | 26. Acting Director Sylverius Tellei | 40. Tutii Chilton, Energy Office |
| 13. Director Umerang Imetengel | 27. Acting Director Edolem Ikerdeu | 41. Shelley Remengesau, MOS Spc. Asst. |
| 14. Director Hayes Moses | 28. Chief Raynold Mechol | 42. Fabian Iyar, MNRET |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Ministry Briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of State: Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports of upcoming Yap Day in celebration of its 50th Anniversary from February 28 to March 7. Minister Rehuher-Marugg instructed to look into amount of interest to take the trip and charter a flight to Yap, if necessary. Communication received by MOH of Ambassador Uludong's schedule to present her credentials to Cuba at the end of February. • Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism: MNRET is working with representatives from SPREP on Thursday, February 8 and Friday, February 9 on the framework for access and beneficiary as part of the Nagoya Protocol. Kebeas eradication efforts ongoing. Bureau of Agriculture crew of 5 working full-time every day and have progressed toward Ngardmau. • Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce: Minister Obichang to meet Austin, Nick and OEK representatives concerning the energy amendments bill on Thursday, February 8th. FSM Secretary of Transportation and Security currently visiting Palau. Minister Obichang reports the FSM airliner (Caroline Air) is a 17-seater. The cost of a round trip ticket is about \$300 with a flight time of an hour and 30 minutes, however there is no restroom on board. Tuvalu Government expressed its appreciation to Palau for recent visit and study of the Redemption Center and PAN programs. FSM and RMI are anticipated to visit the island to also study the Redemption Center, Recycling Management Program and the PAN program. • Ministry of Justice: Vice President Oilouch reports of CAT Team turnover ceremony scheduled for 10:00 AM, Friday, February 16th. Pension Pension Plan lawsuit against the Republic mentioned. Vice President reports some of the debts have been paid off. Attorney General is taking the lead on the case, however seeks for the President's direction. The CSPP

	<p>Board maintains position of non-payment from the National Government of interest accrued and further claims there is no clear language of funding purpose in regards to remittance fee and 15% from fishing fees. Vice President requests for a separate meeting with Minister Sadang and AG Rengiil in regards. President suggests for clear language to go along with the \$1 million appropriated through the supplemental budget to CSPP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance: MOF working in partnership and collaboration with Marshall Islands and FSM for a joint project to update and upgrade the Financial Management Information System. Meeting recently conducted between Palau, RMI and FSM in regards. Request made for President Remengesau to bring up the matter before the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit in late February. Minister Sadang instructed to meet with RMI Minister-in-Assistant in regards during his visit to Palau this February. The project is anticipated to cost about \$2 million. Partnership with RMI and FSM would reduce the cost of the project. Palau is no longer classified as a least-developing country thus no longer eligible for grants.
<p>Ministry of Education Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education provided the following progress report to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Major Highlights of 2017</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of Education Master Plan 2017-2026 2. Establishment of kindergartens in Angaur and Kayangel 3. Teacher collaboration and professional learning communities (such as no major meetings or events scheduled on Mondays) 4. WASC accreditation of public elementary schools – initial visit completed for first five schools. Training for next five schools next. 5. Teacher professional certification system – updated previous proposal and submitted to the Senate for action. <u>Ongoing for 2018</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand kindergarten programs in public schools. Ongoing discussion with Head Start. 2. Expand dual enrollment program for high school students. Collaborating with PCC to double enroll high honor students with PCC and PHS. 3. Implement after school programs. The program is implemented through NDC Fund. MOE seeks MOH’s support and collaboration in regards. Program consists of tutoring, arts and sports activities. 4. Accredited remaining public schools 5. Implement teacher certification system 6. Renovate school facilities 7. MOE drug-free workplace policy. The policy has been finalized, now pending before the Minister for his review and approval. 8. Palau National Student Assessment Policy Framework. The framework has been completed and under the process of approval and anticipated to be finalized in February for the Minister’s review and approval. 9. School Technology Resources Policies and Guidelines Handbook. The handbook has been completed and now pending the Minister’s review and approval. 10. Principal’s daily monitoring checklist. This checklist provides a guideline for principals of major objectives to complete on a daily basis to ensure smooth operation. MOE is looking into a monthly checklist.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Immediate Needs</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renovate school facilities as most buildings are more than 30 years old. 2. Set up a Teacher Training Center 3. Upgrade access road to Meyuns Elementary School. The existing road services Meyuns Community Center, baseball field and swimming pool. MOE requests for assistance and support in improving the road. Director Melairei instructed by the President to take note of the request. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation of Eligibility of Palauans for Scholarships: RPPL 7-13 states a Palauan student who graduated outside of Palau must live in Palau for at least 2 years paying taxes in order to be eligible. The President requests for amendments to the existing legislation concerning Palauans who returned to Palau to work and decides to pursue higher education, but are ineligible for scholarships due to parents' residence outside of Palau. Minister Soalablai instructed to continue to follow up and to develop a language for policy change to address the matter. • President instructs for MOE to look into exempting students under dual enrollment with PHS and PCC. Minister Soalablai reports students under the age of 18 or have not graduated from high school are ineligible for scholarships. • Skilled Labor Force Training: MOE instructed to develop recommendations to PCC and Office of the President regarding 12th grade students taking courses in small engine, mechanic and other skilled labor courses at PCC. • Ngaraard Principal Retires: MOE reports Ngaraard Principal Spis turned 60 last week and retired. Daisy Ulitech is the Acting Principal at Ngaraard Elementary School until the position is filled.
<p>PNCC Progress Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNCC set to conduct an outreach program in Ngardmau with the objective of providing assistance to the community on how to utilize available services. Cellular site efforts in Ngchesar are near completion as PNCC also plans to host an outreach program there. PNCC also plans to expand cellular coverage to Ngesaol, Ngermid dock, and all blind spots in Koror as well Babeldaob. PNCC engineers to reach out to all Ministries to optimize use of data through the fiber optic and other services. First consultation anticipated to be conducted at MOH. PNCC encourages Ministries to communicate their needs. PNCC reports issue with HomeNet is due to an internal network problem with the service. PNCC is working on addressing the matter. PNCC is also in the process of removing the sign up requirement for HomeNet Services. MOE reports of challenges with bringing internet connection to students in the classroom. PNCC requests to dispatch a team work with MOE and to provide a cost analysis in regards. PNCC reports of Valentine's Day special to be announced soon.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year of Good Health Committee Update: The Committee met successfully on Monday, February 5th with representation from each Ministry. Minister Roberts reports each Ministry is anticipated to take a lead of a Year of Good Health initiative each month. Ministers are requested to review draft schedule of monthly activities for comments and suggestions. A logo contest is set to be organized amongst 12th Grade students. Winning logo anticipated to be used in marketing and promotion of Year of Good Health programs. Minister Roberts reports meeting with Koror State leadership who expressed interest in partnership for Year of Good Health programs. MOH is also reaching out to all agencies and community groups. Minister Soalablai requests for involvement of students in each state and further requests to

	<p>partner up with MPIIC in the August activity month. Minister Roberts instructed to involve students and to identify incentives and ensure all necessary tools to implement activities and programs are prepared and available. The \$200,000 annual India grant expected for Year of Good Health activities, however more funding is needed. President instructs for Minister Roberts to also look into the NCD Fund. Minister Roberts reports the Committee will also look into amendments or proposing new legislations to strengthen and improve programs such as community profiling, requiring health check-ups as part of criteria for NHI. Minister Roberts instructed to look into the matter through regulation rather than policy, if possible. Minister Roberts further instructed to work with the OEK to develop a resolution to support the Year of Good Health initiative. Minister Roberts reports so far no one has reported sickness due to taking the flu shot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Conference: Minister Obichang and Director Melarei instructed to host the press conference this week on February 7th and to report the progress and status of CIP projects. • Temporary Office Space for One-Stop Shop: Director Melarei reports Bilung has rejected the use of Ngarachamayong Cultural Center for 18-24 months as a temporary office space due to events already booked, including the upcoming energy meeting in July and the silver anniversary for the Mechesil Belau in September. Director Melarei instructed to meet with Minister Roberts and Minister Sadang regarding his suggestions for temporary office space and make a decision this week. The construction period of the One-Stop Shop Building is about 16-18 months. • Islands Resilience Initiative Workshop: GLISPA workshop first commenced in Palau and to be followed by Fiji and then RMI. The objective was to identify priorities in the area of food security and climate change. A concept note for joint funding project to be developed based on identified common issues between the three nations. • Economic Symposium: The event has been rescheduled and will no longer be held on February 22nd as previous reported.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to implement initiatives in support of the Year of Good Health and to “think outside the box” and “follow up” on all initiatives. • All Ministers are reminded of the importance of reviewing meeting minutes, following up on matters discussed for action, and correcting or making changes to the minutes accordingly. • All Ministers are reminded to note the following upcoming events and meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Credentials: Thursday, February 8th at the Capitol - Leadership Meeting with Governors and Speakers: Thursday, Feb. 8th at the Capitol - Leadership Meeting with Rubekul Belau: 9:00 AM, Friday, February 9th at the Captiol - Slaughterhouse Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: 11:00 AM, Friday, February 9th in Ngchesar - Leadership Meeting with the OEK: 11:00 AM, Monday, February 12th

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