



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
NEMO Office | 10:30 am – 12:12 pm
March 6, 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 Billy Kuartei 4. Minister Elbuchel Sadang 5. Minister Sinton Soalablai 6. Minister Charles Obichang 7. Director Andrew Tabelual, Education Admin. 8. Director Peter Polloi, Aviation 9. Director Leon Remengesau, Marine Resources 10. Director Fred Sengebau, Agriculture 11. Director Bouveau Anastacio, Tourism 12. Director Hayes Moses, Commercial Development 13. Director Sherrilyn Madraisau, Public Health 14. Director Darnelle Decherong, Health Service | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Director Rufina Takashi, Nursing 16. Director Ruth Wong, Treasury 17. Director Sterlina Gabriel, Land & Survey 18. Director Naomi Ngiramekerang, Archive 19. Acting Director Gloria Oiph, Revenue Tax 20. Acting Director Omtei Ringang, BPS 21. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 22. Exec. Director Ltelatk Fritz, SBDC 23. Immigration Chief Flavin Misech 24. Labor Chief Sylverius Tellei 25. Terra Rengulbai Nabeyama, BPSS 26. Jennifer Anson, MOJ Admin. Officer 27. Keiden Kintol, VP Special Assistant/PIO 28. Judy Dean, Grants Coordinator | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Director Melson Miko, Youth & Recreation 30. Director Brian Melairei, Public Works 31. COS Secilil Eldebechel 32. Age & Gender Chief Klouldil Singeo 33. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 34. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison 35. Anthony Rudimch, Water Project Mgr. 36. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO 37. Calvin Emesiochel, Deputy HPO 38. Karla West, NDBP Operations Mgr. 39. Harley Fletcher, NDBP 40. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 41. Telchalb Merep, PPUC Board Director/Staff Assistant to the President |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<p>PPUC Update on the Water and Sewer Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation and pipe installation work are ongoing in front of Bank of Hawaii, Moylan’s Insurance, Airai View and the Crocodile Farm area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of this morning, pressure testing is being conducted in Ngerbechedesau area, Sansaro area in Ngermid and Ngerkesoal area. - Last week, exit was closed in Ngerbeched-Desekel construction site per recommendation from the Bureau of Public Safety for traffic control. - Progress started on March 5 to fill up potholes with gravel that occurred due to excessive rain. - There was a misunderstanding from PPUC regarding Vice President Oilouch’s request to reduce size of construction site in the Palau-Japan Friendship Bridge. PPUC to discuss the request with contractors. - EQPB has approved request for 24/7 work. • Recommendations from Taiwan Experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (1) Work at night. - (2) No delivery of equipment during peak traffic hours. - (3) Increase signage, road markers, etc., particularly in areas of road with one lane. - (4) Cease construction during peak traffic hours. This particular recommendation is reported to be difficult to implement. - Director Melairei also met with the experts who emphasized and recommended better management of construction sites. - President suggests suspending construction completely from 7:00 – 9:00 am and make up the lost time in the evenings. We are willing to maintain signage’s to direct traffic during those 2-hours. President emphasizes on the need for drastic changes to alleviate traffic conditions. • President instructs Vice President Oilouch, Minister Charles Obichang and Director Brian Melairei to arrange a meeting with the highest officials and representatives of companies contracted to the water improvement project including the CEO of PPUC to discuss measures to help alleviate traffic conditions.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of pipe for the sewer project in downtown Koror is still on hold pending arrival of equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress ongoing for excavation and construction of new pump station in T-dock area. Progress ongoing to construct cement foundation. - Discussion ongoing with Minister Obichang and Director Melairei to clear area for project site at CIP. - Visit scheduled for PPR at 2:00 pm today to assess the area for construction and installation. The assessment will determine if contractors will maintain two-lanes or require one-lane to enable space for movement of equipment. - PPUC has instructed contractors to put together a survey for the additional funding requested for the project. • PPUC/PNCC Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The agreement has been completed pending a meeting between PPUC and PNCC CEO's for signature. - President instructs Minister Obichang to follow up. • UAE/Mastar Angaur & Peleliu Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President instructs Grants Coordinator Judy Dean to draft the necessary language to facilitate the completion of the amended agreement and to follow up with Mastar. • JICA Feasibility Study of Power Grid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPUC to share a copy of the report to the Office of the President as soon as possible.
<p>NDPB Update on the Agri/Aquaculture Mega Loan Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans approved last week totaled \$30,000, mostly for piggeries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reiterates need for disbursement of the funding by the year end. • Mangrove Crab Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism has been communicating with PCC-CRE, NDBP and BMR based what was recommended by Thai experts. Discussion included allowing PCC-CRE to take the lead and work with Ngeremlengui to install crab banks. - Arrangements for the program includes bringing in pregnant crabs and release back to fisher for release. - President recommends not to release crab back to the fisher instead provide incentives to the fishers who are selling their pregnant female crabs. Seedlings should be returned to the wild to replenish the ecosystem. President further recommends increase minimum fee of purchasing pregnant female crabs to about \$200. In this connection, the President instructs and reminds MNRET to develop and submit plans for a revolving fund program to establish the Mangrove Crab Program. MNRET is reminded to work in collaboration with NDBP in regards.
<p>Ministry Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF 6: Stakeholder engagement is complete. Discussion ongoing for collaboration with the Ministry of Justice to expand enforcement authorities to state governments. ~ President instructs MNRET to collaborate efforts with state government and develop a national initiative to control kebeas population. - Slaughterhouse: Experts from Taiwan are to assist the Bureau of Agriculture to develop an operational plan for the slaughterhouse. ~ President instructs Director Sengebau to make arrangements for a dry run demonstration of the slaughterhouse during the ribbon cutting ceremony. - Jellyfish Closure: A letter requesting for the closure of Jellyfish Lake was sent last week. The letter cc'd Speaker Rudimch and Chief of Staff Eldebechel. No formal response has been received thus far. ~ President: The Jellyfish Lake is national interest. It concerns not only science but tourist satisfaction. Stress must be reduced to allow rejuvenation. President instructs MNRET to follow up on the letter.



- **Ministry of State**
 - **Ratifications:** CEDAW would allow same sex marriage in violation of Palau's Constitution. Recommendation made to not follow through with ratification at this time. In terms of Arms Treaty and Cultural Rights, the same recommendation was made.
 - **Trump Draft EOs:** No movement from Trump Administration. Ambassador Kyota to follow up and report to the President.
 - **DOD Survey Team:** Survey has been completed. The team is scheduled to meet with PNCC and PPUC officials today regarding telephone and power line connection to the most desirable areas surveyed.
- **Ministry of Finance**
 - **FY 2017 Budget:** Minister Sadang along with Director Remengesau met Senators on Feb. 27. 10 our 13 Senators attended the meeting. The Senate was to meet with members of the House to determine the necessity of public hearings. Minister Sadang has not received any communication thus far.
 - **2016 Audit:** The Ministry is preparing to perform the 2016 audit. Minister Sadang requests for everyone's support and assistance to ensure the completion of the audit no later than June 30, 2017.
 - **Apartments as Hotel:** MOF has identified 6 companies utilizing apartments as a form of hotel accommodation for tourists. MOF working on drafting a report in regards. The report is aimed to be shared at the Cabinet Meeting by the end of the month.
 - **MAP:** Interagency group for MAP has established a deadline for first 100 days actions to be reported to the President. The deadline has been set for March 17. Overall report will completed by end of the month or no later than April 7th in time for the President's SORA on April 13th.
- **Ministry of Health**
 - Minister Roberts on March 6 met with two dentists and one doctor from Japan. The doctors volunteered to provide services for one week.
 - **House in Manila:** MOH has identified 10 units located near the airport. Discussion ongoing with Minister Sadang in regards. MOH is processing all necessary documents to reserve the said units. Parking space is also under consideration for purchase. Minister Sadang met with Chairman of Health Committee of both houses of Congress for appropriation – 50% from NHI and 50% from NCD.
 - **Hospital Parking Lot:** There are concerns regarding parking at the hospital. Minister Sadang has requested Hawaiian Rock to assess the lot. Costs \$9,000 to smooth out the parking lot and address pothole issues.
 - **Replacement Hire:** Minister Sadang reports MOH is requires process for replacement hire for the finance section of the hospital immediately.
 - **CDU Prefab Units:** In progress.
 - **Parking Lot Lighting:** Telchalb reports discussion has been made with PPUC for arrangements to install lights. Anticipated to complete this afternoon. Minister Roberts reiterates the need for new poles as well.
 - **Incinerator Unit:** The unit is operational. MOH plans to renovate the site and secure unit housing. Funds have been identified through the emergency grant. Personnel will be in charge of managing and operating the unit as well as properly document all waste disposed.
 - **Clean Up Efforts:** Cleanup efforts are ongoing at the hospital. Melekeok men's group has agreed to renovate summerhouse at the hospital.
 - President instructs COS Eldebechel to draft document approving use of land for NHI building.
- **Ministry of Education**
 - **Resource Center:** MOE is working in collaboration with Ngiwal, Ngatpang and Ngchesar to establish community resource center. MOE is working on providing laptops and books as well as other resources necessary for the center.
 - **PTA Conference:** Annual conference for BEFSA comprising of all PTA chairs of all schools is set take place on March 9.
 - **PEACE Corps Program:** MOE has met with the Director of the PEACE Corps program who



reports a delay of the program for a short time. There will be no volunteers to Palau until around October to November. MOE is working with Grants Coordinator Judy Dean and COS Eldebechel. Judy Dean reports the program is on pause until they recruit around July 2018. There is an issue of whether Palau has terminated its 2-year program. Palau has also graduated from the normal PEACE Corps program. President instructs Judy Dean to prepare a letter clarifying Palau's status and need for the continuance of the PEACE Corps Program.

- **Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce**
 - All Directors continue progress to achieve initiatives for the first 100 days.
 - Meetings and discussions are ongoing regarding the streetlight project.
 - Bureau of Public Works is working on Year of Family initiatives and programs.
 - **Sojitz:** Final discussion with Sojitz has been scheduled for April 2017. MPIIC to submit report to the President prior to the scheduled discussion. Discussions for final agreement are ongoing this week and will be submitted to Japan for final negotiation of terms.
 - **Aviation:** There is a big interest of people using drones for recreational purposes. MPIIC is working with Customs to issue special permits in terms of FAA rules. Permits are being issued for free in interim. At some point, a regulation may be required.
- **Ministry of Justice**
 - **Formation & Inspection:** Formation and inspection ceremony for all law enforcement officers is scheduled for March 21 at PNOC Gym. The President is invited to say a few words if he's schedule allows.
 - **BRT Building Demolition:** Vice President Oilouch is seeking Minister Sadang support in regards.
 - **Relocation:** CID office has been moved to the former Wildlife office next to the Museum in Ngerbeched. An MOU has been signed between the MOJ and MCCA for use of the cultural and historical building for a couple of years.
 - Vice President Oilouch requests for assistance and support from Director Melairei for temporary office space through use of prefabricated housing units.
 - **Ngardmau Substation:** Wildlife officers now occupy the Ngardmau Substation. They will continue to fulfill their duties as Wildlife office as well as police officers.
 - **Koror Jail Roofing:** Civil Action Team has agreed to renovate Koror Jail's roof.
 - **Labor & Immigration:** Vice President Oilouch is asking for everyone's assistance and support regarding the moratorium on Bangladeshi workers. Upon conclusion of the review team, Vice President proposes for an amnesty program, which will require cooperation with the OEK. The purpose of the program is to bring both employers and employees together to update their documentation. At this time, the program is proposed for Bangladeshi workers, but may be extended to all foreign workers in Palau.
 - The Ministry continues to work on announcing and filling positions currently vacant. In terms of the issue of overtime, discussion is ongoing in regards.

Miscellaneous

- All Ministers and Directors are instructed to review and familiarize themselves with the following matters:
 - a) Management Action Plan
 - b) Executive Order No. 392 establishing procedures and policy for UXO (unexploded ordnances)
 - c) Executive Order No. 394 establishing the Narcotics Enforcement Agency
 - d) Vice President Oilouch's directive suspending employment application from Bangladeshi workers
- COS Eldebechel instructed to arrange discussion with EQPB to expedite permitting process of major projects.
- **State of the Republic Address (SORA)**
 - The SORA has been confirmed for April 13, 2017. COS Eldebechel requests for the creation of a working group to develop draft report for the SORA. The team will represent each department



	<p>who will provide progress report that will contribute to the overall draft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reminds the whole that the written version of the SORA will be detailed and long, however the oral report will be short and concise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau Ship Registry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President instructs Minister Sadang and Minister Obichang to prepare financial analysis and compile contractual information relating to the Palau Ship Registry as soon as possible. • Rat Eradication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KSG bidding for restroom facility improvement ongoing. Project is progress. No new updates at the moment. • Tourism Policy Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office of the Attorney General is assisting MNRET in drafting a resolution in regards to the OEK for their action. • Palau Housing Loan Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No updates from MCCA as of this meeting. - President instructs MCCA to follow up on the implementation of the \$5 million housing loan program and report updates, if any, to the Office of the President as soon as possible. • Fiber Optic Landing Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submarine fiber optic project is on schedule. - The Ngeremlengui Landing Station broke ground on Feb. 28. Ngeremlengui agreed to provide land for landing station to BSCC, free of charge, for the next 10- years. - The fiber optic is scheduled for commercial use as early as January 2018. • Pacific Business Registry Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COS Eldebechel reports challenges identified during the workshop. Many foreign companies and/or investors are targeting the Pacific to register companies with no plans for active operation. Currently there are no corporate registries for Palau other than the normal process through the AG's office. Draft corporate registry act is being developed. COS Eldebechel asks for support from the President and Minister Sadang in terms of seeking legislative action from the OEK to establish such registry.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to “think outside the box” and to “follow up”. Additionally, all Ministers and Directors are reminded to incorporate and implement the “Year of Family” as much as possible. • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to note the following events in their calendars: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Youth Day on March 15 b) MOJ Formation and Inspection Ceremony on March 21 c) State of the Republic Address (SORA) on April 13 d) Handover ceremony of near shore vessels to Marine Law on April 25 e) Taiwan Friendship Flee visit on May 7 f) President’s Day on June 1 • All Ministers are reminded that President Remengesau departed on March 6 on official trip. There is no schedule for Cabinet Meetings during his absence. The Office of the President will inform all Ministers accordingly should this change.

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