



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 9:16 am – 12:20 pm
 Monday, November 6, 2017

In Attendance:

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 14. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei | 27. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo |
| 2. Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch | 15. PPUC CEO Kione Isechal | 28. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Officer |
| 3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang | 16. PNCC AGM Leo-Ben Teriong | 29. Nick Ngwal, Spec. Asst. on Maritime |
| 4. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg | 17. Bradley Kumangai, PNCC Board | 30. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean |
| 5. Minister Emais Roberts | 18. Myers Techitong, PNCC HR Mgr. | 31. Norbert Villanueva, NDBP |
| 6. Minister Sinton Soalablai | 19. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Mgr. | 32. Daniel Klopper, Legal Counsel |
| 7. Minister Charles Obichang | 20. Hilton Hideos, PPUC Power Plant Dept. Mgr. | 33. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel |
| 8. Minister Umich Sengebau | 21. Kennard Sugiyama, PPUC Renewable Energy Mgr. | 34. Jeffrey Antol, MOS COS |
| 9. Attorney General Ernestine Rengiil | 22. Clarence Masayos, PPUC Wastewater Mgr. | 35. Shelley Remengesau, MOS |
| 10. Director Brian Melaire | 23. Hasinta Idechong, PPUC Acting CFO | 36. Kimie Ngirchechol, EQPB |
| 11. Director Melson Miko | 24. Rose Maidesil, PPUC Business Office Mgr. | |
| 12. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma | 25. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO | |
| 13. COS Secilil Eldebechel | 26. Kimie Ngirchechol, EQPB | |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Briefing of President's Official Travel to Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President Remengesau reports recent official travel made to Michigan, USA as the keynote speaker for the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. The Conference was attended by Michigan State Senators and Congressmen. The travel also provided an opportunity to meet three Palauan students attending Grand Valley State University, the President's Alma Mater and a Palauan male married to an American living in Michigan. There are seven (7) full scholarships available to Palauans to attend Grand Valley State.
Briefing of 2017 Joint Committee Meeting in Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vice President Oilouch led Palau's delegation to Hawaii to attend the 2017 Joint Committee Meeting with the U.S. from October 27-28. Delegation also included Minister Soalablai and Minister Roberts. Although the JCM is more focused on security and defense matters, the Palau delegation were able to raise the following issues among others: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education: Administering of the ASVAB test to all students. 2. Compact Review: U.S. assured Palau and stated "this is the year". 3. Drug and Human Trafficking: U.S. to provide technical assistance. 4. Military Surplus: Communication has been made to Governor Calvo of Guam for his assistance. MOS to follow up. 5. U.S. Defense Cooperation/MDA, ADA: The U.S. confirmed compensation for leasing of land for 27 years. U.S. requests for delivery of lands by October 2018, but seeks permission from landowners to access lands prior to the date for additional survey. Discussion ongoing in regards. 6. Palau-Indonesia Boundary: U.S. agreed to provide Palau with expert and technical assistance. Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports a technical conference call has been arranged for next week in regards. 7. Buoy: U.S. to respond to Palau's request. ● The President emphasizes the importance of "follow-up" in particular, Compact Review and efforts on buoys, as well as other matter discussed.



<p>PPUC Progress Update of Water, Sewer and Other Matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President congratulates PPUC of the hosting of the PPA Conference and further highlights Palau’s ambitious goal of 45% renewable energy by 2025. Further emphasize is placed on progress made since the hosting of the Palau Energy Summit in early August. • Koror-Airai Sanitation Project (KASP): The project is underway. PPUC reports excavation and pipeline installation commenced on October 6th in front of the Bai ra Meketii. Good progress made and so far, no serious traffic challenge. The moving along and progressing towards Surangel and WCTC. The project considering commencing pipe laying work in front of PVA. Pipe laying to commence today from Malakal Port to Ice Box. Right lane to be fully occupied in this site due to width required for excavation. PPUC is working with the Bureau of Public Safety for traffic control in this area. Progress ongoing for the new pump station at CIP. T-dock station waiting for addition parts while the Long Island location has been approved of permit. • Sewer Pump Failure: PPUC reports pump stopped on October 10th. Large metal, which damaged the shaft, was found in the sewer flow. Repair and replacement process ongoing. The wastewater department has procured parts that are expected to arrive on November 10th for replacement. The department reports draining is required to repair damages. A request has been made for assistance from CIP. PPUC is also looking to procure parts to replace the broken pump. The shipping is challenge as it may to up to 22 weeks. The President state the main concern is to resolve the issue and prevent reoccurrence. The President further requests and plans for a separate meeting with the Board and Management team this week to discuss matters further. • Minister Roberts requests for PPUC’s attention and assistance of sewer station in the hospital. • Power Outage: The President reports of the power outage that occurred over the weekend in Choll. He emphasizes urgency must be placed on disconnection of services due to outages and efforts shouldn’t be concentrated on Koror and Airai only. PPUC reports a tree in Bethania was the cause of outage. PPUC reports of National Grid Study that is anticipated to complete next year. The study to enable PPUC to seek grants and other financial assistance for implementation of project that is anticipated to address grid issues including power outages. The President emphasizes the need to address issues, in particular, clearing of vegetation to prevent outages. PPUC reports of challenges faced with clearing of privately owned trees around the vicinity of power lines.
<p>PNCC Progress Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On November 4th, PNCC connected to the fiber optic network for testing. Testing also underway with Docomo Pacific. PNCC reports the internal system is ready and continues to work with experts to improve the core network and improve all the necessary security matters to protect data and information. Plans are underway to procure software and hardware in the first quarter of next year to ensure security. • The President requested PNCC to be cautious of partnership with companies with questionable reputation. He also emphasized the importance of affordability of service with the fiber optic and accessibility to all customers regardless of income. Separate meeting to be scheduled this week with PNCC Board and Management Team to discuss matters further. • Distribution of replacement cellphones to begin on Wednesday, November 8th. PNCC expects to give away 2,000 cellphones. Customers are required to bring their active sim cards along with the cellphone affected by the system upgrade for replacement.



Ministry, Agency Briefings and Other Matters

- **Ministry of Finance:** Minister Sadang, Minister Obichang, Chief of Staff and Austin to meet immediately to address the Telecommunication Regulatory Framework and consider Executive Order in regards. HOD finalizes committee report today in regards; suggested changes and recommendations made to them were received and are in consideration. President instructs Austin to review committee report immediately. Minister Sadang met with the OEK regarding the PPEF. Concerns from IATA and United to be addressed. Charter of MOU is anticipated to be signed and fee to be implemented on January 1st. The fee will be collected via airline ticketing. United cannot take on fee and thus, seeking solutions in regards. Minister Sadang further reports NDBP and FIC are ready to take in deposits. Concerns expressed of the process. Request made to meet with the President to seek his direction in regards. Minister Sadang requests to meet with the Chief of Staff concerning the upcoming Employee Appreciation Day on November 24th. Plan is in place for the Ministry level. Minister Sadang reminds the whole of filling necessary reports of non-government persons on TA.
- **Ministry of State:** Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports of Cuba Ambassador-designate prepared to present his credentials to the President. Date for presentation dependent on the President's schedule. The President's next available schedule on island is the week of November 20-25. Minister Rehuher-Marugg is requested to fit in the presentation during this open week. Minister Rehuher-Marugg and Minister Sengebau to meet following Cabinet Meeting to discuss arrangements for Our Ocean Organizing Committee. MOS is preparing to host meeting the honorary counsels in Palau, 18 in total, on December 5th. MOS signed an MOU with Japan on October 30th for a socio-economic project.
- **Ministry of Health:** Eight (8) total dengue fever cases were reported for the month of October 2017. MOH continues awareness campaign in regards. Two building projects ongoing: CDU Unit and Environmental Health. Health Training Assistant Program underway with 29 participants. MOH set to rent an apartment in Ngerkebesang for staff housing. Rent to be deducted from the employee's payroll. Tripler Urology Specialist on island for one-week. MOH reports of Canvasback Orthopedic Team who conducted a successful mission of 16 knee surgeries. The President requested for separate report at the Leadership Meeting of successful stories including names of patients, if possible. Israel orthopedic on island for a year. He is accompanied by wife who is an ophthalmologist, an eye doctor. MOH considering contracting her while here. MOH reports of blueprint and design for private morgue to be constructed behind KB Shell in Airai. MOH extended their contract for 2 years. The President suggests amendment to HCF regulations to utilize funding to cover costs of visiting specialists.
- **Ministry of Education:** WASC set to begin accreditation process on Monday, November 13th of all public elementary schools. Minister Soalablai shares of parent's concern of PHS' lunch program because of child's daily requirement for funds to purchase lunch outside of school. Environmental Health was called and assessed PHS' cafeteria. DEH commended PHS cafeteria operation, no poor findings identified.
- **Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce:** Minister Obichang set to meet with Aimeliik Land Authority officials and clan chief concerning landfill today at 2PM. MOU drafted. MPIIC and the President's legal counsels met Sojitz last week. Basic design of project anticipated for review soon. President instructs Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief, Minister Obichang, Minister Rehuher-Marugg and Minister Sadang to Eileen Kintol's report and address how to dispose of the \$75,000 to Saipan.



- **Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism:** In October, Japan provided assistance for FAD design. On November 6th, FFA and SPC presented its economic analysis on developing domestic fisheries. Tuna demand study has been completed. MNRET hopes to sign off on GEF 6 grant next year. MNRET continues to work in collaboration with BPW to address kabeas. More comprehensive report on progress made to be produced for the President.
- **Amendments to Clean Energy and Renewable Energy:** Skype with Erika Rosenthal scheduled to discuss net metering, tariff and Individual Power Producers (IPP). Energy Office has maintained communication with Erika via email.
- **Cabinet Retreat:** The Retreat is scheduled for November 21st. All Ministers (plus 1) are required to attend. The Retreat will be a full day held in Choll. All Ministers are requested to attend prepared with their agendas.
- **EQPB:** Reports of challenges with the Board. Nace Soalablai reports Board Member Jack Meltel and Florencio Yamada's reappointment has been confirmed by the Senate.
- NDBP reports as of Friday, November 3rd, the Bank has approved a total sum of \$1,022,677. \$115,000 of loan applications is currently pending further processing and review.
- **PSS KEDAM Handover:** Handover of new patrol boat scheduled for February 13th. Building and wharf expected for completion by then. Minister Rehuher-Marugg and the Vice President are requested to look into the arrangements for the ceremony.
- **Aid to Palauan Students in Cuba:** Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports of communication ongoing with Ambassador Kyota to send the funding assistance to the students. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean confirms of 10 students who will be receiving financial assistance. Challenges faced with wiring the funds to the students. Discussion ongoing with Ambassador Kyota of transferring \$2,000 each to the students via Western Union. 10% fee is charges for such transaction. Physical delivery of funds won't save cost as exchange rate from US dollars to Peso is equivalent to 10%. President instructs to move forward with the first \$2,000 transaction. Dean reports the second is being considered to be made in the spring then followed by the last \$1,000 transaction for a total of \$5,000 financial assistance per student. Proposed trip by Minister Roberts to Cuba has been posted for next year.
- **OEK Session:** OEK is on special session. President instructs for arrangement of Leadership Meeting with the OEK, Rubekul Belau and Governors on Wednesday, November 8th at 11:30 am. Agenda to include JCM, BSCC and PNCC. Propose to sign school nutrition and wellness bill. Concerns expressed of junk food sold in school stores that was noted in the legislative finding. There are no stores in schools. President states the matter can be addressed in the transmittal letter. Our Ocean Trust Fund proposed legislation instructed for transmittal on Wednesday, November 8th. The Fund to be managed by the Ministry of Finance under a separate account.
- **Stimulus Announcement:** Announcement for one-stop shop building and the 2nd floor of Peleliu State office were announced today, November 6th. Director Melairei and Director Remengesau to advertise rest on Tuesday, November 7th.
- **Tropical Storm Assessment:** Angaur has made a request for Bureau of Public Works to



	<p>assess and provide an estimate cost of repair of their dock. Report and photographs submitted. Director Melairei states damages exceed \$1 million. Peleliu sustained minimal damages. Logistical meeting scheduled on Thursday, November 10th regarding damages in Southwest Islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension Plan Lawsuit: CSPP seeking to reach settlement for unpaid interest from the Toribiong administration. Minister Sadang reports interest has been paid through authorization and appropriation, and payment continues to be made. As of today, the \$1.6 million has been paid off. Attorney General Rengiil instructed to look into it. Minister Sadang to provide documents to AG Rengiil in regards. • India Grant: Judy Dean instructed to follow up with Robert Scaria regarding the India payment for the Year of the Youth.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers are reminded to begin seeking partnerships and assistance for the hosting of ‘Our Ocean’ Conference in 2020, and to begin preparation in regards. • All Ministers are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” on all initiatives. • All Ministers are requested to note the following upcoming events: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuesday, November 21: Cabinet Retreat at Choll 2. Wednesday, November 22: Employee Appreciation Day 3. Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving Day • Cabinet Meeting Schedule: The President is currently traveling on official trip in attendance of the UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn, Germany. The Office of the President will inform of the next meeting schedule once confirmed.

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