



**CABINET MEETING**  
 Office of the President  
 Ngerulmud | 9:25 am – 10:36 am  
 January 9, 2017

**In Attendance:**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr</li> <li>2. Minister Billy Kuartei, MOS</li> <li>3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang, MOF</li> <li>4. Minister Umiich Sengebaw, MNRET</li> <li>5. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton, MCCA</li> <li>6. Minister Sinton Soalablai, MOE</li> <li>7. Director Debbie Ngemaes, Hospital &amp; Clinical Service</li> <li>8. Director Brian Melairei, Public Works</li> <li>9. Director Casmir Remengesau, Budget &amp; Planning</li> <li>10. Keobel Sakuma, PNMS Exec. Director</li> <li>11. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. COS Secilil Eldebechel</li> <li>13. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei</li> <li>14. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo</li> <li>15. Judy Dean, Grants Officer</li> <li>16. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer</li> <li>17. EU/Climate Change Ambassador Olai Uludong</li> <li>18. NDBP Board Chairman Marino Rechesengel</li> <li>19. NDBP President/CEO Claire Harvey</li> <li>20. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor</li> <li>20. Roxanne Blesam, EQPB Exec. Director</li> <li>21. Kimie Ngirchechol, EQPB Lab Supervisor</li> </ol> |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President: First order of business is report on the status of matters discussed in our previous cabinet meeting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time is ticking, so we need to continue to think outside of the box and follow up</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>NDBP Update on Agriculture and Aquaculture Loan Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDBP Chair Rechesengel: Based on discussions from previous meeting here's an update               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We've discussed with the Chair of the Governor's Association for a meeting</li> <li>- Scheduled to meet with women's conservation society tomorrow at Penthouse Hotel</li> <li>- We are continuing to contact clients</li> <li>- There's a plan in place for implementing the program. The process depends on the type of loan for application</li> <li>- Disbursement of funds is normally conducted within two weeks once the process is completed</li> <li>- Director of Agriculture will be assistance with on agriculture matters</li> <li>- Agri-fair is also planned for February to reach out to people and entice them to apply</li> </ul> </li> <li>• President: Let's not depend solely on the agri-fair to reach out to clients</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Try to reach out to anyone who is interested in the program</li> <li>- Kaleb, I want to emphasis again that you need to work closely with the bank and give me an update on a weekly basis on the bank’s program of the program</li> <li>- We need a full time bank representative to work with clients on business plans</li> <li>- We also need a bank liaison to monitor and ensure the program is being implemented effectively</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● President: I’m disturbed by what I hear that people must submit invoices along the way to enable release of funds. The bank is not releasing the funds to the applicants in full or even partially, is this true? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NDBP Chair Rechesengel: A business plan must be in place. Once clients are ready to purchase items, then the bank releases the funds. I believe it’s important to monitor. If we give the funds in full, we can’t monitor spending</li> <li>- President: Do not treat these funds like you would normal NBDP loan programs. Are you applying the same criteria for normal NBDP programs?</li> <li>- NDPB President Harvey: The criteria have lessened. But we would rather release funds on a request basis. The plan doesn’t exactly show what they will spend the money on</li> <li>- President: We shouldn’t get caught up in reimbursable basis. At the very least ration the release of funds and require clients to submit a report of expenditure. Let’s not make this bureaucratic. Risks and losses are expected. We don’t expect 100% bulletproof aquaculture and agriculture improvement, but the successful set up of one or two projects is better than the status quo</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Suggestion made for a program involving youth in agriculture and aquaculture in the form of on-the-job-training and as added labor, one of the biggest challenges facing farmers –Judy Dean</li> <li>● President: agriculture and aquaculture is a national priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We’re declaring this year the Year of Family – we need to look into incentives and opportunities for families such as family farms, tax breaks for families with farms, etc</li> <li>- We’re taking a lot of fish from the wild. For Clam farmers, a huge problem is theft. New Mariculture Center will triple clam production. The PAN program in my understanding is conducting reef monitoring. I’m sure they can also conduct monitoring of private farms further looking out for the interests of the states and the private sector</li> <li>- Kaleb Udui, Jr. is instructed to follow up and work closely with NDBP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Update: Inauguration and Installation Program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The program is complete, preparation of food and others are continuing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Booklet is in the printing process</li> <li>- New posters are done. 1,000 copies total. MOE requested 200 for all classrooms</li> <li>- Director Melairei and his crew have completed the frame for the staging</li> <li>- Final walkthrough of Ngerulmud set up is scheduled today</li> <li>- Construction of staging is set to complete by Friday with decorations to follow over the weekend</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President: We need to begin road painting efforts including patching up potholes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work began over the weekend with water blasting</li> <li>- MOF has been receiving requests for painting as part of facelift efforts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerns expressed over progress of current excavation and pipe installation work as a safety issue and inconvenience for the public particularly during the inauguration and installation program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dialogue with PPUC must be conducted</li> </ul> </li> <li>• President instructs Committee to provide good vehicles to RMI and FSM Presidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not give them PIFs vehicles</li> <li>- PIFS vehicles are okay for Ministers</li> <li>- Japan and ROC to arrange their own vehicles for the program</li> <li>- 79 overseas guests have confirmed attendance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• President emphasizes networking with visiting Ambassadors and other special guests during the inauguration as a crucial step in identifying and potentially securing opportunities to Palau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Japan is sending a special envoy. I would like to see specific ODA discussion</li> <li>- Same must be done for ROC</li> <li>- We want to have concrete discussions for partnership</li> <li>- Meetings with them are scheduled in the morning of Jan. 19</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inauguration budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A copy of transmittal of the inauguration budget be made available and disseminated to all Ministers and Directors</li> <li>- President: The budget was a rider under the Privacy Act</li> <li>- COS Eldebechel is instructed to come up with language necessary to improve the legislation</li> <li>- The purpose of the bill was to improve the rights of juveniles in terms of the release of information relating to their records without their permission. However, the term used in the legislation is “natural person” therefore prohibiting the release of information of all people including convicted criminals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grants and Assistance to Palau</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: Judy I want a closure on the UAE project. <i>Judy: Email was sent. No reply since.</i></li> <li>- Streetlight project, I believe a request was made therefore we need closure. It’s a time a Minister or myself send a letter</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Rat Eradication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: I’m not putting this to rest. Ensure the Division of Environmental Health is following up on this</li> <li>- Minister Sadang met with Lolita Decherong of PCS requesting for assistance in addressing this matter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- **New Jail**
  - Meeting with EQPB was conducted last Thursday, Jan. 5
  - Provisional permit has been approved and issued while EQPB continues to discuss and monitor the septic tank situation
  
- **Slaughterhouse**
  - President: There's concern of capacity that must be addressed. We want a sustainable operation not a one time thing
  
- **Housing Development**
  - President: Are they putting out more structured projects? *Yes*
  - Minister Temengil-Chilton instructed to get an update
  
- **Environmental Impact Fee (EIF)**
  - Regulations is done
  - MOF is working on publicizing and finalizing by February
  - President: Concern on collection at the airport and secondly, you're going to be doing this yourself. There's no agency
  - Minister Sadang: We are look at three options for collection
    - ~ Online payment
    - ~ Payment upon arrival
    - ~ Payment upon departure
  - At present, there's no airline that can pick up the collection via ticketing. Discussions are continuing. Once regulations is done we hope airline will be able to pick up
  - Tour agencies are working to advice clients of fee
  - Permit holders and spouses are exempted from payment
  - We're ready. Will kick off in mid February and ready for implementation by April 1
  
- **Pristine Paradise Brand**
  - It should be made clear that the brand will be implemented over the next four years
  - We must have a larger consultation and partnership with PVA, COC, FIB, EQPB and all relevant agencies on policy and implementation in selling Palau as a quality tourism destination
  - We need to pick up speed on five star investments
  - Specific criteria must be put in place for investments we want and for those that we don't need
  - I believe there's a simple sure way to improve the process
  - All Ministers must also include the Marine Sanctuary in all phases of our development



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Green Economy</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Optimistic Palau will be approved for membership and partnership</li><li>- President: We're not achieving the full potential of our eligibility for these opportunities. There needs to be followed up on</li><li>- Green climate fund application: Under process. Slow, but ongoing.</li></ul></li> <li>● <b>Honorary Committee on GOV Services Report and MAP</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Private assessment team submitted report before Dec. 30</li><li>- Due to detail recommendation for personnel changes, the report will not be made public</li><li>- The report will be compared to the evaluation conducted by the interagency group as part of the Management Action Plan (MAP)</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Reminders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Add PAN Program reef monitoring as an agenda item with Governors</li> <li>● PPUC representatives must attend every meeting on Mondays</li> <li>● One on one meeting will begin this afternoon. See COS Eldebechel for the schedule</li> <li>● Deadline for submission of plans as part of the MAP report must be submitted tomorrow for finalization in time for inauguration</li></ul>

**\*Meeting minutes are subject to change and approval at the next Cabinet Meeting**