



CABINET MEETING
 Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 9:25 am – 11:13 am
 Monday, April 10, 2017

In Attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. 2. Vice President Raynold Oilouch 3. Minister Billy Kuartei 4. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton 5. Minister Umiich Sengebau 6. Minister Sinton Soalablai 7. Director Umerang Imetengel, BPSS 8. Director Darnelle Decherong, Health Administration 9. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 10. COS Secilil Eldebechel 11. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 12. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam 14. Nick Ngwal, Spec. Asst. on Security & Maritime Affairs 15. Anthony Papian, Spec. Asst. on Communications & Projects 16. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 17. Judy Dean, Grants Coordinator 18. Stalin Pedro, Special Assistant to Minister Obichang 19. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator 20. Karla West, NDBP Operations Manager 21. Jeff Ngirarsaol, NDBP Agri/Aquaculture Loan Broker 22. Norbert Villanueva, NDBP Business Development Officer 23. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO |
|--|---|

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	
Opening Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moment of Silence observed in respect of the passing of late Director J. Ometei Ringang. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Aloysius Alonz has assumed the role of Acting Director of the Bureau of Public Safety in the interim. • State of the Republic Address (SORA): The President reminds all Ministers and Directors as well as the rest of the Executive Branch personnel of SORA scheduled on Thurs, April 13. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whole is reminded to submit Management Action Plan (MAP) reports and action plan. First 100 days report is required from every Ministry. - Following the SORA, report will be released to the public, media and disseminated to all. • Legislations under Review: 1) [HOD bill] Establishing the National Day of Prayer; 2) [HOD bill] To Remove the deadline of Land Court and Land & Survey operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upon initial review, nothing controversial was identified within their contents. The President looks to sign both legislations into law. • Role of Sea Shepherd: The Sea Shepherd is working with Palau on marine surveillance and enforcement. Palau is grateful for their efforts and assistance, but will be moving forward without them. • New Staff on Board: The President introduces Nick Ngwal, Special Assistant on Security and Maritime Affairs and Anthony Papian, Special Assistant on Communication and Projects. 	
NDBP Progress Report of Agri/Aquaculture Mega Loan Program - and -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP in the last week approved a \$15,000 loan for piggery operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have reached out to EQPB, Bureau of Agriculture (BOA) and the Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR) to set up schedule for the outreach program. - Animal Production Workshop held on April 7 deemed successful. Out of 25 people who participated, 10 are considered potential clients. - NDBP is coordinating efforts with PCC-CRE to host workshop on 	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN <i>a) NDBP to follow up with potential clients from workshop.</i>



<p>EQPB Progress Report of Permitting of Agri/Aquaculture Operation</p>	<p>agriculture and aquaculture (kelsebuul and mangrove crab production).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCC-CRE staff continues to survey potential farm areas for mangrove crab production. Airai survey was completed last week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Production Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns expressed on challenges of current piglet supply restrictions. - Existing farmers may receive up to 6 piglets meanwhile new farmers are only supplied one each. Chief of Staff Eldebechel suggests increasing piglet and chick supply to farmers. - On piggery supply side, MNRET is facing challenges of sperm storage for insemination. Additionally, farmers are unable to determine properly if their female pigs are ready for insemination. - MNRET reports 9 pigs are currently pregnant and are all due for birth on May 1. MNRET suggest training is needed to enable farmer to properly determine when female pigs are ready for insemination. <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQPB update in relation to agri/aquaculture loan permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List provided by NDBP to EQPB includes 35 projects approved under the agri/aquaculture loan program. 6 out of 35 projects require permits. All 6 projects are piggery-based operations. - Permit applications have not been received. EQPB has communicated to NDBP Commercial Loan Manager Harley Fletcher to encourage approved applicants to submit permitting applications and documents as soon as possible. - EQPB Board met on April 6 approving authorization for Executive Director Blesam to approve permits for projects up to \$15,000. • EQPB is currently working with the Ngermechau Group for aquaculture project. EQPB working on collecting water data in regards. Data provided is beneficial to determining potential expansion and project sustainability. • Earth Day: Activities are set to launch during the week leading up to Earth Day on April 22. This year's annual fair will be held at Ngchesar Agriculture Center. EQBP collaborating with MOE on student participation. Other activities include trash pick-up at the Rock Islands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) <i>NDBP to follow up with EQPB, BOA and BMR of Outreach Program schedule.</i> c) <i>NDBP continues to work with EQPB on related permitting requirements of approved loans.</i>
<p>PPUC Update on Water and Sewer Improvement Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water project is ongoing at the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Ngerbechedesau ~ Airai ~ Ngerbeched (Ked, Ngesekes and after SDA Church) ~ Medalaii (CIP area) • Water outage implemented on the evening of April 9 from 10 pm – 3 am was to enable new distribution line installation and repair of old leaks. • Sewer project to mobilize on April 11 at CIP office for new pump station. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPUC requests for CIP staff to park elsewhere to allow mobilization of equipment. • Angaur Billing: PPUC PIO Rengulbai reports according to its Customer Service Supervisor, allotment received from Angaur customers are for 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Angaur Water Billing Issue</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>PPUC PIO Rengulbai to follow up on Angaur water billing and report accordingly.</i> b) <i>PPUC PIO Rengulbai to provide copy of minutes of discussion as per request from the President.</i>



	<p>electric billing only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DCOS Kesolei reports as of last week, the latest discussion, resident still receive water billings. The President reiterates dating back to January 2016 when the exemption went into effect; allotment payments directly to PPUC were split for water and electric services. Residents received notices. Allotments should be credited to electric. No deduction should be made towards Angaur water services. 	
<p>Ministry Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Sadang is currently attending MCT meeting in Guam. - Plan for developing the “one-stop shop” building is under development. Meeting is scheduled for Wed., April 12 in regards. Draft will be ready by Fri., April 14. - MOF to host Ministry Fishing Derby on Sat., May 13. The event is centered on the “Year of Family”. All is invited to participate. There’s a fee in place for registration. Interested participants are encouraged to contact Director Imetengel. MOF is requesting assistance from the Ministries for boat transportation. - Bureau of Public Service System (BSPP) is working with MCCA and WIOA on job placement. Following Youth Day event, there was a surge of Palauans seeking employment. The upcoming Pacific Workforce Development Workshop will provide an avenue for WIOA to improve services meanwhile BSPP continues to work closely with partner agencies to improve services. - Minister Sadang encourages departments to allow staff to partake in exercises 30 minutes to an hour a day. • Ministry of State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns expressed regarding PPUC’s role in the management, operation and maintenance of water and electric services particularly in terms of grant projects. Suggestion made to strengthen PPUC’s role. The President recommends Minister Kuartei to follow up with PPUC on matters related to water, renewable energy and electricity. The President recommends Minister Kuartei to call a meeting in regards. Minister Kuartei to take action. - The President requests the Vice President through the National Emergency Committee (NEC) to ensure PPUC and Director Melairei has a plan in place for water management ahead of the predicted El Niño later this year. • Ministry of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOE is set to implement the Community Service Learning Project for the summer. 200 students are due to participate in the summer work program under WIOA. The program is 6 hours per day with stipends for 6 weeks. - Under this program, students will work with state governments, EQPB, PREL and WIOA to conduct a survey of all households with water tanks. Water testing will be conducted. Additionally, the students will produce data to determine whether household water tanks are main drinking water sources or secondary. The objective of the program is for the students to develop a deeper understanding of water conservation. Report is anticipated to be released by end of June or July. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PPUC in Renewable Energy & Related Projects</i></p> <p>a) <i>The President recommends Minister Kuartei to call on a meeting, and follow up with PPUC on related matters.</i></p>



- **Ministry of Health**
 - MOH is in the process of preparing all necessary information in relation to the EU offer to retrofit health dispensaries. MOH is working with NDBP on energy efficient checklist in regards.
 - In preparation for the El Niño predicted for later this year, MOH is working with Sharon Sakuma of UNDP to procure tablets for clean water as well as water container supplies.
 - In line with MOE's efforts on community water tank survey, MOH is working on a community profile, which is currently undergoing in all states. The objective is to determine the number of children within those communities. MOH has meet with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), who has agreed to assist MOH in analyzing data as they are collected.
 - **Rat Eradication:** MOH and KSG are set to meet this week in regards. A date has yet to be confirmed.
 - MOH is extending first response training particularly on how to stabilize patients prior to transport to the hospital to rangers. First training conducted with KSG Rangers last week. Will then expand to all state rangers.
 - As of April 10, MOH has confirmed 13 sponsors for its Adopt-a-Room Program. There are standards in place to determine the level of donation or sponsorship individuals or groups can provide such a full room remodel or donations of sheet, pillows and other supplies. In exchange for the remodel, MOH will name the room on behalf of the sponsoring individual or group.

- **Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism**
 - MNRET is working to host the GEF Constituency Meeting on May 1. Over 30 people from the Pacific are due to participate. With the absence of the President that week, the Vice President is anticipated to give the remarks.
 - The final copy of the "2017 State of the Environment Report" is being printed off-island. The report provides a comprehensive look into the state of Palau's environment. Report details critical stages that requires deeper look. Moratorium established shows good signs of recovery. In terms of land, belochel population is a cause for concern. Require further education and deeper assessment. MNRET working with relevant organizations in regards.
 - **Invasive Species Initiative:** Minister Sengebau is working with BOA Director Sengebau in regards.
 - Program on agriculture to be launched on Earth Day with awards to be announced in October coinciding with UN's International Food Day.
 - **Jellyfish Lake Bul:** The Rubekul Oreor has implemented a bul on Jellyfish Lake to take effect on May 1. The bul will give the lake a chance to repopulate. KSG says Jellyfish Lake is an option. Jellyfish Lake is important to Palau's image particularly visitor satisfaction. Reducing stress as much as possible is recommended. Rubekul Oreor further requested for the Ministry of Justice's assistance in enforcing the said bul. KSG elected leaders due to meet with Rubekul Oreor April 10. Vice President Oilouch suggests for clear communication from the Republic and KSG, a united front, to strengthen and ease enforcement efforts.
 - **Bill on Tilapia:** MNRET following OEK proceedings in regards, but

2017 State of the Environment Report

- b) *The President instructs Minister Sengebau to provide copies to all schools.*

Jellyfish Lake Bul Enforcement

- c) *Minister Sengebau to work with the Vice President to ease and strengthen enforcement of the bul.*
- d) *Minister Sengebau to assist the Vice President in producing at least a 10-day public notice announcement on the bul.*



have yet to be consulted or contacted by the OEK.

- **Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs**
 - Palau Marathon was successfully held on April 8. More than 50 people participated. Half marathon was 13 miles with full marathon for 26 miles.
 - MCCA Gender Mainstreaming Policy has been completed. Draft to be submitted to the President this week for review.
 - MCCA continues to work with WIOA and other relevant agencies following success of Youth Day. Working with Kaleb Udui, Jr., on a directive to create the group formally.
 - **Belau Games:** All states have confirmed participation for Belau Games this summer. About 1,500. Micronesian Baseball Classic will be held simultaneously. The event includes participation from Guam and Saipan.
 - **Pacific Regional Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage:** MCCA due to host the meeting from April 25-27.
 - **Senior Citizen's Day:** State programs and other activities to be conducted. The President recommends hosting the President's Cup Family Fishing Derby. The President recommends each registered family to require at least one senior citizen participant.

- **Ministry of Justice**
 - Police Academy has been postponed to Monday, April 17 from its initial date of April 9.
 - Police Week is set to begin on May 14. Activities are in development. Police Ball to be held. The President requests for participation from spouses of police officers during activity week.
 - MOJ to coordinate efforts with MOF to register vehicles in Peleliu, Angaur and Kayangel. The Vice President requests MOF for their support and assistance.
 - Labor and Immigration Review Team have completed assessment. Report submitted to the Vice President April 10 for review.
 - **Southwest Island Patrol:** The Vice President on April 5 boarded the Remeliik for patrol. One boat identified. Officers located FADs on board and were destroyed on site. All fishing equipment seized. No fishing catch found on board. The vessel was not detained.
 - **BRT Building Demolition:** The Vice President has penned a letter to KSPLA requesting for use right of area next to OEK for temporary office unit.
 - Concerns expressed on light sentencing of drug-related cases. The Vice President recommends a letter to be drafted to the Chief Justice from the Republic in regards.
 - **Bill on Labor and Immigration:** Concerns expressed on pending legislation in the OEK on establishing the labor and immigration as a separate Ministry. The Vice President requests for assistance in regards. BPSS is also looking into the matter as it seeks to merge BPSS and WIOA.
 - The Vice President reports discussion by the OEK on buoys. Recommendation made to share information of the Republic's progress to the public.
 - **Calendar of Events:** The Vice President requests for information on Ministry events to be forwarded to Deputy Press Secretary Rolynda Jonathan to develop event calendar to be shared with the Cabinet.

Gender Mainstreaming Policy

- e) *MCCA to submit draft of Policy to the Office of the President this week for review.*

Senior Citizen's Day President's Cup Family Fishing Derby

- f) *The President instructs Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo to design and develop a flyer in coordination with Minister Temengil-Chilton for review.*

MPIIC Progress on Buoys

- g) *The President instructs MPIIC to draft and disseminate press release regarding actions taken or to be taken to address the issue of buoys.*

Event Calendar

- h) *Deputy Press Secretary Jonathan to develop an event calendar for the months of April and May.*



Miscellaneous		ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$70,000 funding to aid Palauans on Saipan in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The President reports funding have not been disbursed in regards due to issues of land or homeownership. Exact aid received needs to be determined. • Update of Grants and Other Related Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants Coordinator Dean reports EU/NZ did not receive well Palau’s proposal for streetlights. - In terms of retrofitting of health dispensaries, Grants Office has not heard back from EU/NZ since departure to Fiji. The team is reportedly supposed to send Palau its summary report. - The Grants Office is unaware of bilateral grant from Germany on renewable energy. - In terms of the SPREP project, Minister Sengebau reports SPREP is looking into completing the project with filtering system in line with the President’s vision of independent water systems for states. - The President reiterates need for PPUC’s Renewable Energy Office, Office of the Climate Change, Grants Office and the Palau Energy Office as well as other relevant agencies to come together to look into opportunities on mitigation and adaptation. - UAE/Mastar Project: Grants Office reports the new generator has been ordered. - Reverse Osmosis: Grants Office is unaware of the status of the reverse osmosis system donated by the government of Israel. - Accreditation Application: The Grants Office is working on accreditation application to the adaptation fund. Included is matter on zero tolerance for corruption. Statement drafted by Minister Sadang in regards. - Green Climate Fund: Grants Office has expanded Palau’s proposal to include increasing the capacity of the rabbit fish hatchery at BMR. The President expresses concerns of duplication. Grants Office maintains hatchery is operating at a limited capacity. • Potential Tourism Reduction Increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Advisory Group (EAG) is set to meet this week to confirm range of reduction. Initial reduction was between 10-20%; however a 30-40% reduction is being predicted. Following EAG meeting this week, the group will organize a meeting to brief Ministers. - The President recommends for EAG to provide a set of recommendations within the report. - The President reiterates need to host big events, conferences, workshops and meetings as much as possible. • High-Level United Nations Mission Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN mission is due to visit Palau from April 26-27. The purpose of the visit is to connect with programs supporting MDGs and SDGs. COS Eldebechel is coordinating visit with Sharon Sakuma of UNDP. Team may visit with MOS, MOF, MOE, MOH, and MNRET. Memo to be developed in regards. 	<p>Aid to Palauan Victims of Saipan’s Typhoon Soudelor</p> <p>i) <i>The President requests for MOF, MPIIC, Director Melairei, and Kyonori Tellames to review assessment report to determine aid received and/or recommendations in regards.</i></p> <p>Multilateral Agency Meeting</p> <p>j) <i>The President instructs COS Eldebechel to set up a meeting with multilateral agencies on the “one-stop shop” concept.</i></p> <p>Executive Order Forming Taskforce on Renewable Energy</p> <p>k) <i>The President instructs DCOS Kesolei to follow up on the draft Executive Order.</i></p> <p>Potential Tourism Reduction Report</p> <p>l) <i>The President requests for Kaleb Udui, Jr. and the EAG to include a set of recommendations in regards.</i></p> <p>Reverse Osmosis System Donated by the Israeli Government</p> <p>m) <i>COS Eldebechel instructed to follow up on the status of the reverse osmosis system donated by Israel.</i></p>



Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Ministers are reminded to submit their first 100 days report to the Office of the President at the end of day on Tuesday, April 11, 2017.• All Ministers are reminded to “think outside the box” and “follow up” on all initiatives.• All Ministers are reminded and requested to note the following events in their calendars:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) April 13: State of the Republic of Addressb) April 19, 21 and 22: Earth Day Activitiesc) April 23: Belau National Hospital’s Family Dayd) April 25: Handover Ceremony of Near-Shore Patrol “Ewatel” and receptione) April 25-26: Pacific Regional Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritagef) April 26-27: High-level United Nations Mission Visitg) May 5-6: 1st President’s Cup Family Fishing Derby (on Senior Citizen’s Day)h) May 14: Police Week• The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Monday, April 17, 2017 at the Office of the President in Ngerulmud.
------------------	--

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