



CABINET MEETING

Meyuns Satellite Office | 10:12 am – 12:30 pm

Tuesday, October 10, 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 Emais Roberts 4. Minister Faustian Rehuher-Marugg 5. Minister Sinton Soalablai 6. Attorney General Ernestine Rengiil 7. Director Debbie Tkel-Sbal 8. Director Sunny Ngirmang 9. Director Umerang Imetengel 10. Director Gail Rengiil 11. Director Hayes Moses 12. Director Sherrilyn Madraisau 13. Director Darnelle Decherong 14. Director Ngirachisau Mekoll 15. Director Antonette Merur 16. Director Melson Miko 17. Director Naomi Ngiramekerang | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Director Brian Melairei 19. Director Sterlina Gabriel 20. Acting Director John Tarkong, Jr. 21. Acting Director Sylverius Tellei 22. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma 23. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam 24. Exec. Director Olympia Morei 25. Exec. Director Frida Delmau 26. COS Secilil Eldebechel 27. DCOS Reblud Kesolei 28. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 29. Ltelatk Fritz, SBDC 30. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean 31. Peter Polloi, MPIIC Special Advisor 32. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Econ. Advisor 33. Chief Klouldil Singeo 34. Aloysius Alonz, MOJ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 35. BSCC CEO Robin Russell 36. PNCC AGM Leo-Ben Teriong 37. Balkuu Kumangai, PNCC Board Director 38. Myers Techitong, PNCC HR Mgr. 39. Norvert Villanueva, NDBP Mgr. 40. Shelley Remengesau, MOS Special Asst. 41. Nick Ngwal, Special Asst. on Maritime 42. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Coordinator 43. Calvin Emesiochel, MCCA HPO 44. Gerald Tulop, Energy Office 45. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Project Mgr. 46. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO 47. Pua Michael, MNRET 48. Jennifer Koskelin-Gibbons, Legacy Project 49. Nicolle Fagan, Legacy Project 50. Samil Beoch, PHA Board Member 51. Telchalb Merep, President's Office |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<p>Palau to Host ‘Our Ocean’ Conference in 2020 and Update from Malta Trip</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Remengesau announced Palau’s confirmation to host the ‘Our Ocean’ Conference in 2020. The conference will be a significant international event. Palau got the conference because it’s passionate about the ocean, and as a leader in environmental movements such as the first country to establish a shark sanctuary and as the first to establish 80% of its territorial waters as a national sanctuary. All government agencies such as EQPB, NDBP, Housing, Energy Office and others, will be required together towards one goal further contributing to 2020. A taskforce or committee will be established in regards to beginning planning and preparation towards hosting of 2020. The President emphasized the conference must be a pacific-wide conference, which will also include participation and partnership from the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). Officials must network to establish necessary connection for area for partnership and assistance for the conference, not just for hosting the event itself but for lasting benefits to Palau post-conference. President announces a total of \$9 billion USD was pledged for the ocean. Pacific Islands pledged \$45 million for sustainable fisheries practices or climate change related partnerships. Thus, follow up is essential as multitudes of opportunities are available. Exec. Director Sakuma expressed the conference in Malta was successful. The Palau Legacy Project successfully obtained pledges from U.S. Secretary John Kerry, Sylvia Earle and other participants. The ‘Our Ocean’ Conference is a huge event and is expected to bring more 1,000 participants.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Assistant on Maritime Affairs Nick Ngwal reports meeting with a representative from an international hydrographic organization out of Monaco. The organization has a seat in the United Nations as a recognized expert. The organization conducts ocean mapping such boundaries for member nations. Discussion included how the organization can contribute to Palau for the upcoming conference in 2020. Nick also met with other individuals on security arrangements in relation to hosting the ‘Our Ocean’ Conference. • President expressed a meeting will be conducted soon to begin preparations towards 2020. He emphasized the success of the Conference is not on hosting, but of voluntary commitments from nations to Palau. Tracking system is established to track progress and commitments made by nations from conference to conference. President Remengesau reminds the whole the importance of partnership and togetherness, from the national government to agencies, in working towards achieving the nation’s goals and initiatives. • Palau Legacy Project: Over 18 pledges were made, including pledges made by Queen Noor of Jordan, and U.S. Secretary John Kerry. Jennifer Gibbons of the Legacy Project explains the collection of pledges serves as a catalyst for when the project launches its in-flight video, immigration stamps and arrival forms to ensure that people are aware of the project. The project is working on arrangements for Leonardo DiCaprio to sign the pledge. In terms of follow up, the Friends of the Marine Sanctuary hopes to meet with the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and the delegation as soon as possible to follow up on initiatives discussed during the Malta trip. 	
<p>PPUC Briefing on Water Improvement Project and KASP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPUC reports of three (3) ongoing major projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development of Master Plan for the National Power Grid: First visit was made in July, second visit was on September 18 for power demand forecast Minutes was signed for the September visit. The team is anticipated to return in November. The master plan is anticipated for completion around May – July 2018. Included in the master plan are improvements to service in terms of reduction of power outages and how to achieve 45% renewable energy. 2) Koror-Airai Sanitation Project: The project began on Friday, October 6. PPUC reports the project will focus on pipe installation on one area before moving on to the next section. The project is working within 300 feet. The project remains in the middle of the lane. Contractor was instructed to mark areas for excavation and pipe installation. PPUC to prepare talk show to better inform the public. The project is 5-6 months delayed. PPUC is working on catch up plans. 3) Water Improvement Project: The Project is on time and is 72% complete as of October 10. Remaining sections are in Malakal, Rois Ngemelachel, Idid and Ikelau. Work to begin at Koror side of the bridge in about 2 weeks’ time. One-lane will be maintained for this section. PPUC to release public announcement in regards. Work on Minatobishi is in the planning stages. PPUC to provide notice one-week in advance of commencement date. One-lane will also be maintained for this portion. PPUC met with Officer Rebecca Ngirngbedangel in 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meeting with PPUC Board</i></p> <p>a) <i>DCOS Kesolei instructed to arrange meeting with the PPUC Board</i></p>



	<p>regards to traffic control on October 3 ahead of full overlay. Pavement or full overlay work ongoing in front of old Neco to Ngermid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony clarifies the overlaying and full pavement is currently focused from old Neco to Sansaro in Ngermid. Meanwhile, overlaying from old Neco to Malakal is pending approval. PPUC looking into overlaying work from Sansaro, Ngermid to Ngeruluobel, Airai as it was not part of the project. President states original plans indicates phase 1 of overlaying work was concentrated for Koror, while Palau works on requesting assistance from JICA for Airai overlaying. Discussion ongoing in regards to Palau’s request. • Director Melareis requests for PPUC to consider moving Tobishima conducting overlaying work to Sansaro, Ngermid in order to stagger distance between overlaying and sewer installation and to reduce traffic congestion between the two. 	
<p>PNCC Briefing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Monday, October 9, PNCC and BSCC signed a 3-year agreement which determines the amount and price of bandwidth PNCC receives. PNCC is scheduled to meet with Docomo Pacific tomorrow, Wednesday, October 11, who will be providing to PNCC the IP transit from Guam to the world. PNCC is ready for fiber optic connection. PNCC continues to ensure necessary system updates are made ahead of fiber optic connection. • 3G/4G Update: PNCC understands there are a lot of challenges and issues customers are experiencing due to the upgrade. PNCC reports the update is 95% completed for Koror and Airai. Three sites in Koror remains. After Koror and Airai, PNCC plans to upgrade in Ngerulumud. 2G/3G antennas to be moved to Babeldaob. During the public hearing, PNCC announced two primary reasons for upgrade, 1) to utilize the capacity of 4G, 2) utilize speed. 4G enables video calling, live video streaming, among others. There are still blind spots in Koror. 11 spots have been upgraded while PNCC is considering upgrading 5 additional areas to cover blind spots. • Fixed Line Switch: Telephone switch has arrived. The new switch (or MSAN, a digital telephone switching system) enables data, voice and video calling services while the existing switch only provides services for voice calling. PNCC states at some point, the agency hopes to bring fiber optic to the home. There is still existing issues with call delays and drop calls due to both existing switch and the new switch that are simultaneously online. Progress moving from existing to new telephone switching system is 95% complete with the exception of the PNCC office in Koror. All states have been moved to the new switch. The PNCC office in Koror hosts about 3,000 lines. 1,500-2,000 have been moved with 1,000 or so connections pending 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meeting with PNCC Board</i></p> <p>b) <i>DCOS Kesolei instructed to arrange meeting with the PNCC Board</i></p>



	<p>migration to the new telephone system. Once complete, delay, dropped calls and other issues related to fixed line services will be eliminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service and Satisfaction: President Remengesau expressed PNCC’s customer service and satisfaction is really bad. He further reiterates the need to ensure delivery, efficiency and affordability of services. • Free Cellphones to Customers: PNCC announces the Board and Management’s decision to replace customers’ cellphones for free. PNCC is waiting for the phones to arrive. Announcement to be made in regards. 	
<p>NDBP Briefing on Agriculture/Aquaculture Loan Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP reports of \$864,225 total loans approved as of October 6. The largest loan approved as of date is \$100,000. Average amount of loan approved is reported \$16,004, lowest at \$5,634. In breakdown, 23% of approved loans to date are in aquaculture while 77% is on agriculture. NDBP have conducted 8 outreach programs to dates with a total of 101 prospects. A total of 42 prospects inquired about the loan, 1 prospect filled out and paid the loan application fee. 3 prospects filled out the loan application, but have not paid the application fee. NDBP clarifies the Bank continues to work with the Bureau of Marine Resources and Bureau of Agriculture to assist applicants with their projects, including equipment, production, etc. • President Remengesau reminds NDBP of his instruction for the funds to be expended by the end of the year. He further states if the funds have not been expended by the end of the year, the balance will be moved to Palau Housing Authority for housing development projects. • NDBP reports many people are interested however there some people feel discouraged. In terms of use right for aquaculture, there are many challenges. Suggestion made for states to designate specific size of water for aquaculture production and lease to applicants to ease process for application. 	
<p>BSCC Briefing on Fiber Optic Connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSCC reports on the following matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cable station in Ngeremlengui has been built and the site was successfully prepared in time for the arrival of NEC technicians. 2) The pre-lay shore end cable was installed in June 3) All of the terminal equipment have been installed in the cable station 4) The final splice, which links BSCC to GTA in Guam, has been completed. The link has been running for 30 days with zero errors. 5) The system testing has been completed 6) System training has been completed. BSCC CEO, the BSCC operations support officer and Richard Misech have each been trained to ensure system operates at 100% 7) Capacity sales have commenced. First sale completed with PNCC. • BSCC reports on November 3rd the agency will take over the ownership of the cable. Therefore, making the cable available to BSCC customers for testing. Ready of service is scheduled for December 7. The date is formal as customers will have availability of services for one-month free of charge before charges begin on December 7th. President Remengesau made a suggestion for BSCC to move charging date after December 25th. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Access Point – Airai (or CAP A): The cable landing station in Ngeremlengui is the only place for customers to connect. PNCC already has optical fiber ready at the fence line to connect to the service. Palau WiFi and Palau Telecoms are currently conducting research for IP radio link. There’s a tower in place in Ngeremlengui to map those links. Robin expressed these links must be regarded as temporary because they are not robust enough. Therefore, network must be extended to Airai for two reasons: 1) Airai is close to the population, 2) connection is not robust enough to serve the nation. BSCC expresses concerns of durability into the future and whether it can maintain the capacity needed. ADB has approved this \$2 million connection project. Request for Proposal ongoing in regards. • The total ADB project for loan is \$25 million. BSCC reports the total expense in the project, including the extra \$2 million for the CAP A project, is \$23 million. BSCC expects 10 times capacity improvement from the current Palau satellite capacity. • The President points out when the service becomes available by BSCC, can PNCC also provide 100% service that Palau looks forward to? 				
<p>PHA Briefing on Housing Development</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 829 1177 1207"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHA reported the following update for FY2017: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exec. Director Delmau reports approval of 29 loans valued at \$742,000. PHA anticipates increase of project, thus additional employees to be considered to build the capacity of the office comprising of three staff. 2) Acquired land in Melekeok on August for construction of new office. PHA is waiting for the topography from the Land & Survey. Groundbreaking is anticipated for February 2018. 3) \$2.5 million balance remains. 4) Increased ceiling of renovation extension from \$10,000 to \$25,000. 5) Established up to \$5,000 unsecured loan. 6) PHA now equips and installs water tanks to the home for existing clients. • PHA is ready and available to provide services, however availability of land remains to be an issue. Majority of housing awarded in FY2017 are of applicants with leases or owns land. PHA has begun working with States in partnership to develop housing. PHA has partnered up with three states in regards. PHA relies heavily on Land & Survey for land survey and topography as well as strong communication and partnership with EQPB and PPUC. • President requests PHA to work closely with Ministry of State, and other relevant agency such as Land & Survey, PPUC and EQPB, and further requests for PHA to provide equal opportunity to applicants outside of Airai and Koror. • Board member Samil Beouch informs PHA is working closely with Airai State Government on a housing pilot project. Ngaraard, Ngarchelong, Ngeremlengui and Melekeok are also working on their </td> <td data-bbox="1177 829 1575 1207" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> <p>ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 1207 1177 1887"></td> <td data-bbox="1177 1207 1575 1887"> <p><i>Meeting with Housing Authority and Relevant Agencies</i></p> <p>c) <i>Minister Rehuher-Marugg d to meet with PHA and other relevant agencies to discuss and address housing development challenges.</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHA reported the following update for FY2017: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exec. Director Delmau reports approval of 29 loans valued at \$742,000. PHA anticipates increase of project, thus additional employees to be considered to build the capacity of the office comprising of three staff. 2) Acquired land in Melekeok on August for construction of new office. PHA is waiting for the topography from the Land & Survey. Groundbreaking is anticipated for February 2018. 3) \$2.5 million balance remains. 4) Increased ceiling of renovation extension from \$10,000 to \$25,000. 5) Established up to \$5,000 unsecured loan. 6) PHA now equips and installs water tanks to the home for existing clients. • PHA is ready and available to provide services, however availability of land remains to be an issue. Majority of housing awarded in FY2017 are of applicants with leases or owns land. PHA has begun working with States in partnership to develop housing. PHA has partnered up with three states in regards. PHA relies heavily on Land & Survey for land survey and topography as well as strong communication and partnership with EQPB and PPUC. • President requests PHA to work closely with Ministry of State, and other relevant agency such as Land & Survey, PPUC and EQPB, and further requests for PHA to provide equal opportunity to applicants outside of Airai and Koror. • Board member Samil Beouch informs PHA is working closely with Airai State Government on a housing pilot project. Ngaraard, Ngarchelong, Ngeremlengui and Melekeok are also working on their 	<p>ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p>		<p><i>Meeting with Housing Authority and Relevant Agencies</i></p> <p>c) <i>Minister Rehuher-Marugg d to meet with PHA and other relevant agencies to discuss and address housing development challenges.</i></p>
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	<p>respective housing project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Gabriel reports topography has been completed for Ngaraard and Ngarchelong. BLS to work with Ngeremlengui State for the next couple of weeks to determine and identify boundary of lands for subdivision. BLS reports topography is normally conducted first when surveying lands. • Exec. Director Delmau reports affordable housing is no longer affordable. Cap for housing is currently at \$40,000 for the same size. PHA seeking assistance of how to cap the cost at \$40,000 and possibly provide incentives to contractors to assist low-income applicants. 	
<p>Ministry and Other Agency Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health: Minister Roberts reports there are no dengue cases reported for the month, however MOH continues clean-up and awareness campaigns. 10 air conditions have been installed at the Palau Referral House in Hawaii. Two CIP members (Jerry and Isaac) are currently in Hawaii conducting repairs. Internet service has also been hooked up. The Health Assistant Training Program is anticipated to commence soon. Minister Roberts states he hopes the Training Program will help to address challenges of filling entry-level positions in the laboratory, x-ray and others. Orthopedic specialists from Canvasback Mission are also on island conducting treatment for the week. MOH continues to bring in specialty missions to Palau. • Ministry of Education: MOE announces successful award of \$1 million grant to U.S. Department of Education. The objective of the grant is to support kindergarten programs, especially of states without such programs. Pilot project underway in Kayangel and Angaur. Additionally, the grant will also focus on professional development of teachers and to support school technology such as replacement of tablets as well as 9th Grade literacy programs. • EQPB Update: EQPB continues to work with the community to expedite residential projects and has improved communication with FIB on high value accommodations. Additionally, the Board has authorized the Executive Director or her designee to sign and approve residential permits. EQPB continues to work with applicants and the Housing Authority to ensure applications are complete and all requirements, including erosion control plans and waste water management are met. There are no pending permits that are not being entertained. • Invasive Species: Pua Michael of MNRET, proxy for Minister Sengebau reports MNRET has worked with 7 states (Ngchesar, Ngiwal, Melekeok, Aimeliik, Airai, Ngatpang and Ngaraard). Michael reports MNRET working within the state boundaries in the Compact road for two-days before transferring the work to the state to 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>MNRET and MPIIC Directive for Kebeas</i></p> <p>d) <i>DCOS Kesolei instructed to follow up on the Ministry directive to mobilize efforts in combatting kebeas.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Clean-Up of Compact Road</i></p> <p>e) <i>Clean-up of overgrown trees in the Compact road instructed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Replacement of School Tablets</i></p> <p>f) <i>Director Tkel-Sbal instructed to produce comprehensive report for the cost of replacement of school tablets to Exec. Director Sakuma to seek partnership in regards.</i></p>



continue. Ngeremlengui, Ngardmau and Ngarchelong asked to reschedule following Independence Day. President Remengesau reminds of Cabinet decision made for MNRET and the Bureau of Public Works of the MPIIC to establish a directive to mobilize necessary resources and to establish a full time commitment and dedication to combat kebeas. Follow up is required. President states he expects this directive to be completed.

- **Operation Clean Business:** The group has met twice and is preparing plans to physically inspect businesses and cite violators, if necessary. COS Eldebechel reports of lesson learned from previous operation such as challenges with court process following citation, thus the group is working closely with AG Rengiil to develop plans to address challenges of court proceedings. President Remengesau states the previous operation was effective, however it fizzled out. There are reports of businesses and individuals violating Palau’s laws in relation to doing business such as boat operators who don’t hold the proper licenses, etc. Director Anastacio reports immediate and short-term plan underway while the group prepares a long-term plan. Under the long-term plan, the group plans to hire a consultant through GEF funding, to streamline process, build confidence of law enforcement officers, and to assist in easing the process and guidelines for start-up businesses. President requests for the group to report back to the Cabinet of results of visits, findings and recommendations.
- **Joint Committee Meeting (JCM):** The full JCM Meeting between Palau and U.S. is scheduled for October 26-27 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Discussion will include the U.S. Defense Cooperation Proposal on aerial and maritime domain awareness systems among others. The Technical Team has completed discussion with landowners, who have all agreed to release the designated lands to the U.S. for installation of aerial domain awareness systems. The landowners have agreed for the said lands to be leased out. The appraisal report is expected to be completed this afternoon, which provides an evaluation of the said lands. Negotiation between the national government and landowners will be based on the results of the evaluation. Meeting will be held this afternoon with the Technical Team and the delegation headed by the Vice President who will attend the JCM. The meeting this afternoon will include discussion regarding other agendas to be discussed in the JCM such as military surplus, buoys, etc.

Miscellaneous

- **2nd Anniversary of PNMS:** Ocean Day scheduled for Saturday, October 28. A committee has been established in preparation for the event. Jerry reports a committee comprised of representatives of Bureaus under the PNMS was created. The committee includes the Palau Legacy Project. Planning ongoing with PVA for Night Market on October 27. Talk show, banner and other details under preparation.
- **Welcome of New Director of National Treasury:** Cabinet welcomes new National Treasury Director Gail Rengiil.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Employee Training: Director Imetengel announces the Bureau of Public Service System to hold mandatory new hire orientation and of existing employees for October 18-19. Announcement to be sent to all Ministries. • Reimbursement of 2016 Year of the Youth: Grants Coordinator Dean reports the Indian Government is set to reimburse the national government of the 2016 Year of the Youth Program. In addition, the Indian Government has announced commitment for the 2017 Year of the Family grant program. Grants Office is now soliciting proposals of grant projects up to \$10,000 from now until the end of the year. The grant is valued at \$200,000. President Remengesau states credit must be given to India Honorary Consul Robert Scaria who worked with India to confirm commitment to reimburse Palau for the Year of the Youth. • Meeting of All Ambassadors and Honorary Consuls in Palau: Minister Rehuher-Marugg announces before Thanksgiving a meeting will be held for the first time with all foreign Ambassadors and Honorary Consuls in Palau.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” on all initiatives. • There is no Cabinet Meeting schedule as the President is traveling on official business. The Office of the President will notify all Ministers and agencies of the next meeting once confirmed.

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