



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 9:10 am – 10:40 am
 Tuesday, July 11, 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 Elbuchel Sadang 4. Minister Charles Obichang 5. Minister Faustina K. Rehuher-Marugg 6. Minister Emais Roberts 7. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton 8. Minister Sinton Soalablai 9. Minister Umiich Sengebau 10. Postmaster-General Timothy Sinsak 11. COS Secilil Eldebechel | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Deputy COS Rebluud Kesolei 13. PNMS Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma 14. King Sam, Special Asst. to Minister Sengebau 15. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 16. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean 17. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer 18. Norvert Villanueva, NDBP Business Dev't Officer 19. Nick Ngwal, Special Asst. on Maritime Affairs 20. Mike Blesam, EQPB Compliance Officer 21. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 22. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Traffic Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic conditions must be addressed immediately. The President comments further of the current distance between one construction zone and the next have not been honored as previously agreed to. The present traffic conditions is affecting everyone's level of productivity, including the private and public sectors. It seems people are deviating from all the recommendations given on the traffic flow. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meeting with PPUC & Construction Company</i></p> <p>a) <i>The President instructs Vice President Oilouch and Minister Obichang to arrange a meeting with PPUC and the construction company today to resolve traffic issues immediately.</i></p>
Update from the National Dengue Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President thanks the whole for their efforts of programs conducted over the long weekend and in observance of the Belau-Constitution Day. The National Dengue Taskforce planned and implemented the Ureor el Beluu (National Community Clean-up Day) on Friday, July 7. The Ministry of Health over the past four days cleaned up Meyuns, pick-up garbage and conducting general clean-up efforts. Minister Roberts disclosed as of today no reports have been made of athletes infected with dengue fever during the 11th Belau Games. May concluded with 74 cases. Cases reached 122 in the month of June alone due to increased public awareness and the result of people coming in for early consultation and testing. For July, 17 cases have been reported so far, which is a big drop in comparison to previous months. No new deaths have been reported. Cases are stable and under control at this time. MOH continues awareness campaign and clean-up efforts, including townhall meetings with the community. Last week, a townhall meeting was held in Meyuns. MOH to conduct townhall meeting in Ngermid on July 13. Some states including Ngeremlengui, Ngardmau, and Ngchesar have continued to be free of dengue cases. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President suggests for an additional clean-up to be conducted before the end of the summer.
Belau-Constitution Day Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koror State have picked up a schedule for garbage removal within hamlets throughout the state. During the Ureor el Beluu, a total of 8 states participated in the clean-up. The Nation Government provided the participating states some resources including fuel, trash bags and gloves. Minister Temengil-Chilton reports of a successful luncheon program on July 10 in honor of the Constitution framers. During the luncheon, the panel of framers discussed their experience. Minister Soalablai moderated the panel discussion. Discussion made for support in continuing the panel moving forward and to conduct outreach or awareness programs of constitution to schools. 10 Palau fellowship interns attending schools in the U.S., Guam and others participated in the luncheon and observed the panel discussion further learning more about our constitution.
Update from the Ministry of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice President’s trip to the Solomon Islands in celebration of the RAMSI was deemed successful. Vice President Oilouch had the opportunity to meet with and see the last Palauan participating in the RAMSI during the weeklong celebration. National Emergency Committee: The NEC continues its efforts to efforts in preparation for the probability of an El Nino and possible drought. Implementation of Executive Order No. 401 on water conservation policy ongoing. Repair pipe leakage ongoing in the MOJ. Labor and Immigration: Efforts ongoing to assess employer and employee documents and ensure all are in compliance. The plan is within the end of 3 months into this effort, statistics and data will be produced for the public. Public Safety: Work ongoing on public safety. During this summer, the MOJ and the BPS plans to strength enforcement of laws particularly in bars and clubs to deter and prevent underage drinking and others. Demolition of BRT Building: Vice President Oilouch in discussion with Minister Temengil-Chilton for a temporary office space enabling to the demolition to move forward. The project have yet to commence as result of challenges with identifying and securing a temporary office space. Reorganization of Personnel: Fabian Ngriramengior has been named as acting Chief of the Patrol Division to strengthen and improve policing efforts. The former Chief of Patrol was moved to CID. Meeting on Traffic Conditions: A meeting have been confirmed with PPUC and representatives of the construction company at 4:00 pm today. Enforcement of Tint and Registration: Vice President Oilouch requests for support from all Ministers. All vehicles including government vehicles must comply.
Update from the Ministry of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOH is working to finalize Budget for 2017 this week. Audit under Finalization: Minister Sadang shares 200 plus questionable costs have been addressed. Requests for cooperation in addressing questionable costs. If we can’t address them accordingly, they will be automatically deducted from Ministry’s budget. The President recommends for Ministry of Finance to sit down and meet with each respective Ministry finance staff to address them. Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health especially requires action of questionable costs. In the MOH, there’s a huge return of money. This poses challenges for the future. \$1.2 million was returned back of a Behavioral Health Program.
Update from the Ministry of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports she and Keobel attended the One Reef Scripps Institute Ceremony last weekend held at PPR. The team conducted a 2-weeks research study in the Southwest Islands. Well attended including by donors. Upcoming Travel: Minister Rehuher-Marugg is scheduled to attend a SPC conference in Noumea at the end of the month.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganization of MOS is ongoing. Minister Rehuher-Marugg to report to the President once complete.
Organizing Committee Update of INDC Inception Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau is preparing to host an important workshop in beginning on August 7 for the implementation of INDC in the Paris Agreement. The President announces Nick Ngwal has been instructed to take a lead in preparing for the event. The President further emphasizes that in terms of the productivity for this workshop everyone with any connection to renewable energy must attend. Off island participants include NGO's, donors, representatives from agencies in the U.S. and New Zealand. Through this workshop, they want to showcase Palau in renewable energy. • Nick reports since the first meeting, the organizing committee have discussed guidelines in organizing the workshop. Palau's roadmap produced by IRENA was mentioned to guide in putting together the workshop pushing for and addressing issues contained within this roadmap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee have received communication from Ambassador Uludong and Erica. Invitations are expected to be sent out today to all participants. - In terms of programming, the 1st day is for speakers, 2nd day anticipated for break-out sessions and the 3rd day for final production of meeting outcome and report. - The Committee is anticipating for GridMarket to assist in producing the final report. - The President encourages for Rock Island tours and others for participants to attend. • The President further emphasizes this is a high-level workshop suggesting for all to participate not just technical staff. The target of 45% by 2025 is everyone's responsibility. Climate Change office staff under the Ministry of Finance should also be involved. The President mentioned the Vaka Motu that is fueled by renewable energy as an example of efforts in terms of reducing our reliance of fossil fuel further contributing to our renewable energy target.
Update from the Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 people have confirmed participation to attend the 30th Pacific Education Conference (PEC), including Malaysia, Japan and Thailand. There are 143 workshop sessions. 71 are hosted by Palau. 72 to be hosted and conducted by outside participants. MOE prepared to begin welcoming guests. First pre-sessions to be held on Monday, July 17th ahead of the opening ceremony at 5:00 pm on the same evening in Ngerulmud. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOE have organized Rock Island and land tours for all participants.
Update from the Ministry of PIIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Tuesday, the final public hearing for the landfill site was completed. The leadership of Aimeliik including the Governor offered their support of the project. MPIIC learned thereafter claims have been made of the site. Aimeliik State and its Land Authority attempted to intervene, however Land Court did not accept because they did not have a claim. Last week, a case was filled to determine. There are three families who filed a claim against the land. Minister Obichang requested for a copy of complaint and received a copy from the Governor yesterday. The President suggested moving forward as previously agreed unless judgment determines a different land owner. • PNA last week received communication from attache from Manila that as of the end of the month, all U.S. carriers will not allow any electronic devices larger than a smartphone, including tablets and laptops to be carried on flight unless the devices are screened by a specific technology. Minister Obichang have met with Delta and United Airlines in regards. The matter is TSA required. And carriers are to fund the technology necessary for screening of said devices.
Progress Update of NDBP Agriculture and Aquaculture Loan Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the last two weeks, NDBP have approved loan projects up to \$65,500. Since the implementation of the program, \$574,246 have been approved for agriculture and \$209,545 have been approved for aquaculture for a total of \$775,991 in approved loans. • NDBP anticipates to begin outreach program within this week to Aimeliik. NDBP also had the opportunity to visit the Nabeyama Farm. • The President instructs NDBP to "think outside the box" and aggressively implement the program, explore major projects and explore ways to bring the program to grassroots. The President further

	<p>states that if by the end of the year and the \$5 million project is still not implemented the Board will be changed. The progress of the project is deemed unacceptable. The President further emphasizes the need to expend and disburse the funding, and to create an urgency of people to apply. Furthermore, applicants should be given expert support and monitoring to assist with the implementation of their operation. The President against suggested the Bank utilize some of the funding to hire experts to provide</p>	
<p>Update from EQPB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Thursday, July 6, PITI vessel traveling from fishing ground went off course and was grounded at Ngeruangel. The vessel contained about 16 tons of fish catch. Most of which were yellow fin. Governor immediately contacted EQPB who dispatched a team. EQPB were initially concerned of oil spill and instructed the crew not to move the vessel until they hire a contractor to safely move the vessel. On Sunday, July 9, the vessel was successfully pulled with no oil spill and injuries. The final assessment of damage to the reef have yet to be completed. The President instructs the whole to ensure all incidents occurring in Palau such as the incident with this vessel to be forwarded to COS Eldechebel to the President’s attention. There are two containers at MOH containing expired pesticides that cannot be disposed. That is unless if EQPB approves, its can be diluted and disbursed in the tires area in the landfill to rid of mosquitoes there. The President requests for EQPB to prioritize this. 	
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCD Funding Mechanism & Programs: The President comments on NCD Fund rider on the proposed ambulance bill approved by OEK requesting Minister Roberts to look into it. The President emphasizes we don’t want this funding expended on anything other than preventive healthcare. Programs should be initiated in the national level in coordination with state governments. State governments shouldn’t be implementing the programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President shares that in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Palau is well known for its efforts in NCD describing our funding mechanism as “fat tax”. The President emphasizes Palau has the chance to become a leader in the Pacific in terms of NCD. Minister Roberts requested for meeting with the OEK in regards, however that did not come into fruition. Minister Roberts’ is in close communication with Senator Kuartei. Minister Roberts notes concerns on the coordinating mechanism. Applications were sought. Funding in the account was reported over a million dollars. 54 applications were received worth over \$5 million. Most of the applications are from the government agencies and not the grassroots, which is why we wanted to bring it to the state level. The coordinating mechanism remains with the Ministry and the government level, but the funding goes to the state and we’ll need to coordinate with them in regards. The President emphasize the NCD programs should be implemented in the state, community and grassroots level. The President further emphasize we have limited time. The legislation must be reviewed accordingly and return with amendments in necessary unless the MOH is comfortable with the languages and issues can be addressed through administrative process. Summer 2024, 2028 Olympic Games: Voting for hosting of the 2024 or 2028 Olympic Games have yet to be conducted. The Olympic session to take place in September. There’s a possibility to bid both at the same time. If this occurs, bidding arrangement and process to change accordingly. The challenge now is not many 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NCD CM and NCD Fund Rider on Proposed Legislation</i></p> <p>b) <i>The President instructs Minister Roberts to look into the NCD Coordinating Mechanism and NCD fund rider on the proposed ambulance bill further.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Assessment of Unused Government Vehicles</i></p> <p>c) <i>The President instructs the whole to assess, survey and/or repair old government vehicles that have been left in government parking lots for years.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dumpsite Tires</i></p> <p>d) <i>The President instructs Minister Obichang to develop a plan to address the increasing amount of tires at the landfill.</i></p>

countries are bidding.

- **FAO Meeting:** King Sam reports FAO agreed to support the President's request in regards to Port State Measures. This is expected to take place in Palau around late August to early September. The lead expert is from PNG and the second is from Fiji. Both experts will work with Palau in arranging the meeting. FAO will fund it. If Palau covers some expenses of the meeting, the FAO will include participation from FSM, Kiribati, RMI and Nauru. A pre-assessment will be produced ahead of the meeting in terms of the situation of Port State Measures in Palau. This is an opportunity to capitalize Port State Measures in Palau and leverage regional support to ratify Port State Measures in other countries. The final report following the meeting. This meeting will also give Palau an opportunity to improve procedures and mechanisms on illegal fishing and illegal unregulated unlicensed (IUU) fishing.
 - President reports FAO is working with Google to device a technology to assist Palau via satellite in maritime surveillance. This technology is not limited to the ocean, it includes mapping and detailed surveillance and digital imagery of land and forest that is highly useful for development, land management, etc.
 - Palau will no longer go through Samoa FAO office. We will now go through the Bangkok office. Palau and PNG are the only Pacific countries utilizing the Bangkok as a regional office.
- **Maritime Surveillance:** Ocean Mind, Google and other many organization working with Palau to develop technology for maritime surveillance. Last week, Keobel and the Vice President met with Ocean Mind. The organization proposed to use Palau as a test subject of a new technology. Palau is not limited in terms of system used. The Google product is high level open source. Ocean Mind and the technology promoted by PEW focuses on a single country with a detailed data. Keobel suggested exploring all these systems and determined the system that best works in Palau. All systems will fall under the Ministry of Justice.
- **Vessel, Building & Wharf Naming:** The names of the vessel, building and the wharf are due by noon on July 12th. For the vessel, the President confirmed the name "Kedam". For the building and the wharf, submit the names suggested by Ibedul and Reklai.
- **Signing Ceremony:** Signing Ceremony to be held at 10:30 am today with Reklai and Melekeok representatives who will be signing an agreement to make available land for Palau Housing Authority to construct a new permanent building.
- **Update on FADs:** PNMS have constructed 5 FADs and are ready to be deployed. This week, PNMS due to measure depth and select sites for FADs. To work with TNC for a long-term plans in terms of FADs. PNMS continues to accommodate state requests. Small-canning workshop deemed successful.
- **Tires at Landfill:** The President inquires of the present situation of the tires at the dumpsite. Minister Obichang reports equipment for the tire shredding facility to enable operation.

Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Ministers are reminded “Follow Up”, “Think Outside the Box” and practice “Good Communication” in all initiatives particularly of partnership with donors and opportunities to Palau.• All Ministers requested to attend the Joint Leadership Meeting scheduled for 11:30 am, Tuesday, July 12th at Ming Restaurant, Palasia.• The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am, Monday, July 17, at the Office of the President in Ngerulmud.
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***Meeting minutes subjected to change and approval**