



**CABINET MEETING**  
Office of the President  
National Capitol | 9:10 AM – 10:43 AM  
Monday, February 12, 2018

In Attendance:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 10. Chief of Staff Secilil Eldebechel      |
| 2. Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch  | 11. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei           |
| 3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang           | 12. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo         |
| 4. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg   | 13. PNCC AGM LeoBen Teriong                |
| 5. Minister Umiich Sengebau           | 14. Norbert Villanueva                     |
| 6. Minister Emais Roberts             | 15. Legal Counsel Austin Gaylord           |
| 7. Minister Sinton Soalablai          | 16. Legal Counsel Daniel Klopper           |
| 8. Director Melson Miko               | 17. Nace Soalablai, Spc. Asst. Legislative |
| 9. EQPB Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam | 18. MOS COS Jeffrey Antol                  |

---

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<b>Ministry Briefings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>• <b>Ministry of Finance:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report has been submitted to the President and the OEK. Revenue wise on target. However, Minister Sadang notes changes of flights to Palau. Expenditures reported at 23%. Copies of Financial Report to be provided to Ministers for their information and review. Efforts ongoing to improve process for requisition approval. MOF considering one day for budget and one day for procurement review. Ministries requested to complete RQs with proper justification to approval process. Minister Sadang requests for assistance and support from Ministries in itemizing expenditures for payroll and fixed costs when the budget is approved. Delay of RQs is due to categories with no budget. Minister Sadang recommends Ministers to process open purchase order (PO) for restaurants and other areas not necessarily requiring RQ approval and process. MOF recommends for Ministries to share cost of membership dues of international organizations. \$250,000 budget for dues is not enough. 2017 audit ongoing with plans to complete audit one month ahead of schedule and further requests for support and assistance from Ministries in regards. Koror Governor has agreed for the National Government to set up a temporary office at the old OEK parking lot to house existing staff for the construction of the One-Stop Shop Building. Minister Sadang encourages for Ministries to consider online application, in particular those services that are anticipated to move to the One-Stop Shop Building to ease application process. Chief Eldebechel and Deputy Chief instructed to develop a memorandum to this effect. Minister Sadang instructed to draft a priority list of international membership dues based on the \$250,000 funding. All Ministers are instructed to draft and submit a list of membership dues of international organizations they are working with at the next Cabinet meeting. Ministers are further instructed to prioritize travel off-island. Minister Sadang reports UN membership dues were processed on February 7<sup>th</sup>. President Remengesau emphasized the importance of UN dues and funding for salaries of Palau’s Embassies. Delta Airlines is reported to suspend all services to Palau and the Micronesian regions in May. President recommends working closely with PVA to address change in flights.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Ministry of State:</b> MOS reports flight cannot be chartered to Yap for the Yap Day and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Delegations and persons interested to participate to arrange their own transportation. Ambassador Jeraldine Tudong to present</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>her credentials to the Kingdom of Belgium on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Suggestion made for Ambassador Kyota to accompany her. Honorary Consul of Palau to Belgium Stefan Clas to assist Ambassador Tudong in setting up her office. MOS reports Meked Otoichi to assume Ambassadorial post in representation of Palau to Fiji. Minister Rehuher-Marugg requests for information pertaining to discussions made by Deputy Kesolei and Minister Obichang of Palau’s request to Guam Governor Calvo on military surplus. Deputy Kesolei to work with Minister Rehuher-Marugg in regards. MOS in the process of initiating a contract with Cuba for two baseball coach to Palau. MOS seeks for the President’s legal counsels’ once completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of Health:</b> MOH anticipates visiting Cuba on February 23-28. Chief Justice Ngiraklsong expressed interest to join the delegation to Cuba. Minister Roberts met with Angaur Delegate and Angaur leadership concerning the immediate need to renovate the state’s health dispensary and equip the center with proper medical personnel. Year of Good Health Committee scheduled to meet on Friday, February 23. Each Ministry has selected two states to work with on Year of Good Health initiatives, including combining efforts to eradicate kebeas.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Education:</b> MOE to begin implementing Title 22 for the first time. While doing so, MOE plans to identify the number of children aged 6 to 17 who are not attending school. President instructs MOE to work with legal counsels in regards. Title 22, Section 159 states attendance at a public or nonpublic school shall be required of all children between the ages of 6 and 17, inclusive, or until graduation from high school, unless excluded from school or expected from attendance by the Minister.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism:</b> A delegation from the Marshall Islands to arrive in Palau for a learning exchange program for both the PAN program and the recycling program. The Nature Conservancy to announce \$50,000 donation to the Our Oceans Conference at the launching ceremony. MNRET working with Governors and their representative on how best to mobilize efforts to combat kebeas. MNRET partnered up with Attorney General Rengiil to hire an Assistant Attorney General whose sole responsibility is to prosecute cases related to the Marine Sanctuary and Protected Areas Network. Minister Sengebau instructed to work with Governors to identify unemployed men and women within the states for kebeas project and to look into creating a youth kebeas group with incentives. Chief Eldebechel instructed to contact and work with Attorney General Rengiil to address issues relating to Evan Robbins’ resignation and departure from Palau. Minister Sengebau instructed to contact Delta Airlines concerning the suspension of their service to Palau and the Micronesian region in May.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Justice:</b> One week training with Guam police commenced today. Vice President Oilouch reports receiving concerns from two companies in regards to the large Chinese tourism in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Concerns expressed are related to present laws restricting bus driving to Palauans only. Company requests to utilize foreign drivers reportedly due to lack of Palauan drivers. Suggestion made for companies to pay the penalty.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agency Briefings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PNCC Update:</b> PNCC successfully conducted an outreach program in Ngardmau on February 8<sup>th</sup>. PNCC learned almost all attendants with the exception of one where using 4G cell service. Ngardmau requested for cell service coverage in blind spots and in Ngerchelechuus. Existing tower in Ngerchelechuus was damaged during Typhoon Haiyan. Ngchesar cell coverage anticipated to complete ahead of Valentine’s Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. PNCC set to work with MOE to improve internet use prior to extending assistance and</li> </ul>

	<p>expertise to other Ministries. PNCC reports plans to complete audit ahead of deadline set for March 20<sup>th</sup>. A representative of PNCC to the Year of Good Health Committee has been submitted to the MOH. PNCC to roll out Valentine’s Day promo by increasing bandwidth for existing mobile data plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NDBP Update:</b> NDBP reports loan approvals have increased to \$1.3 million since last report. 86 total loan applications have been approved to date with \$842,000 loans applications still pending. Vice President suggests for NDBP to consider identifying individuals to set up agriculture or aquaculture farms enabling farmers to apply for a loan with NDBP and to assume operation in order to address possible challenges interested farmers face with setting up operation themselves. President announces major discussion ongoing with the Republic of China-Taiwan for a \$10-15 million housing development project with the objective of implementing a Palau wide housing program. NDBP to take part in that.</li> <li>• <b>EQPB Update:</b> Permit application for Airport Expansion Project has been submitted. Permit application for Aimeliik Landfill project has been submitted to EQPB as well. EQPB is working with the Vice President for permit application for the U.S.-Palau Aerial Domain Awareness (ADA) project for both sites in Ngaraard and Angaur. The application is pending historical clearance prior to issuance. EQPB reports not receiving any permit applications of aquaculture projects from state governments to date with the exemption of one private project based in Peleliu.</li> <li>• <b>High-Value Investment – Pristine Paradise Bill:</b> Nace instructed to provide a copy of the bill to legal counsels. Austin instructed to provide an analysis between the initial bill introduced by the President and the current version pending in the OEK.</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operation Clean Business:</b> Chief Eldebechel reports the taskforce continues to conduct weekly monitoring of establishments to ensure compliance of law. Taskforce experiencing challenges with foreign bus drivers running off during on-site inspection and monitoring. The Taskforce is exploring different strategies to verify documentation of workers and issue citations as necessary. Minister Sadang instructed to look into hotel tax issues and to explore the possibility of charging hotel tax per head, particularly in the case of bed and breakfast establishments. Taskforce requests for assistance from Public Health in monitoring and assessing stores. Minister Roberts reports Public Health is faced with challenges of lack of personnel to physically assess stores on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Reminders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ministers are reminded to “think outside the box” and “follow up” on all initiatives.</li> <li>• All Ministers are reminded of the following meetings and events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with the OEK: Monday, February 12 at COC Conference Room (11:00 AM)</li> <li>- Launching Ceremony: Monday, February 12 at Ming’s Restaurant, Palasia (6:00 PM)</li> <li>- Nippon Foundation Ceremony: Tuesday, February 13 at Marine Law (10:00 AM)</li> <li>- PALM 8 Meeting (Japan): May 2018</li> <li>- Micronesian Games (Yap): July 2018</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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