



CABINET MEETING

Office of the President

Emamelei Restaurant | 12:07 pm – 1:22 pm

June 12, 2017

In Attendance:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. 2. Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch 3. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg 4. Minister Emais Roberts 5. Minister Elbuchel Sadang 6. Minister Sinton Soalablai 7. Director Melson Miko 8. Director Hayes Moses 9. Director Eunice Akiwo 10. Director Gustav Aitaro 11. COS Secilil Eldebechel | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 13. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 14. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer 15. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel to the President 16. King Sam, Special Assistant to Minister Sengebau 17. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 18. Kimie Ngirchechol, EQPB Lab Supervisor 19. NDBP CEO Claire Harvey 20. Jeff Ngirarsaol, Agri/Aquaculture Loan Broker 21. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO 22. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Water Project Manager |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

| AGENDA | DISCUSSION | RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN |
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| <p>Update of Official Trip to Norway, Portland and NYC</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President reports the recent official trip to Norway, Portland and then New York as one of the most productive trips to date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Norway, diplomatic relations was establishment. With Norway, there are five Nordic States in Scandanavia. Palau has established relations with these countries with the exception of Denmark. Palau and Denmark will be establishing relations in September this year. President reports Norway is a good resource partner. Norway is set to partner up with Palau in marine surveillance for Palau National Marine Sanctuary. Norway is known as a country with one of the most advanced civil system in world in terms of ocean, using a satellite system for surveillance. Norway also expressed its willingness to offer this system to Palau for free. - President's Day 30th Anniversary celebration was held in Portland. The President notes Oregon may be the only state recognizing Palau's President's Day. - United Nations highlighted the importance of the Ocean during The Oceans Conference in New York. A report will be drafted and released to everyone. | <p style="text-align: center;">United Nations Report</p> <p>a) <i>The President instructs Deputy Chief of Staff Rebluud Kesolei to draft and disseminate report on United Nations' The Oceans Conference</i></p> |
| <p>Progress Update from NDBP on Agri/Aquaculture Loan Program</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last meeting, NDBP has approved about \$90,500 worth of loans. Most of whom are in crop production. One is on goat in Ngarchelong. The goat farm contains 8 goats with two that are pregnant. The operator is also working on incorporation chicken production. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are an additional \$66,000 worth of loans in the pipeline. NDBP is working with one prospective client in Koror for a clam production operation worth more than \$100,000. NDBP continues to conduct outreach programs. Jeff recently conducted outreach programs in Ngeremlengui and Ngardmau. - Jeff continues to work with EQPB on uniform permitting process. The President requested NDBP to continue to monitor progress and implement the program. | |



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| <p>Progress Update from PPUC on Water and Sewer Projects</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Improvement Project is ongoing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ngerbechedesau - Approach to Airai - T-dock - Near bai ra Ngerbeched - SDA - Minatobashi - UXO Issue: PPUC reports complaints of UXOs and challenges of UXOs on Sundays. A meeting was held between PPUC CEO, Vice President Oilouch, Minister Obichang, NPA, JICA and Consultant. Arrangements made for NPA to assist on Sundays. Matter has been resolved. - Disinfecting Pipes: PPUC reports concerns for El Nino. The Water Project requires a major amount of water for disinfection of pipes. Instruction made to contractor speeding up efforts for disinfection ahead of projected El Nino in August. PPUC continues to monitor the situation. - Road Conditions: The President emphasized the need to address road conditions particularly in the Ngerbechedesau area. PPUC reports they have instructed the contractor to address them. - Water Outage: PPUC reports are they trying to make water outage regular on Tuesdays, tentatively on Thursdays and Sundays from 10 pm – 3 am. • The Sewer Project continues in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on pump station ongoing. In T-dock, cement work is done. CIP site is ongoing. First layer of cement done. Testing will be done on strength of cement. - The project continues to face challenges and issues of materials particularly sand and gravel. PPUC and contractor continues to explore ways to address this matter. Additionally, contractor plans to provide new specifications of gravel. If approved of new specifications, pipe layout will then begin. - Pump Station at PPR: Discussion on relocation of PPR pump station made. Draft minutes forwarded to PPR on June 7 in regards. Discussion made for PPR to fund relocation costs, materials, redesign and secure land. PPUC will mobilize to said location if PPR confirms funding of relocation. The relocation costs about \$170,000 not including land. PPUC to follow up. - Relocating Pipeline: Discussion ongoing to move pipeline to main road from its original design through PCC parking lot on through PHS campus. The original design is a result of previous funding, if additional sewer project funding is approved it will allow relocation. The relocation will also minimize distribution to schools. If moved, the costs is about \$80,000. | <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Road Conditions</i></p> <p>b) <i>The President requests PPUC to address road conditions.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Permitting for New Quarry Operation</i></p> <p>c) <i>The President requests EQPB to facilitate and expedite permit of company for quarry operation.</i></p> |
| <p>Update on Belau Games</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Temengil-Chilton is currently off-island on official trip in Geneva. Governors made a request to postpone the Games due to the dengue fever epidemic. Meeting ongoing with Senator Frank Kyota and PNOC in regards. If states decide to pull out, athletes will remain with PNOC's support. Athlete preparation | <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> |



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| | <p>for the Games have started. Preliminary games for athletics have started and will end on June 23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On June 9, Minister Roberts, Minister Temengil and Kyota met in regards. From October to April cases of dengue increased. As of today, cases have reached 200. Minister Roberts emphasized this is not a national emergency. The epidemic declaration was made with the objective of better preparing the hospital to deal with and address cases. Everything is in place in the hospital. More people are coming in for testing as a result. Three deaths have occurred due to dengue fever, two of which are a result of prior health conditions. Minister Roberts emphasized that dengue fever is endemic to Palau. Minister Roberts reports he informed Governors' that their request was to be brought to the Cabinet's attention. Most dengue cases are reported to be in Koror and has spread to Peleliu. - Additionally, Governors' also sought opinion from NEC Chairman Vice President Oilouch and NEMO coordinator in regards to the El Nino and hosting of the Games. - The Organizing Committee and Minister Temengil requested assistance from Public Works and were able to clean up sports facilities including Asahi Field. - The President emphasized the Games should not stop because of El Nino. Latest report from FAO reports the official forecast has been downgraded to 40%. - MCCA reports Melekeok Sports Commission withdrew from the Games via email. It's not considered official because there is no formal letter from the Governor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President suggests for MOH to conduct testing of athletes and to take precaution at all venues and sports facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Leadership Meeting with Governors is being considered for tomorrow, June 13th after Minister Rehuher-Marugg's swearing-in ceremony in Ngerulmud. | <p>Dengue Test on Athletes</p> <p>d) <i>The President recommended testing all athletes and taking all necessary precautions for the safety and health of athletes during the Games.</i></p> <p>Breakfast Meeting and Meeting with Governors</p> <p>e) <i>The President instructed DCOS Rebluud Kesolei to organize and arrange breakfast meeting with the Senate President and the House Speaker for 8 AM, June 13 and a Joint Leadership Meeting with Governors at 11 AM on the same day.</i></p> |
| <p>Ministry Briefings</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice: Vice President Oilouch reports Tyson Tkell, a clerk at the Clerk of Courts was found dead yesterday, June 11. He was reportedly found on the roadside across from his vehicle. He was returning home to Ngaraard from Ngiwal after attending a wedding. He was alone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labor and Immigration: The Vice President reports the Bureau of Labor and Immigration will begin assessing and checking documents of all foreign workers on Monday, June 19th. The objective of this initiative is strengthen enforcement and ensure all workers are documented. - Operation at Airport and Jurisdiction Concerns: The Vice President reports concerns with airport operation between the different Ministries. Quarantine under MNRET, Customs under MOF, Immigration under MOJ and Airport Police under MPIIC. There's conflicts in regards. The Vice President has met with Minister Sadang in regards for better coordination between all Ministries operating at the airport. - Drugs were reportedly seized at the airport last week. There's an issue of drug deliver to the jail including many other unfortunate incidents. The Vice President is seeking strong partnership and coordination as well as seek the | <p>RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</p> <p>Ministers' Meeting on Airport Operatoin</p> <p>f) <i>The President instructed all concerned Ministers to meet in regards.</i></p> |



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| | <p>President's guidance in regards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting is scheduled this afternoon, June 12th with police officers. Narcotics Enforcement Agency (NEA) needs help and a lot of manpower. Some police officers will be moved to NEA to provide assistance. The Vice President further requests Minister Sadang for some Customs Officers to also assist the NEA. - The President requests for all concerned Ministers to meet to get a clear understanding on the matter. The President further states an Executive Order will be drafted to override any Customs, Quarantine, and Immigration. The President emphasized that everyone has a role in the war against drugs. The NEA should not have any limitations. They can go through suitcases, go into the airport, etc. - Cases of Illegal Fishers: Two fishers have been in Palau for 6 months. Court cases in relation pending. Attorney General's Office working on cases. AAG who is originally working on the cases. Contract ends in July. The proposal was submitted by the crew's attorney to the AG's Office. A copy of which will be forwarded to the President. - NEC: The NEC continues to prepare for the probability of El Nino. The NEC seeks for the President's order to asking government agencies to conserve water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance: Minister Sadang reports meeting with the World Bank representative. MOF is reviewing a \$1.1 million terms of reference (TOR) that is aimed to assist Palau in strengthening its ICT. Discussion was also made to assist PNCC and met with the PNCC Board in regards. World Bank agreed to help recruit a new GM for PNCC. Agreement made to pay half of the new GM's salary. Once the TOR is finalized, MOF will forward a copy to the President. Minister Sadang and Director Remengesau also met with SS to start dialogue on the \$50 benefit. Will need to work with the OEK further in regards. Revenue for May 31 we are 71%. Revenue wise we are expected to hit our projection. Director Ruth Wong to retire this Friday, June 16. MOF to work on transition to Acting before opening up the position. • Ministry of Health: Minister Roberts reports two Palauans students recently graduated at the top of their class at I-Shou University in Taiwan. Ms. Samantha Olkeriil was valedictorian and Rilang Roberto was placed 2nd. Another Palauan has been accepted to the same University and is expected to start in August 2017. MOH to work on recruiting students to the school. • Ministry of Education: The 30th Pacific Education Conference (PEC) hosted in Palau from July 17-21, 2017 have confirmed more 1,000 participants, including participants from Hawaii, Guam, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Marshall Islands, Saipan and American Samoa. More than 900 people have registered from Palau's side. Registration is ongoing. Minister Soalablai reports challenges with flights. | |
| <p>Miscellaneous</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaleb Udui reports ongoing process working with the Palau Chamber of Commerce to establish a Chamber office in Tokyo and Hong Kong to promote investment and trade. Working with people to | |



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| | <p>open an office for free in addition to some staffing. Request made to Minister Sadang for support from the National Government. Trip has been arranged to both location from June 25 to July 2. Invitation extended to government officials who wants to join.</p> |
| Reminders | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Ministers are reminded of the Management Action Plan (MAP) and budget call deadline on Friday, June 23.• President Remengesau is currently on official travel. The Office of the President will notify all Ministers of the next Cabinet Meeting schedule. |

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