



## CABINET MEETING

Office of the President

Meyuns Satellite Office | 9:30 AM -11:00 AM

Monday, May 14, 2018

### In Attendance:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 10. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei          |
| 2. Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch  | 11. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam         |
| 3. Minister Emais Roberts             | 12. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Econ. Advisor |
| 4. Minister Charles Obichang          | 13. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean          |
| 5. Minister Elbuchel Sadang           | 14. Lydia Ngirablosch, MOS                |
| 6. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton   | 15. PNCC PIO Pamela Anastacio             |
| 7. Minister Umiich Sengebau           | 16. PNCC AGM LeoBen Teriong               |
| 8. Minister Sinton Soalablai          | 17. Daniel Klopper, Legal Counsel         |
| 9. Exec. Director Nick Ngwal          | 18. Austin Gavlord, Legal Counsel         |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<b>Ministry Briefings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of Justice:</b> Vice President Oilouch reports of National Emergency Committee (NEC) meeting held Wednesday where a decision was made to lift water rationing in Koror and Airai. Water hours to continue in Ollei, Ngarchelong; Mongami, Aimelii and Imeong, Ngeremlengui. Vice President express Ngerimel Dam can no longer meet water demands and suggests for solutions to address the matter. President agrees and expresses a back-up plan must be put in place. Deputy Chief Kesolei instructed to invite PPUC GM and management staff to attend the next Cabinet Meeting. Vice President and Minister Obichang instructed to arrange a meeting with PPUC concerning plans for road repair following sewer project excavation and pipe installation. Director Melairei is working with NEC relating to a project funded by a grant from Europe to tap into water resources in Ngerderar and Tabecheding and for the purchase of a water tank. <b>Mid-JCM:</b> Vice President to lead delegation to mid-JCM to be held in Guam from June 14-15. Vice President shares Police Week commenced this week with various activities.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Health:</b> Minister Roberts announces Public Health Convention to be held in July. Men’s Conference is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>. Pacific Basin Medical Association to host meeting in Palau on October 2018. Participates includes doctors from across the region. Nurses Association meeting to be held in 2020. Minister Roberts seeking for “Our Oceans” proposed meeting dates in order to schedule nurses’ meeting. India grant through the UN office has been secured. The grant will cover the first phase of the project valued at \$250,000 to renovate health dispensaries. Second phase of the project valued at \$750,000 to cover hospital renovation. Minister Roberts reports of Kayangel State’s request for fuel cost assistance for Kebeas Eradication Project. MOH to meet Ngchesar on Wednesday, May 16 to discuss arrangements for the Kebeas Eradication Project. Melekeok, Peleliu and Angaur States to conduct Kebeas efforts in June.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Finance:</b> Minister Sadang reports of successful gathering of the Forum Economic Ministers’ Meeting (FEMM). Outcome document to be distributed to all. MOF is anticipated to complete by June 30<sup>th</sup> however MOF is working to complete by end of the month. Minister Sadang reports of challenges and deficiencies with inventory of federal programs. MOF to work closely with MOH personnel to address inventory issues. Challenges reported of inventory of vehicles particularly of maintenance plan for vehicles purchase through federal program. Minister Sadang reports of Taiwan stimulus grant has been approved and submitted to the President.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce:</b> Minister Obichang reports of scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> with two companies who showed interested to submit bidding for the airport expansion project. Japanese partners to participate in the meeting. Discussion to include the detailed design phase and conditions related to the project. EQPB approved the permits and conditions of the project. Further discussions to remain concerning the impact fee of the project. Usually government waives the fee. Exec. Director Blesam reports according to the law an impact fee of 0.0015% will be assessed on any project valued more than \$1 million. The airport project is valued at \$35 million. The impact fee is approximately \$52,000 payable to the National Treasury. Impact fee is not applicable to any national and state projects; however the project is listed for Palau International Airport Corporation. MPIIC to attend Western Regional Conference in June with FAA representatives. Discussions to include a follow up on resurfacing and upgrading of Angaur and Peleliu runways. Meeting to be held with BTA and PCOC on the Airport Expansion Project. Chamber requested for all documents to be made available prior to the meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs:</b> Minister Temengil-Chilton reports of concept for the Adopt-A-Highway Project. She suggests commencing the project through Ministries once a month while considering partnership with private sector. MCCA working to follow up and address Governors' requests to address old vehicle issues in their states. Legal opinions and documents have been submitted by Johnson Toribiong for ad hoc committee's review. Copies provided to Austin and Minister Obichang for their review. Attorney General to also review cases and meet with ad hoc members. Recommendation to the President to be submitted by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Job Corps program have expanded to include people with disability. One Palauan student applied and enrolled in the program. Age requirement is up to 40 years old. MCCA have submitted a concept for a Youth Core Program to MOE for their review. MCCA is looking into a one-week program targeting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Program to be conducted in partnership with PNMS and PICRC. Targeted for end of June. Minister Temengil-Chilton announces May 18-22 is Archaeology and Heritage Week. MCCA to continue weekly radio program including other activities such as walkathon.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Education:</b> MOE to make arrangements for dinner with outstanding students and the President in June. The Presidents seeks for an earlier date around June 4-5. Last day of school is May 23<sup>rd</sup>. MOE to distribute promotion and graduation schedule to all. Minister Soalablai instructed to identify up to 20 students to participate in scuba diving program. Alex Meltel of the Office of the President to make arrangements in regards. Minister Soalablai instructed to ensure all high school valedictorians receive scholarship for higher education.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism:</b> Minister Sengebau reports of contacting the Guam Visitors Bureau in relation to the Bureau of Tourism compliance. Tour guides in Guam possesses badges detailing information. MNRET retrieved a copy of the test for tour guide. MNRET looking to tailoring the program for Palau. Program to include testing and classroom based lecture. Minister Sengebau reports of memorandum disseminating to all MNRET staff to encourage use of water bottle in the office. MNRET have reached out to Parley for additional water bottles for use. The company recently partnered up with EQPB for Earth Day activities. Austin instructed to develop directive on plastic-free meetings. Minister Sengebau instructed to follow up with Parley.</li> <li>• All Ministers instructed to look into a comprehensive program for the youth this summer to include tree planting program, Kebeas Eradication Project and road maintenance.</li> </ul>
<b>Agency Briefings and Other Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PNCC Progress Update:</b> All Ministries are encouraged to communicate with PNCC to address any internet or service issues. President requests for PNCC to donate airtime as prizes for the upcoming junior anglers President's Day program.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EQPB Progress Update:</b> EQPB reports of increased efforts in meeting with projects prior to implementation. Exec. Director Blesam reports of settlement made between EQPB and PPUC for \$90,000. Funds deposited to EQPB mitigation fund. EQPB anticipates working with PPUC to address maintenance issues. EQPB considering hiring additional staff for monitoring of projects. President seeks for EQPB’s support in closely working with local small-scale projects such aquaculture/agriculture to ensure compliance and prevent permit rejection. EQPB reports no permits have been denied and continues to work with projects in regards.</li> <li>• <b>Grant Office Update:</b> Judy reports of second consultant arrival in Palau over the weekend to develop the project manual to become accredited. She will assist with the gender and environmental social standard components of the project management. Awards for India grant for Year of Good Health reportedly cannot be made until a written confirmation is received from the Government of India. No response via email has been made from India. Deputy Chief Kesolei instructed to follow up with India Consul to Palau Robert Scaria. Judy reports of Robert’s response where the India government through its Embassy is requesting for prices.</li> <li>• <b>Updates from Kaleb:</b> (1) Kaleb to travel to Manila, Philippines to meet with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a pre-planning meeting for APAN. Agreed for July 16<sup>th</sup> for a second pre-planning meeting to be held in Palau. Conference to be held in October. Themes are near finalization. (2) Kaleb has been working with Director Remengesau in regards to housing development initiatives. Executive Order under development. Discussion ongoing with Ngeremlengui State. The State is experiencing challenges with soil stability. Discussion ongoing with Ngarchelong State. Working with experts from Philippines to develop the sites. Housing designs under proposal. Kaleb to meet with experts in Philippines while there. Kaleb instructed to work closely with the Housing Authority in regards to planning in terms of septic tank matters. Kaleb instructed to ensure proper paperwork in regards to tax and customs clearance. (3) Kaleb reports “Our Oceans” Executive Committee is concentrating on the organizing idea. Drafts to be finalized by the end of the month and hopefully approved by the Committee in June. Focus made on hiring staff. New applicant received. Kaleb developing package for final decision. Committee is also working to equip its office with all the necessary furniture and equipment. Organizing Committee in Norway and Bali has been contacted in efforts to visit them and learn about challenges they are facing in terms of preparation.</li> <li>• <b>Updates from Nick:</b> PNMS is working with necessary policies and to develop recommendations for the President’s review following his return from PALM8 Summit in Japan.</li> <li>• <b>President’s Day Junior Anglers Program:</b> The President instructs for the development of junior anglers program in observance of President’s Day. Program to provide free registration and equipment with different age groups. The President further instructs for filming and photography coverage of the event.</li> <li>• <b>Technical Assistance from World Bank and/or ADB:</b> Minister Sadang instructed to look into contract with ADB or World Bank for technical assistance in relation to ICT/internet to address needs.</li> <li>• <b>Cuba Softball Coach:</b> Last communication made concerning softball coaches to Palau would cost up to \$300,000.</li> </ul>
<b>Reminders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ministers are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” on all initiatives.</li> <li>• All Ministers will be notified of the next Cabinet Meeting once confirmed.</li> </ul>

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