



CABINET MEETING

Office of the President

Palau National Capitol | 9:17 am – 10:46 am

Monday, January 15, 2018

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 Emais Roberts 5. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton 6. Minister Charles Obichang 7. Minister Umich Sengebaw 8. Minister Sinton Soalablai 9. Director Brian Melairei 10. Executive Director Roxanne Blesam 11. Executive Director Keobel Sakuma 12. COS Secilil Eldebechel 13. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean 15. Postmaster General Timothy Sinsak 16. Daniel Klopper, Legal Counsel 17. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel 18. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 19. PNCC Chair Norman Ngiratecheboet 20. PNCC AGM LeoBen Teriong 21. Nick Ngwal, Special Assistant 22. Nace Soalablai, Special Assistant 23. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 24. Norbert Villanueva, NDBP 25. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Coordinator |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Implementation of the Year of Good Health Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health is organizing plans for daily or monthly programs in line with the Year of Good Health. All Ministries instructed to coordinate with Ministry of Health to implement good initiatives on Year of Good Health. Suggestion for the Office of the President to develop a memorandum allowing male employees of the National Government to participate in MOH's Men's Health Clinic through administrative leave. President instructed for Minister Temengil to proceed with Office Biggest Loser Program for the National Government and to expand to the Olbiil Era Kelulau and Government Agencies. Chief of Staff instructed to develop a directive with legal counsels. The proposed Biggest Loser to include physical health assessment.
Agency Briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNCC Progress Report: 2G service connected on January 12th. The President requests for PNCC to once again conduct a survey to determine an approximate number of 2G users. PNCC reports by Friday, January 12th, services in Angaur and Peleliu was restored. Fiber was damaged by a U.S. Navy vessel. PNCC to issue an invoice to the vessel to the U.S. Embassy. The invoice is no less than \$50,000. Two sections of the fiber cable were cut, one in the deep and one in the shallow waters. The President instructed for PNCC to develop and disseminate a press release detailing the damage and repair of the fiber, including cooperation from the U.S. As of Friday, January 12th, data usage has increased to 1GB. In terms of HomeNet, the internal PNCC network is an issue. PNCC to work on replacement of the internal system within a month's time. 500MB free mobile data issued to more than 7,000 cell users is due to expire on January 19th. The President further requests for figures of data usage following expiration. PNCC to implement new rates for mobile data beginning on February 2nd. PNCC is set increase the \$2.00 mobile data plan from 100MB to 500MB and \$8.00 plan for 8 days for 1GB. PNMS Update: PNMS is currently implementing outreach programs with students and have organized visits to conservation areas. Exploring similar programs with the Palau Legacy Projects for science teachers. FAD deployment program ongoing. Jerry instructed to move forward with urgency on FAD deployment for fishing and catch and release activities. Special closure is in January 2020. Fishing efforts is reduced annually.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP Progress Report: NDBP reports approving a \$6,000 loan of an existing account. Total approved loans as of January 12th are \$1,237,682.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Reports: The President instructed for the reports to be disseminated to the media and distributed to all Ministers. Vice President Oilouch reports Ministry of Justice’s report was submitted to the Office of the President on Friday, January 12th. • PPEF Update: PPEF collection continues to run smoothly. Anticipated first payment from airlines next month. \$10,000 petty cash was advanced to the Immigration for refund and the MOF continues to monitor and make necessary adjustments. MOF requested Immigration for a weekly reporting in order to reconcile. Vice President Oilouch reports scheduled weekly meeting to address any challenges or issues. Challenges reported include determining passengers traveling on government travel authorization and with non-rep passengers. MOJ received a letter from Japan and Taiwan Ambassadors in Palau regarding PPEF refund of their Embassy staff. Diplomatic Passports are exempt from taxes, however staff is another matter. Communication made to Ambassadors to address with the Ministry of Finance through the Ministry of State. Carolines Air from Yap to Palau is not exempt from paying the PPEF. • Nippon Foundation Project Handover Program: Preliminary draft program was submitted to the President for his review and changes. Have yet to receive confirmation of participation from Chairman Yohei Sasakawa. Executive Director Sakuma continues to work closely with the Nippon Team in regards to program. The President instructs Keobel to work with the OEK on resolutions for honorary citizenship and recognition. • National Jailhouse: The jail project is ongoing under phase 1. Delays due to the weather reported. Director Melareii reports anticipation completion of underground water tank by the end of February. In terms of full completion, Director Melareii reports around mid-2019. Funding is available for phase 2 – the construction of the building, however challenges of bidding due to the delay of the first phase. PNQ was contracted for phase 1. The President urges efforts to explore options to catch up on the project. • IT E-Readiness Report: Team continues to finalize report and anticipates completing the report for submission as soon as possible. • Legislative Agenda Status: Nace reports the High-Value Investment bill has passed the House and now pending in the Senate. He reports the bill will be entertained this January. Minimum Wage passed the House and pending in the Senate. Campaign Finance Act passed both Houses in the first reading. Social Security increase passed the House and pending in the Senate. Amendment to Procurement Act passed the House and pending in the Senate. Pension Plan proposal has not been entertained pending actuarial report. MOF have met with the Pension Board regarding the study. RFP underway and requested action to review unfunded liability on both side. Ocean Conference Trust Fund passed the House and pending in the Senate. To be referred to the Committee in their January 16 session. Minister Soalablai’s appointment to PCC Board of Directors pending. PCC seeking appointee with business or management background. Presley Etibek appointment to PNCC Board of Directors is still pending. Minister Obichang’s appointment to PNCC may not be entertained due to potential conflict with the new Telecommunication Regulatory Framework Act. Chief of Staff Eldebechel instructed to update Board appointments that require action to the Senate as soon as possible. • Airport Expansion and Renovation Project: Detailed design is anticipated for March or April 2018. Construction timeline remains the same. The Republic requested for major renovation within the Airport prior to 2020 “Our Ocean” Conference. • Kebeas Eradication Update: Efforts is ongoing. The President to meet with Governors sometime this month. Minister Sengebau instructed to develop update in regards for the proposed leadership meeting. • One-Stop Shop Project Status: Director Melareii reports status remains the same since last Cabinet Meeting. 5 total bids were submitted. Review and negotiation ongoing in regards. CIP is considering constructing a temporary prefabricated structure in the same area where the proposed NHI building is

	<p>to be constructed in Ngerbeched near Koror Elementary School. Challenges of seeking a temporary location to house temporary office structure that will be occupied by current staff of the existing building. Suggestion made for temporary structure to be made into a permanent structure and utilized by other offices. CIP to explore the option of temporary occupying Ngarachamayong Cultural Center. Civic Hall is no longer an option as MCCA and MOJ are set to occupy the hall. The President instructs Minister Sadang, Deputy Chief Kesolei and Director Melairei to meet and discuss options for temporary office structure. Minister Temengil suggests if One-Stop Shop Building is urgent, arrangements can be made for partitions in the Civic Hall to accommodate Finance and other agencies. Director Melairei instructed to compare costs between temporary occupying Ngarachamayong and arranging the Civil Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact Road Repair: Director Melairei reports it is set for bidding announcement in the newspapers beginning today, January 15th. • Island in Front of Civic Hall: Summerhouse has been removed. The island has yet to be removed. MCCA to work on removal. • Back-to-Back Baseball Field: Ngeremlengui State offers land near the dispensary for potential development of baseball field and also for housing projects. Director Melairei instructed to meet with Ngeremlengui in regards as soon as possible. • \$10 million Housing Project: Discussion has commenced to seek \$10 million for housing projects through Palau Housing Authority. Minister Temengil-Chilton instructed to work with PHA and State Governments in regards. Target for housing project is for first time young homeowners. Access to land continues to be a challenge. Minister Obichang instructed to boost Land and Survey and Public Lands Authority efforts in surveying of lands. • Grant Agency Meeting: Chief Eldebechel instructed to organize meeting with all grant agencies.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers are reminded to “think outside the box” and “follow up” on all initiatives. • All Ministers reminded to attend the following upcoming event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PICRC 17th Fundraising Gala: 6:00 pm, Thursday, January 18th at Ngarachamayong

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