



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
Ngerulmud | 9:13 am – 10: 48 am
January 16, 2017

In Attendance:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr 2. Minister Billy Kuartei, MOS 3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang, MOF 4. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton, MCCA 5. Minister Charles I. Obichang, MPIIC 6. Minister Greg Ngirmang, MOH 7. Director Brian Melairei 8. Palau Ambassador to Japan Francis Matsutaro 9. EU/Climate Change Ambassador Olai Uludong 10. COS Secilil Eldebechel | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. NDBP Chair Marino Rechesengel 12. NDBP President Claire Harvey 13. Kaleb Udui, Jr, Senior Economic Advisor 14. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer 15. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 16. Ucheliou Demei, Foreign Service Officer 17. Anthony Rudimch, Water Project Manager 18. PPUC PIO Isebong Rengulbai |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Update on NDBP Agriculture and Aquaculture Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP President Harvey: 24 loans up to date have been approved for a total of \$420,000. The loans consists of the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 loans for piggeries - 2 loans for chickens - 10 loans for crops - 7 loans for aquaculture - 2 are mixed purposes of piggery and clam • There are 20 prospective loans totaling \$850,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 clients have paid application fees for potential borrowing of \$600,00 - Several prospective loans are on hold due to the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Awaiting environmental assessments and approval from EQPB ~ Pending technical assistance from experts from Philippines ~ Pending assistance with project costing ~ Pending completion of the slaughterhouse before committing to expansion • NDBP has met with Palau Taro Farmers Association where they were briefed on the program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a result, the bank will be working with PCS on their outreach program to spearhead the revival of taro patches - The bank has also met with Ekei who are keen to further discussion on options to increase production including the purchase of greenhouses - Request for a meeting has been extended to the Governors' Association. Waiting for a response - Individual meetings are ongoing with some Governors particularly Airai and Ngardmau to discuss farming allotment system proposed for clients without access to suitable land for farming. Plan is under development - Agri/Aqua Fair is scheduled for Feb. 3 with a large number of vendors and farmers - The bank continues to meet individuals and assist them through the loan process



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One area the bank wants to support is the slaughterhouse. Plans are also under discussion and development on this respect • Additional Human Resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting scheduled with prospective individual tomorrow Jan. 17 to work with the bank on a contractual basis to identify and assist farmers through the application process. Nature of job also includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Working with external agencies and state governors on the allotment system as well as the utilization of labor to assist farmers. Unemployed Bangladeshi workers are being considered for labor - Process to hire a business development officer whose primary job will be the agriculture and aquaculture loan program is underway • The bank must consider incentives and programs for families as part of the Year of the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allotment system would work well for families going into business or are in business • President Remengesau welcomes update and encourages NDBP to continue the momentum by working closely with all parties involved. Governors have land and maybe able to contribute to the allotment system • Reminder: Press Secretary Kazuo to organize press conference with NDBP
<p>Update on Ongoing PPUC Water Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Both major projects underway are part of our national outlook for the next four (4) years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water, sewer and electricity improvements are a priority - These matters will also be a subject in our bilateral meetings and meetings during the inauguration - We need to emphasize importance of these projects. These are the types of project we need to maintain momentum of - Palau has been fortunate to have a great reputation in implementation of infrastructural projects unlike our neighboring countries. FSM is a good example of major infrastructure improvement project that has taken years not due to funding issues, but lack of coordination and planning • Update from Rudimch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no construction activity, currently, for the sewer project - Schedule for water project currently is concentrated on road re-pavement in Koror - Work commenced today and anticipated to complete by end of the week. Majority of it is planned for completion prior to the inauguration - The Ngerkesoal zone will be back filled and work will then move to Maris Stella area to allow two-lane traffic in anticipation for the inauguration - Currently, the project is ahead in schedule by 2% - Update on RO donated by Israel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ The actual reverse osmosis system donated from Israel with a floating device is still boxed in storage. There's no housing currently. Discussion is ongoing with contractor for possibility to connect to existing pipe. President: This system was donated during the state of emergency, but instead of putting it to use it remains boxed. We need to make sure that these assistances are being utilized to address the demand and needs of outlying states. At some point, services to outlying states must come to par with Koror ~ Separate RO System in Peleliu: The system is operational, however there's a leakage problem. 6,000 gallons of water normally runs out in 5 hours. Discussion is ongoing to address this issue. President: Consider laying out new pipes and address the matter immediately - Update on New Rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ New rates are scheduled for inclusion in Feb. 1, 2017 billing for Dec. 2016 consumption ~ First 5,000 gallon to increase by 4%. 5,000 gallons and above to increase by 24% ~ President: What's the expected revenue increase based on the new tariff? PPUC representatives doesn't have the information at the time of the meeting, but will share with



	<p>Office of the President as soon as possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angaur Water Issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ President: Convey to the Chairman of the Board and PPUC CEO for a sit-down to amicably come to an agreement to resolve the water billing issue in Angaur. We've received PPUC legal counsel's letter. We don't want to continue the disagreement without an understanding. A fair and realistic solution must be made for the benefit of the people of Angaur ~ Letter from the HOD Speaker, Senate President and the President of the Republic has been delivered to PPUC outlining their legal opinion in regards to this matter ~ President: COS Eldebechel, we want closure on this matter • President: We need to coordinate our efforts to achieving our renewable energy target of 40% by 2025. It's an ambiguous target, but it involves PPUC, Energy Office and the Government. All respective agencies must coordinate efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to have regular meetings and establish a formal way of communication in pursuing this goal. Information needs to be shared accordingly in order to effectively monitor activities in achieving the targeted goal • Request to PPUC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft leaflet with snap shot information of ongoing water project as part of package for inauguration guests - Place additional personnel at substations in the event of power outages during the installation ceremony on Jan. 19 to enable timely response and prevent delayed interruption of power
<p>Update on Inauguration Festivities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of date, 241 overseas guests have confirmed. All have accommodations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the next three (3) days, paint job will be done for the staging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Decorations ongoing ~ Tents will be set up ~ PA system and all related equipment will be tested ~ Media is coordinating with the Senate and the HOD for live feed during the swearing in • Program Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Babeldaob tour, the Committee is under the process of confirming guests who will participate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Program will begin with briefing and breakfast at Belau National Museum then departure to Badrulchau, Ngarchelong ~ Lunch will be catered and served in Ngiwal ~ Committee requests presence of President Remengesau during lunch as well as Ministers who are able to attend ~ PICRC gala: Committee is talking to liaison officers for gala as a side event for guests interested in attending - Installation ceremony is catering for 2,000 plus 300 lunch for special guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ 3 or 4 food stations to be set up ~ Entertainment will continue to 4:30 pm following installation at 11:00 am ~ So far, Senate scheduled to install at 9:00 am followed by HOD at 10:00 am ~ President: There's a long wait time from seating to the beginning of the actual ceremony. Make sure there's entertainment during that time. Ask singers for National Anthem to practice a lively up tempo rendition ~ Gift bags to be distributed to all guests ~ President instructs Committee to script MC remarks ~ Inaugural Ball: set up is complete for indoor and outdoor including stand up and sit down seating arrangements. Vice President to provide remarks. Program includes entertainment and showcasing of two videos. Catering for 500 guests. President: Look into considering uninvited guests who attends at the last minute - Arrangements is done for Peleliu trip on Fri. Jan 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Guests will go straight to Kambek ~ 15 boats are on standby



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Angaur to also provide boat transportation. Committee to assist with fuel costs - Committee continues to work with MOS to keep information posted at hotel desks ~ Information is also set up with PVA at the airport • President emphasizes the importance of presence at all functions. This is an opportunity to dialogue with Ambassadors and bilateral partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide updated copy of guest list to DCOS Kesolei in order to finalize President's speech • Airport Arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VIP room complete - President: Work out arrangements to use the other room. Include Wi-Fi access and also make sure restrooms are clean • Government is closed on Jan. 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: Encourage personnel to take administrative leave to participate in the program - Public schools to close and catholic schools will also close to observe day • Reminder to the whole to continue work to beautify and facelift Palau including all government offices and agencies
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Island Rat Infestation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KSG and Environmental Health representatives went to Ulong last week - Traps were set up - Environmental Health plans to conduct weekly assessment to monitor progress including all neighboring islands of Ulong - Signs will be posted to encourage visitors not to feed rats - Restroom will also be repaired and maintenance conducted • Fiber Optic Cable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There's an issue with PNCC and Ngeremlengui on the landing station - An MOU must be signed to establish station and installation of cables - President instructs COS Eldebechel to follow up • Status of New Airport Terminal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Director to visit Palau, FSM and RMI on progress of work at the end of month - Meeting to be arranged in Hawaii or Guam for update • Slaughterhouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President emphasized the importation of putting in place an action plan for the slaughterhouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Ensure health components and all others are addressed ~ We need a policy direction to help local farmers in order to compete with imported pork. - COS Eldebechel instructed to work with partner agencies • Presentation of Credentials by Germany on Jan. 18 at 10:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: Make sure there's representation from Rubekul Belau, OEK and Ministers • Legislations for introduction on Jan. 19 are complete • Tourism Policy Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has been distributed to everyone for review. This includes draft statement from the President • President Remengesau instructs Minister Sadang to include increase of Social Security benefits for 2017 • Public Health Vacating Meyuns Office



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MOH requested Office of the President for Public Health to remain until Feb. 17 to allow completion of audit- Once audit is complete, personnel will begin packaging and moving- Public Health to relocate to Ngerulmud
Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2017 theme “Year of Family”<ul style="list-style-type: none">- President: Our theme for 2017 that will be announced is on family. All Ministers must focus strategy and attention on family• Palau bid for event hosting<ul style="list-style-type: none">- President: Keep in mind that we’ll attempt to host as many major events as much as possible. When attending meetings abroad and there’s a discussion for hosting submit Palau’s bid• Palau Housing<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minister Temengil-Chilton requested to invite housing to participate at next meeting on Jan. 23 for updates

***Minutes are subject to change and approval at the next Cabinet Meeting**