



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 9:21 am – 10:47 am
 Monday, April 17, 2017

In Attendance:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. 2. Minister Billy Kuartei 3. Minister Emais Roberts 4. Minister Sinton Soalablai 5. Minister Charles Obichang 6. Director Casmir Remengesau 7. Director Sunny Ngirmang 8. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean 9. COS Secilil Eldebechel 10. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Postmaster Timothy Sinsak 12. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 13. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 14. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel 15. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator 16. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 17. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam, EQPB 18. NDBP President Claire Harvey 19. Norbert Villanueva, NDBP Business Dev. Officer 20. Anthony Papiian, Special Assistant on Communications |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION		
<p>NDBP Progress Update of Agri/Aquaculture Mega Loan Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No farming loans were approved over the last week. NDBP is due to meet with EQPB, Bureau of Agriculture and the Bureau of Marine Resources on April 17 on the outreach program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The program is proposed to start in Ngarchelong. NDBP held a successful meeting with Taiwan officials on the slaughterhouse. NDBP attended the April 14 PCC-CRE hosted agriculture training in Ngeremlengui. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation officers mostly attended the training, however NDBP identified potential individual clients from Ngchesar, Melekeok and Airai. - PCC hatchery expressed willingness to provide shrimp for individuals operating shrimp production. In last quarter from January 1 to March 31, NDBP has approved a total of 60 loans valued at \$4,534,728. Of the 60 loans, 12 loans valued at \$200,145 were approved for farming; 4 loans valued at \$37,045 were approved for fishing. 		
<p>Ministry Briefings</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #F08080;"> <th style="width: 75%;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Application from China: MOS is currently processing permit request for 60 days made by Mainland China for marine research in Palau's EZZ. The application for permit is before the MNRET. This is the first time any entity in Mainland China has made such request. MOS working in collaboration with MNRET in regards. - The vessel seeks to conduct research from May 1 to June 30. The application was received little over 2 weeks ago. - MOS requested for background check of vessel from the U.S. The U.S. confirmed the vessel is a legitimate research vessel. - MNRET has requested for Dr. Golbuu's opinion regarding the request. MNRET has also requested for Palau to board and observe their operation. The company has agreed, however Palau will be required to fly to China to board the research vessel. - Palau's permitting process requires for the research vessel to share study findings as well as spell out all the requirements. The </td> </tr> </table>	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Application from China: MOS is currently processing permit request for 60 days made by Mainland China for marine research in Palau's EZZ. The application for permit is before the MNRET. This is the first time any entity in Mainland China has made such request. MOS working in collaboration with MNRET in regards. - The vessel seeks to conduct research from May 1 to June 30. The application was received little over 2 weeks ago. - MOS requested for background check of vessel from the U.S. The U.S. confirmed the vessel is a legitimate research vessel. - MNRET has requested for Dr. Golbuu's opinion regarding the request. MNRET has also requested for Palau to board and observe their operation. The company has agreed, however Palau will be required to fly to China to board the research vessel. - Palau's permitting process requires for the research vessel to share study findings as well as spell out all the requirements. The
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	<p>company's scope of research involves ocean current and seabed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scholarship Program: MOS is working with PNSB to begin application process for the Kainan University scholarship funded by the Chairman of Palau Royal Resort. New Australia Master's degree program for marine law received. MOS have communication with Vice President and prepared to announce application process. - Solicitation of UN Votes: Many soliciting votes and support from Palau for United Nation related bodies such as WHO. MOS has received list of countries in regards. Minister Kuartei to meet with COS Eldebechel. MOS to put together and forward to Ambassador Uludong. - Presentation of Credentials: New ambassadors of Finland, New Zealand, Kosovo, and Qatar to present their credentials. Minister Kuartei working with COS Eldebechel and Executive Secretary Ruthie Aitaro on scheduling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Roberts reports at least 3 employees have reported sickness at the Executive Building as result of mold issue. MOH has recommended isolating and relocating the employees to another area in order to assess their conditions and determine whether the mold issue is the cause. No one currently in Palau is capable enough to analyze the issue. - Rat Eradication: Rat eradication pilot project undergoing in Ngeanges. Minister Roberts met with KSG officials in regards last week. On March 13, KSG initiated rat eradication in Ngeanges that included bait placement. After 20 days, assessment was made and determined no rodents were found. Other animals such as bekai and rooster were identified and seemed to be thriving with no impacts. Rat Control: Efforts undergoing in Ulong to trap rodents. No poison involved. Many rodents have been trapped and captured. Project ongoing. KSG considering bait placement in Ulong, but the terrain is challenge. Improvement of Restroom Facilities: KSG reportedly preparing to renovate restroom facilities in 11 Rock Island sites. - Medical Students in Cuba: Minister Roberts have discussed with MOS to evaluate school in Cuba and will further meet with MOS to discuss the school and scholarship program. 13 total Palauan students are enrolled in the program. MOH reports though the program is fully sponsored students only receive \$3.80 per month in stipends meanwhile parents shoulder costs of food and other necessities. In terms of training, the students spend 2 years in Havana for science classes. Upon completion they are spread out in different provinces in Cuba. On the 5th and 6th year is for clinical rotations within the community. The program is in line with health dispensaries and community healthcare. - Healthcare Status in Pulo Ana and Sonsorol: At this time, Sonsorol and Pulo Ana are without a healthcare center. Materials and supplies necessary to construct one is set, however there's a challenge with transportation. There's no nurses placed in these areas. Recommendation made for nurse to relocate to Sonsorol as early as June to provide treatment from home until the facility is constructed. - Sonsorol is also without Internet access. No communication with Peleliu and the hospital. MOH is working on rectifying communication issue with the Emergency Room. - Gastroenteritis on the Rise: As of this morning 57 cases have been 	<p>b) <i>The President recommends for aggressive recruiting of students, and for all valedictorians in Palau to receive scholarship.</i></p> <p>Cuba Medical Scholarship</p> <p>c) <i>Minister Roberts recommends small scholarship to assist Palauan students.</i></p> <p>UN Mission Visit</p> <p>d) <i>The President instructs Minister Kuartei to adequately prepare for UN mission visit.</i></p> <p>Internet Connection in Sonsorol</p> <p>e) <i>The President instructs COS Eldebechel to follow up with PNCC on communication issue.</i></p>
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	<p>confirmed. These cases are considered serious. Other mild cases confirmed. Private clinics have also confirmed several cases. As of April 16, MOH will monitor cases daily rather than weekly. Preventive measures and public service alerts will be announced daily. Environmental Health to assess food handling and preparation. MOH will be implement visiting hours restriction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BNH Family Day Postpone: In light of gastroenteritis cases rising, Minister Roberts recommends postponing of the BNH Family Day on April 23. - Status of Dengue Fever: MOH confirms reduced number of dengue cases. 6 positive cases confirmed last week. One death reported as a result of dengue infection. Dengue fever can worsen patients existing health conditions becoming life threatening. - Health Workforce Program: MOS is working on recruitment and encouraging career in healthcare. The program is under development. It is proposed to launch by June. - ROC Medical Students: Two Palauans to graduate from ROC medical school in June and to intern at the hospital. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOE set to host the 8th Grade Transition Workshop from April 20-21. 200 students including parents will be attending. - MOE to develop statistical yearbook annually. This year's yearbook will be disseminated to all offices and be made available online. • Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Temengil was unable to attend Cabinet Meeting due to National Disability Forum, which opened this morning. - Palau Housing Authority: Remaining fund from Finance has been received. No waiting list of applicants. PHA to assess home construction sites. - Exercise Program: MCCA is working with MOH to launch an exercise program in Ngerulmud. The program is proposed for Fridays every week. • Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNRET set to launch food crop competition on April 21. Competition details will be disseminated. MNRET working with Palau Wave for radio talk show in regards. • Update from Grants Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary report from EU/NZ was received last week. Generator and retrofitting of dispensaries included. Minister Roberts recommends for generator to be removed as MOH is working with PPUC in regards. • Update from Udui on Tourism Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kaleb Udui and members of the Economic Advisory Group (EAG) have met to discuss the current situation. EAG reports drop in number of carriers to Palau. EAG projection tourism reduction of 25%. EAG to produce report for the President. - EAG recommending for increased number of flights during low season and to explore market. Increase charter flights per week. - New carrier is reported to commence operation within a month. The carrier is a subsidiary of Lion Air. - EAG looking at long-term solutions such as regulation for low season. 	<p>Sonsorol Healthcare Facility</p> <p>f) <i>The President recommends for meeting with Director Melairei on transportation issue of supplies for construction of facility.</i></p> <p>Awareness on Gastroenteritis</p> <p>g) <i>The President recommends for Minister Soalablai to work with Minister Roberts on awareness.</i></p> <p>EU/NZ Grant and Summary Report</p> <p>h) <i>The President instructs COS Eldebechel to meet with Grants Coordinator Dean in regards.</i></p> <p>Immediate Solutions for Tourism Industry</p> <p>i) <i>The President instructs Kaleb Udui, Jr. to explore immediate solutions</i></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EAG looking at impact of construction. ADB projects 4% economic growth. Reduction expected for zero or negative in the coming year. - The President recommends EAG to explore immediate solutions. • Update from the Postmaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 suspects have been arrested to date in relation to regional mail robbery scheme. Investigation ongoing. Postmaster reports no Palauans were involved. Palau Post is working closely with USPS and investigators on Guam in regards. - Some items reported belong to Palau. Items are mostly valued electronics. Some items identified belong to WCTC, PCC and other individuals. Some items belong to the Marshall Islands and the FSM. Items identified will return back to owner. The investigation was initiated by Palau. - Drug Inspection: Palau Post working with officials in Hawaii to elevate package inspection of Palau mail for narcotics. 	<p><i>to address projected reduction.</i></p>
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of Shrimp Operation in Melekeok <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The operation is run by Fishing Trading Inc. Complaints were made of company culturing non-native shrimps. At the time, representatives from FAO were on island conducting workshop on biosecurity. Samples were collected for identification of species. - Species was identified as non-native and known around Asia to carry white spot disease. It was determined that the shrimp has seeped into the ecosystem surrounding the project area. - In 2014, Bureau of Agriculture (BOA) requested for company to cease shrimp operation. The company did not comply. Joint efforts ongoing with BOA to improve company's compliance. - Though company has ceased culturing non-native shrimps. Native shrimps have been provided to the company and operation continues. • Update on the Jellyfish Lake Bul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNRET is working with Koror State Legislature on long-term plans for the lake, including moratorium and planning of clams for visitors waiting to visit the lake. The bul implemented by Rubekul Oreor will take effect on May 1. - MNRET to meet with KSG legislature for a united front in addressing Jellyfish Lake issue. Meeting to be held this week. • Invasive Species Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication to the Governors has been circulated. - The program is set to be observed during the whole month of June as kabeas awareness and clean up month. The program will be hosted in a different state every week. MNRET to provide assistance to states during the course of the program. Students to be included in the program. • Update from EQPB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earth Day: EQPB is working with Press Secretary Kazuo on Earth Day proclamation. This year's theme is "environmental and climate literacy". EQPB collaborating with MOE to transport students to Earth Day Fair on April 21 to be held at Ngchesar Agriculture Center. Other activities include Rock Island clean up with PHS seniors on April 19; Earth Day walk for life on April 22; E-waste and battery drive where 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE</p> <p>Family Fishing Derby</p> <p>j) <i>The President instructs Press Secretary Kazuo to work with Governors and the Speakers Association in regards.</i></p> <p>Awareness for Closure of Shrimp Operation</p> <p>k) <i>The President recommends for good awareness or outreach program to the public in regards for better understanding.</i></p> <p>Shrimp Fry Production</p> <p>l) <i>MNRET recommended to look into native shrimp fries for production.</i></p> <p>Dissemination of 100 days report</p>



	<p>EQPB will purchase any size car battery for \$1; and essay and drawing contest for grades 1-12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permit Approval: Nabeyama Fish Farm to expand to incorporate milkfish and shrimp production. EQBP anticipates to release permit this week. - Partnership with Housing: There's no issue of housing permit at this time. - Permitting process: EQPB has simplified its permitting process as per request from the President. Permitting process for agriculture, aquaculture and piggery that are of no significant can be approved by the Executive Director. As of last Cabinet Meeting, EQPB is awaiting for applications for 6 approved loans from NDBP. EQPB to follow up with NDBP in regards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Cup Family Fishing Derby Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Press Secretary Kazuo and MCCA working to finalize flyer for newspaper publication by April 19. The derby will be conducted on Senior Citizen's Day on May 5. Bluebay to sponsor 6-gallon fuel. Application to made via MCCA and the Youth Office. • President Remengesau Travels to Earth Day Texas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President to attend Earth Day Texas at the invitation of its founder Trammell S. Crow. Will keynote program. - Secretary of Energy Rick Perry and Honorary Citizen of Palau confirmed to attend. Opportunity to discuss support for Palau's compact II. The President is scheduled to return on or about April 25. • New PICRC Building: Ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 10 AM, April 18 for new PICRC building. • All Ministers are requested and reminded to submit 100 days report to the Ministry of Finance. 	<p>m) <i>The President instructs COS Eldebechel to draft cover letter for disseminating 100 days report to all.</i></p> <p>Dissemination of SORA</p> <p>n) <i>The President instructs Press Secretary Kazuo to disseminate the SORA to all.</i></p>
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 11:00 AM, Wednesday, April 26 at the Conference Room of the new Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. Building at PICRC. 	

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