



CABINET MEETING
 Ngerulmud | 9:15 am – 10:49 am
 Monday, December 18, 2017

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 Emais Roberts 4. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton 5. Minister Umiich Sengebau 6. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg 7. Minister Sinton Soalablai 8. Director Brian Melairei 9. Postmaster General Timothy Sinsak 10. COS Secilil Eldebechel 11. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 12. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 14. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma 15. Norbert Villanueva, NDBP 16. Kimie Ngirchechol, EQPB 17. Myers Techitong, PNCC 18. Norman Ngiratecheboet, PNCC Chair 19. Bradley Kumangai, PNCC 20. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO 21. Dan Klopper, Legal Counsel 22. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Ministry Briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice: On early December 18th around 2:30 AM a fire was reported at Surangel barracks in Ngerusar. No injuries were reported. Firefighters worked on ensuring the fire does not transfer to surrounding buildings. PSS KEDARM to arrive 10:00 am, Tuesday, December 19th. Beginning on December 20th, police presence will be increased beyond the New Year. The Vice President requests for information in regards to implementation of PPEF by the Immigration. Chief of Staff reports Immigration Flavin Misech is a member of the working group. Vice President further expresses concerns of lack of training in regards to PPEF implementation. President Remengsau instructs Chief of Staff to immediately address the matter today. MOJ is aggressively addressing human trafficking related matters. MOH is responsible for regulation in terms of equipping ambulances while MOJ is responsible to ensure all persons assigned to ambulances are EMT trained. Vice President requests for clear understanding of ownership and maintenance emergency vessel to Peleliu and Angaur. The President instructs Vice President to take a lead in regards. • Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs: MCCA reschedule last day of Children’s Christmas Program to Thursday, December 21 in Ngerulmud this week. Annual Christmas Tree Competition to be held on Tuesday, December 19th at the Civic Hall. Request made for a couple of trees to MOH foyer. MCCA is working with MOE on Youth Core Program for summer activities for the youth. MCCA received a grant of \$7,000 (Canadian dollars) from Canada on human trafficking and human rights education and awareness. • Ministry of Natural Resources, Tourism and Environment: MNRET reports of information from Taiwan of surplus of rice and offered Palau 200 tons of rice (or 8,000 sack of 50 lbs). MNRET has discussed with some of the Ministers of need. Process is ongoing for quotation of price for shipping. The President requests for letter to shipping line in donating shipping fees or reducing the cost of shipping. MNRET requests to work the Office of the President in regards to subsidy to help farmers and develop a legislation to implement a tax or fee of import products. Chief of Staff is instructed to assign a legal counsel to work with MNRET. The President requests to target submittal of proposed legislation to OEK in the first session in January. • Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce: BPW requested to clean up



	<p>mango tree of kebeas located between Choll and Ngarchelong. The President requests for repair of road in Choll. That specific part of the road was dug up by PPUC to repair pipe. Road in Compact Road (Keiukl side) located near Ngeremlengui and the PCC Farm requires attention. President Remengesau instructs Director Melairei to identify those areas in the road for repair. BPW is further instructed to look into repainting road markers in the Compact Road including replacement of buttons. BPW instructed to work with OEK to hoist flag at the Capitol. New flag has been procured from the Philippines. The President instructs for an urgent meeting between Vice President and Minister Obichang immediately after Obichang's return on island. Urgency must be place on this matter and resolved prior to the end of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education: School holiday break is scheduled for Thursday, December 21 to Wednesday, January 3. RPPL on Nutrition and Wellness under implementation. Incorporation of local produce into the school menu ongoing. MOE working with Red Cross for competition among 7th Grade and 8th Grade and health students in High School level on CPR and water safety beginning in January. • Ministry of Health: Minister Roberts suggests handing over funding assistance to parents to forward to their children in Cuba. Charles Mitchell in Embassy of Palau in Japan continues to attempt to send the funds. Some students have requested for funds to be given directly to their parents others are located in the outskirts of Havana, Cuba. President Remengesau instructs for funds to be given to parents today. \$2,500 to given to parents now and then the remaining \$2,500 hand delivered by Minister Roberts. MOH has hired Israeli orthopedic's wife who is an eye doctor. MOH working on repair roof leakage. MOH to begin community awareness in January. New doctor to assist in regards. E-health program under progress. • Ministry of State: Committee to implement Social and Economic Development Program through Japan as established by EO No. 408 to meet this week. MOS waiting for Ambassador's schedule to meet in terms of moving forward. • Ministry and Agency Christmas Parties are scheduled as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of State on Thursday, Dec. 21 - Ministry of Health on Friday, January 19 - Ministry of Education on Friday, December 22 - Ministry of NRET on Friday, January 19 - Ministry of CCA lunch only on Thursday, Dec. 21 - NDBP lunch only on Friday, Dec. 22 - EQPB to hold a rock island trip on Friday, Dec. 22
<p>Agency Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPUC Progress Report: No paving this past couple of weeks due to the breakdown of Surangel asphalt plant. Paving to resume on Thursday. Water Tank at Rois' Ngemelachel is complete pending disinfection. PPUC is working with EQPB to disinfect the new water line. Pipe installation ongoing for the Sewer Project in front of Coffee Berry/Surangel Store and Malakal. President Remengesau requests for PPUC to put in more reflectors or cones in the project sites. Beginning of December, PPUC and Japan signed the minutes of discussion recognizing and accepting Palau's renewable energy goals. A roadmap is set to be produced and included in the master plan of this proposed national grid project. The proposed plan to be completed by March 2018. PPUC instructed requested to repair road in Choll by Friday. • EQPB Update: DCOS Kesolei instructed to follow up with EQPB and PPUC to schedule a meeting with their respective boards. EQPB reports approving 3 high-value quality hotels this year including several small ones. Inspections are pending for four large hotels that are anticipated to be approved in the next year. Several meetings have also been put together in regards large hotels proposed for Airai and Aimeliik. 250 rooms in combination of rooms and villas proposed for Ochelochel, Airai. Sheraton Hotel has been reviewed and comments have sent



	<p>back to the client. One of their issues is wastewater. The hotel is working on providing a separate on site treatment system for their back-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP Update: In the past work week, NDBP approved one new loan valued at \$15,000. To date, NDBP has approved a total of \$1,167,682. The President reminds NDBP of the President’s request to the Bank to develop an alternative plan of action in implementing the remaining \$4 million. • PNCC Update: PNCC reports working with A-Grand-Tech to reduce costs of reinstallation of 2G cell system from previous cost of \$350,000 to \$20,000. The cost will allow the reinstallation of 3 pre-existing sites. PNCC reports due to reinstallation of 2G in Koror, blind spots sites or unserved areas in Koksai and others will now be delayed for at least another year. There is no accurate data to indicate exactly how many customers are using 2G. PNCC cannot differentiate 2G and 3G/4G as there is only one sim card covering these services. PNCC gave out a total of 3,500 cellphones to people challenged with 2G disconnection. PNCC reports according to OEK that 80% of people are using 2G. President Remengesau requests for PNCC to conduct community assessments. PNCC progress to address challenges and stabilize merchant services and the banking system with Bank of Hawaii is ongoing. Work improving services to Aimeliik completed. MOE continues to offer system to PNCC for implementation in Kayangel to improve their services. President Remengesau requests for PNCC to look into offering an additional free 500 MB. • Postal Office: The post office to open half day on Sunday prior to Christmas Day to accommodate the public. An announcement will be made to the public on extended hours.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Day of Prayer is coming up in January 2018. All Ministers are requested to note the event in their calendars. Chief of Staff instructed to look into designated sometime in January and in accordance with RPPL No. 10-6. • Christmas luncheon with Senior Citizens: Chief of Staff instructed to organize lunch with senior citizen in coordination with MCCA and First Lady Remengesau. • EU Tax Haven: President Remengesau requests for the Legal Counsels to finalize letter of response in regards as soon as possible. • Okeanos Foundation – Southwest Islands Vaka Motu: DCOS Kesolei instructed to follow up on the progress. • New Jail: Security fence under construction. First or second week of January to bid the second phase of the project. The second phase is for the construction of the actual building. • One-Stop Shop Building: Under bidding to close on December 28th. The first phase is for design, constructing a temporary office building, relocating offices and demolition. Second phase is for building construction. Facing challenges with Finance in terms of temporary facility to be located near Koror Elementary School. The temporary facility can only accommodate 60-70 people. There are more than 100 people occupying the existing offices currently. Director Melairei is working with Minister Sadang and Sally Techitong to resolve the matter. The President requests for urgency in the project.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” on all initiatives. • All Ministers are reminded to note the following event in their calendars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming PSS KEDAM and Crew: Tuesday, Dec. 19th at Marine Law

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