



**CABINET MEETING**  
 Office of the President  
 Ngerulmud | 9:16 am – 11:24 am  
 Monday, February 20, 2017

In Attendance:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.</li> <li>2. Vice President Raynold Oilouch</li> <li>3. Minister Elbuchel Sadang</li> <li>4. Minister Billy Kuartei</li> <li>5. Minister Emais Roberts</li> <li>6. Minister Sinton Soalablai</li> <li>7. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton</li> <li>8. Minister Charles Obichang</li> <li>9. Director Brian Melairei</li> <li>10. COS Secilil Eldebechel</li> <li>11. NDBP Chairman Marino Rechesengel</li> <li>12. Karla West, NDBP Operations Manager</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam, EQPB</li> <li>14. Keiden Kintol, VP Special Assistant/PIO</li> <li>15. Jeff Ngirarsaol, NDBP Agri/aquaculture Broker</li> <li>16. Judy Dean, Grants Coordinator</li> <li>17. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo</li> <li>18. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor</li> <li>19. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer</li> <li>20. King Sam, PAN Coordinator</li> <li>21. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Water Project Manager</li> <li>22. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO</li> </ol> |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<b>PPUC Update of Water &amp; Sewer Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) with assistance from Public Work’s Balkuu Kumangai have surveyed and cleared Ngerbeched for construction. Survey was conducted based on available records and professional knowledge.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction is scheduled to begin on Feb. 28 in the intersection of Ngerbeched towards the Desekel area.</li> <li>- Survey of Dngeronger and Ikelau hamlets are ongoing. Excavation and pipe installation will begin once survey is complete.</li> <li>- Malakal has not been cleared for excavation and pipe installation as of date. Last week, Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo informed PPUC of a committee responsible for non-government agencies under the Ministry of State in the areas of UXO. PPUC plans to meet them this week.</li> <li>- Minister Kuartei: In connection to that, an executive order in regards has been submitted to the Office of the President. Australia is preparing to bid for the next cycle of the project. The executive order lays out the process and protocol, which was previously non-existent. President instructs Minister Kuartei to facilitate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Construction Work on Sundays</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pipe connection between north and south side are scheduled on Sundays only. This past week there was no public announcement of work. PPUC is working to ensure announcements are properly disseminated for the public beginning with the upcoming scheduled construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Waste Outage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Last week’s water outage from approximately 4:00 pm – 11:00 pm was a result of damage to pipe. Surangel construction crews reportedly punctured an existing water pipe during excavation. PPUC has initialized discussion with Surangel to prevent similar situation in the future.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Road Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At present, contractors are temporary restoring road following construction and excavation work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>Final road restoration is scheduled for September 2017 upon completion of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPUC is considering arranging dialogue with Japan officials to postpone restoration work to allow for the completion of the sewer project before final restoration is done.</li> <li>- President suggests PPUC to initialize discussion quickly and not to wait until the last minute.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PPUC/PNCC Agreement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: The agreement with PNCC has not been finalized. In fact, in my understanding, fees for use of power poles have increased. Convey to board and management to be consistent. The public should not have to suffer the burdens of increased cost of services due to disagreements between PPUC and PNCC. Every time drastic costs are implemented it will in turn affect the public. President also instructs Minister Obichang to convey the same message to the board and management.</li> <li>- Initial agreement was made for \$0.05. Per communication from Tmetuchl Baules the cost has increased to \$5.00 per attachment. Minister Obichang reports in the last meeting PNCC offered to pay \$2.00 per attachment. Though PNCC reports in last year's meeting \$0.05 was agreed upon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>NDBP Update of Agri/Aquaculture Mega Loan Program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of last week, NDBP has approved 4 loans totaling \$96,000 ranging in the areas of piggery and aquaculture.</li> <li>• Due to the anticipated capacity of the new slaughterhouse, President expressed deep concerns on pork demand. President: The need for piggery production through the loan program must be emphasized. How do we entice people to set up piggery operation? We could end up without any resources for the slaughterhouse once it is operational. We need to address this immediately.</li> <li>• Agri/aquaculture Broker Jeff Ngirarsaol is working with 10 prospective clients and is currently consulting with Airai, Melekeok and Ngchesar. Ngchesar is looking into applying parcels of land for mangrove crab production. NDBP is currently waiting for the state's approval of the project. Once it's received, NDBP will move forward with the process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Airai has expressed interest for agriculture programs.</li> <li>- Melekeok is looking at allotting parcels of land for farming.</li> <li>- NDBP is also working with Ngiwal for potential piggery operation among others. Ngirarsaol has approached EQPB for information relating to permitting requirements, septic, dry litters, etc. to better inform and advise clients.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mangrove Crab Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: There must be a follow up with the Thailand experts along with state governments in terms of the technology and method for mangrove crab production.</li> <li>- Minister Umiich Sengebau, Marine Resources personnel, and Thailand experts facilitated meeting with Thomas Taro and PCC-CRE representatives last week. Thai experts organized a presentation and also conducted equipment and training launching in Ngeremlengui. More detailed information will be submitted to the President.</li> <li>- President: A plan of action must drafted and put in place to effectively follow through with the project. The current rate of mangrove crab production is low. This concept will enable success. Let's put a plan together and set up a fund for the program. Work with state governors to designate mangrove areas for release of seedlings.</li> <li>- The method introduced by Thailand experts is to individually cage the female crab in a basket like container at a certain stage to prevent cannibalizing. The caging is simple and can be learned and made locally.</li> <li>- NDBP Chairman Rechesengel suggests the \$15,000 microfinance program can be utilized for this project.</li> <li>- President instructs King Sam to draft a plan of action and initialize discussion with Governors for mangrove crab program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• President: We don't expect 100% success rate for this program. If one or two projects out of 10 are successful it's an improvement from the status quo. The key point is to disburse this funding. I'm glad Jeff is involved. Let's look into those outside of the box strategies and not wait for people to come in</li> </ul>



	<p>and apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specialists on different areas of agriculture and aquaculture must be identified to better assist farmers. NDBP Chairman Rechesengel commits to follow up and identify experts to work with the bank on a contractual basis. President instructs Minister Billy Kuartei to work with NDBP to initialize dialogue with diplomatic countries for expert assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of Finance Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister Elbuchel Sadang reports recent travel to Singapore was high-level trip, which included Prime Ministers of Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tuvalu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Singapore has no minimum wage. A civil service system in place allows for 100 hours of employee training annually. Funding is allocated to preferred colleges for training purposes.</li> <li>- Singapore's semi-autonomous agencies are separate, but work in collaboration with the country's Ministers in policy and implementation. Ministers are also part of the parliament and policy making.</li> <li>- Much was learned in the area of tourism, water, sewer and other services. Information learned will be shared with all relevant local agencies.</li> <li>- The delegation was also able to visit housing. Discussions have been made with Minister Roberts to explore options of renting or purchasing. MOF to arrange meeting with Minister Roberts to decide on a way forward.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Consultation with ADB for Additional Funding for Sewer Project &amp; Others</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussions were made with ADB representatives for additional funding for the sewer improvement project. ADB has agreed to work on funding for phase 2 of the project. Ministry of Finance will work with PPUC to finalize Palau's request.</li> <li>- PP, Tourism Plan, Pension Plan and Tax reform were also discussed. ADB agreed to send an expert to work with Palau on those matters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>FY 2017 Budget &amp; Procurement Legislation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheduled to meet with Senator Rudimch on Feb. 21 in terms of hearing schedule. Will call on a meeting with all Ministers after tomorrow. OEK's proposal is to hold a joint hearing.</li> <li>- Discussions were made on the procurement. Some issues have been communicated to the OEK including separating the hospital to have their own procurement officer. MOF is working with MOH in this effect.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Apartments Used as Hotel Accommodations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work is ongoing in regards. MOF has identified and penalized two businesses operating in this manner.</li> <li>- MOF personnel continue to monitor buses transporting tourists to apartments operating as a hotel particularly on Saturdays during charter flights. If found operating illegally, MOF will cite the business.</li> <li>- President: There must be a circulation in place in regards. Inquire from the personnel about their knowledge of this operation. Eventually, we want a report of closure of business operating this way.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Executive Order on Travel Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The travel policy is now in effect. New per diem levels were also implemented. One of the major changes is the requirement to submit travel voucher within 15 days. Everyone including the President and the Vice President are required to submit travel voucher. There are no exceptions to the rule.</li> <li>- Per Diem for Guam increased from \$150-250, Hawaii from \$175-375 – this is for Executive Branch only, the OEK has a different per diem level. In the policy, an individual can request for an actual instead of per diem level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Draft MOU with FIB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion ongoing with FIB to establish a memorandum of understanding in relation to the FIB Reform Act.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p><b>Ministry of State Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mid-JCM Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mid-JCM meeting was conducted on Thurs, Feb. 16. A large delegation of U.S. representatives attended. Same issues were identified. The full JCM is proposed for August instead of May to provide enough time to handle and address issues.</li> <li>- Discussions were made on the request for access to excess surplus. Some changes were made. MOS is making arrangements to meet with Governors in regards to proper channel to follow to access surplus.</li> <li>- Final report is being prepared on defense sites allocated under the Compact. Development has encroached into areas in Malakal and Airai. Final report will be prepared for discussion at the full JCM.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Draft Executive Orders from President Trump</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No discussion was made on the Trump EOs during the mid-JCM. However Minister Kuartei has received an email communication from Ambassador Kyota indicating no updates have been received. MOS has reviewed analysis prepared by Pramod Thummala. MOS is waiting to see when it will promulgate. State Department has cautioned for any action at this time since the EOs are in draft form.</li> <li>- President: The good news is that our COFA is a public law in the U.S. An EO cannot affect the law. The main concern is on the matter of public charge, which can be used as a platform for deportation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Visit by U.S. Homeland Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On Feb. 27-28, special agent in charge from the U.S. Homeland Security based out of Hawaii will be briefing officials of Palau on issues relevant to human smuggling, trafficking, narcotics, cybercrimes, money laundering, etc. Contact person is from the Office of the Vice President. The agent will work with relevant agencies while here.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Visit by U.S. Defense Department</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The team comprising of 19 people arrived on Feb. 17. The team is surveying Peleliu, Ngardmau, Ngiwal and Ngaraard. Governors have been informed. MOS has requested for an exit clearance and debriefing prior to departure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of Health Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the weekend, Ngaraard volunteered efforts to clean up the hospital as well as donated food.</li> <li>• <b>Medical Referral</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Roberts expresses concerns of current medical referral system maximizing the cap for patient. MOH is working on spreading out services. Taiwan has been made first choice for medical referral treatment.</li> <li>- Minister Roberts has initialized discussion with Taiwan Ambassador in relation to a stretcher program.</li> <li>- Minister Roberts has instructed MOH financial officer to prepare report on the insurance program. When treatment exceed \$35,000, an MOU is then established where patients will be required to pay a portion of the billings. However, the current practice accesses NHI allotments in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter to pay off excess medical costs. MOH continues to work on the matter. President asks for immediate action.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Training for Medical Students from Taiwan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two students are due for graduation in June. They are unable conduct their training in Taiwan. As per requirement from school they must return to Palau for training. MOH is reviewing training plans from previous administration. MOH will work with Dr. Dever to devise a plan for training of medical students. The training plan would also be beneficial into the future. Medical students in Cuba are anticipated for graduation in 2018 and begin returning home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MOH is working on enticing Toribiong Uchel, Uchel Sechewas' son who is currently completing his</li> </ul>



	<p>residency in the U.S to return home. Minister Roberts scheduled to meet him today Feb. 20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOH is still working on confirming Dr. Botu’s return. Cases of broken bones and fractures over the weekend are a great indication of the need for an orthopedic. Dr. Botu is still considering MOH’s offer to return. Minister Roberts is optimistic Dr. Botu will return. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Israel has offered to come on board temporarily. Korea has also made expressed interest to provide assistance in this area.</li> <li>- President welcomes news of assistance from Israel and suggests accepting assistance from diplomatic partners.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shin Kong has been collaborating with MOH in the pediatrics section. Chairman of Pediatric at Shin Kong Hospital provided services at MOH for 10 days in the absence of a pediatrician at the hospital. While here, they were able to assess the pediatric section providing recommendations for improvement. On Feb. 25, a replacement will begin covering services for another two weeks. A permanent doctor is due to start in April.</li> <li>• <b>Dispensaries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A couple from Fiji has expressed interest. MOH is considering their application. In the meantime, MOH is working with Senator Kuartei to look into a legislation to require the presence of a doctor and nurses at all dispensaries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Procurement Process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement at the hospital requires a major overhaul. MOH working on improving the process. MOH is looking for garbage disposal truck.</li> <li>- Millan Isaak has yet to conduct inventory of property at MOH. MOH have started to photo document and dispose old or out of service equipment and properties. President instructs Minister Sadang to ensure a property and survey team to assess properties at MOH immediately.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Meeting with CIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOH met with CIP last week. MOH will be working with CIP engineers on several projects.</li> <li>- Prefabricated units: CIP started advertising the project this week. The unit requires cement flooring construction. Discussion with engineer and Communicable Disease Unit (CDU) doctor is being arranged to finalize floor plans. The unit will be located near the morgue and maintenance area of the hospital.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of Education Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Feb. 17, MOE met with three Japanese representatives from ICT National Institute to put together an ICT Plan for the Ministry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOE is considering aligning the MOE Plan to the National ICT Plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MOE is working on conducting an assessment of children aged 6-17 who are not enrolled in school. Those who were enrolled in school previously but withdrew or dropped out are recorded. MOE is looking at those who have never enrolled in school.</li> <li>• Minister Soalablai suggests inclusion of PCC as way to track students’ progress beyond high school. MOE has limited access to information in relation to student completion and success rate. About 80% of students enroll in PCC. However MOE is unaware of success rate and skill level of students once they enter PCC. The Board of Education, which has never been organized, would have automatically placed its Chairman as member of PCC’s Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President agrees and commits to discussion with the OEK.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Taiwan Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOE has met with Taiwan Ambassador who proposes specific scholarships for specific fields of study.</li> <li>- President: In this school year, we want to see large number applications for scholarship opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p><b>Grant Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mastar has accepted the proposed amendment of variation order that was drafted and sent to them. Expected to be signed this week and executed promptly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire project will take about 30 weeks. It takes 18 weeks to place the order for the generator, which has to be manufactured in England and shipped to Palau. The time would allow Palau to construct the extension for the housing unit.</li> <li>- Mastar is the company contracted by UAE to oversee the project.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Streetlights Project Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director Melairei: On Feb. 17 all technical details were received by Trusts Corporation. Final quotation received for installation is \$300,000 for materials and \$300,000 for installation with the total costs of project at \$700,000. The project is for 288 lights for all intersections of the Compact Road not including lights within the states. Energy Office also includes lighting of state signage.</li> <li>- RFP was issued this week.</li> <li>- Minister Obichang: Discussions have been made between Minister Obichang, Director Remengesau, and Greg Decherong during a meeting on Feb. 16 for the possibility to incorporate the Compact Road Streetlight Project. Also considered is the hybrid project for Kayangel if there is a remaining balance of the New Zealand funding of \$1.3 million for the Southwest Islands.</li> <li>- President instructs Judy Dean to maintain contacts with all international agency partners for assistance in areas of renewable energy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of Justice Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOJ is preparing for formation and inspection of all law enforcement officers on March 21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working in collaboration with the MOF on reclassification of officers. Part one has been completed. MOJ is working with MOF to complete part two, which will then be announced during the formation and inspection ceremony.</li> <li>- MOJ is also reinstating program recognizing quarterly performance of officers.</li> <li>- As the program nears, MOJ will approach the President for consideration to speak before officers during the ceremony.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Discussions and Improvements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvements are ongoing for immigration and labor.</li> <li>- Vice President Oilouch met with Attorney General Rengjil of Office of the Attorney General. The office is understaffed. Recruitment of lawyers ongoing. Efforts are also being made for civil attorneys.</li> <li>- Public Safety continues informing public of traffic congestion through radio talk shows led by Officer Rebecca Ngirngebedangel.</li> <li>- In relation to traffic, ROC Ambassador has asked to meet with PPUC CEO to study traffic situation to determine the type of assistance that can be offered. Traffic situation is getting worse.</li> <li>- President: Provide some suggestions and strategies to improve the traffic situation.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Ngardmau Substation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fencing is scheduled for completion today.</li> <li>- Wildlife officials, who are deputized police officers, are set to occupy the substation. Meanwhile a request has been made for CID to occupy MOJ building next to Belau National Museum previously occupied by Wildlife officials.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>MOU Established Between NEMO and the National Weather Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A memorandum of understanding has been signed between NEMO and the National Weather Service to coordinate efforts and strengthen communication for quick dissemination of information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of CCA Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the declaration of the “Year of Family” many organizations have approached MCCA for programs targeting families including the Rubekul Belau. MCCA is currently working on plans to align with the “Year of Family”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President instructs Minister Temengil-Chilton fun family activities.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• MCCA working on arrangements and preparation for the Youth Day in March, the upcoming Cultural</li> </ul>



	<p>Heritage Workshop in April, summer activities, and the possibility of Yap Games in the summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth Office is also working on scholarship programs. Mr. Rodman Teltull, Palau’s track star was recently awarded a sports scholarship to Lincoln College in Chicago, Illinois. He is currently undergoing training in Saipan to join ARFF.</li> <li>• Track &amp; Field and Asahi Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Track &amp; Field office officially opened last week. President instructs Minister Temengil-Chilton to correct infrastructure problems at the Track &amp; Field.</li> <li>- Minister Temengil-Chilton reports Asahi Field requires major overhaul. Meeting was conducted with the Baseball Federation and CIP for plans to improve Asahi Field. Decision has been made to begin preparation for improvement from July to December 2017.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Housing Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Airai State to prove access road and infrastructure to enable home construction. Airai is currently waiting for permit from EQPB to proceed. President: We need to have a discussion with PPUC about easing costs of power poles for residential areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of PIIC Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister Obichang commits to follow up with PPUC on the housing unit for the new generator from Mastar.</li> <li>• <b>Sojitz Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representatives from Sojitz are on island. Representatives were able to meet with Pramod Thummala and Alex Weber, President’s Legal Counsels.</li> <li>- Negotiations anticipated to be finalized in mid-March. Minister Obichang request for COS Eldebechel and DCOS Kesolei to free up Feb. 24 to March. 3 to finalize comments to Sojitz.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Buoy and Lighting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MPIIC reports today lighting has been resolved. Recommendation has been made for a lighthouse in Ngeremlengui.</li> <li>- MPIIC proposes to procure new buoy to replace old existing buoys.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>MPIIC’s End of Year Party on Feb. 24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MPIIC to host a fishing derby for bottom fishing only. \$20 entry fee. Request made for each Ministry to donate \$100 and encourage staff to participate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Public Hearing on Angaur State Boat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief Levan Akitaya of Marine Transportation has been requested by the OEK to participate in the public hearing on the Angaur state boat project.</li> <li>- Certification of vessel is required. Mr. Ben Ito Thomas is Palau’s licensed inspector who will determine the vessel’s seaworthiness. Thomas cannot determine if the engine is new or overhauled. President: We need an inspector who is able to verify if engines are new or overhauled.</li> <li>- Representatives from company who were contracted for Regina IV is here on island. Minister Obichang reports Chief Akitaya will be meeting this person.</li> <li>- President instructs Minister Sadang to draft communication requiring expenditure report of project. President instructs Minister Obichang to obtain copy of memorandum of understanding and scope of work for the project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update from MNRET</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft regulation for tour operations has been drafted. Under finalization and will be submitted to the Office of the President for final review.</li> <li>- Letter to Koror State Government in regards to the request for Jellyfish Lake closure has been submitted. MNRET is under the understanding that KSG has met in regards, but official response has been communicated.</li> <li>- Team of consultants from UNDP arrived this week to work with relevant agencies on the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>implementation of the GEF 6, a \$4 million project spanning the course of 5 years on areas of biosecurity and invasive species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Membership of Ministers in Boards, Commissions and Authorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: We are looking at considering the idea of seating Ministers in membership of major boards, commissions and authorities such as PNCC, PCC, PPUC and PVA. Having a Minister or Director on board would contribute greatly to progress. President asks all Ministers to consider this idea and boards they would best contribute to. President instructs the whole to include the item in the next Joint Leadership Meeting with the OEK for discussion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Refugee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President: Palau is not a signatory to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) an agency focused on protection and support of refugees, however the current trend of people coming in is due to lack of visa requirements. We need to consider putting in place visa requirements for specific countries like Syria who may pose potential threats to national security and public health. People from those countries would be required to apply for a visa of sort prior to entrance. A draft is currently under progress.</li> <li>- The President is working with Vice President Oilouch to identify a policy solution to provide the government with the capacity to address refugee entrance and ways identify people’s purpose of visit.</li> <li>- Vice President Oilouch on behalf of Palau has received assurance from UNHCR to relocate the Syrian refugees within 60 days. In the meantime, Francis Toribiong and Moses Uludong are taking care of their needs.</li> <li>- Vice President: I’ve met with Immigration officials and they are faced with challenges of effectively identifying visitor’s purpose of visit during entry into Palau. With a specific directive in place, Immigration would be able to effectively identify purpose of entry and address them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Hokkaido Prefecture Visit in April</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representatives from Hokkaido Prefecture including legislative members are due to visit in April in observation of the anniversary of the Japan Imperial visit to Palau.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Reminders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice President Oilouch and all Ministers are reminded to commit Palau to host major events, conferences and meetings.</li> <li>• Vice President Oilouch and all Ministers are reminded to submit the first 100 days action plan of their Ministries to the Office of the President as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Vice President Oilouch and all Ministers are advised to dress formally in “island formal” for official portrait session confirmed for Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 during or after the Cabinet Meeting.</li> <li>• The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 9AM Mon., Feb. 27, 2017 in Ngerulmud.</li> </ul>

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