



**CABINET MEETING**  
**Office of the President**  
 Ngerulmud | 9:14 am – 10:16 am  
 Monday, May 22, 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 Baklai Temengil-Chilton</li> <li>5. Minister Charles Obichang</li> <li>6. Minister Umiich Sengebau</li> <li>7. Director Darnelle Decherong</li> <li>8. Director Eunice Akiwo</li> <li>9. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma</li> <li>10. Deputy Chief of Staff Rebluud Kesolei</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor</li> <li>12. Postmaster Timothy Sinsak</li> <li>13. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer</li> <li>14. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo</li> <li>15. Harley Fletcher, NDBP Commercial Loan Mgr.</li> <li>16. Jeff Ngirarsaol, NDBP Broker</li> <li>17. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator</li> <li>18. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Project Manager</li> <li>19. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO</li> </ol> |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<b>Progress Update from NDBP on Agri/Aquaculture Loan Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six (6) loans were approved in the past two weeks valued at \$100,000</li> <li>• NDBP has completed outreach programs in Ngaraard and Ngarchelong States. Angaur Outreach Program to be rescheduled as requested by the State due to upcoming promotional day.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Ngarchelong, 9 people participated in the Outreach. Out of 9, one submitted an application to the program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• On May 20, BOA Director Sengebau and NDBP released piglets to few NDBP clients. The clients received 9 piglets each including feed. The piglets are a month old and will require additional 5 months of raising before they can be sold.</li> <li>• Kaleb Udui, Jr. is working closely with the bank to develop more projects with more opportunities for financing with NDBP. Discussion ongoing of slaughterhouse set up. Work is also ongoing with Bureau of Marine Resources to establish hatchery and produce more fry to farmers. Kaleb to discuss with Minister Sengebau in regards.</li> </ul>
<b>Progress Update from PPUC on Water and Sewer Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water Improvement Project is ongoing in the following areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Airai</li> <li>- KB Shell</li> <li>- Malakal</li> <li>- CIP Office to Minatobashi</li> </ul> </li> <li>• From January 9 to today, 9 bombs have been found in Ngerbeched sites. Deep concerns expressed by Contractors and project on hold for now. PPUC to meet with Norwegian People's Aid and MPIIC Safety Officer Balkuu Kumangai in the afternoon of May 22 in regards.</li> <li>• PPUC explains traffic jam on May 18 is result of work to address leaks. Additionally, traffic on May 21 was a result of effort to clear up lanes in preparation of the work week.</li> <li>• The Koror-Airai Sanitation Project (KASP) is ongoing in the following areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T-dock area</li> <li>- CIP Office. Project is ongoing in a slow pace to water intrusion. Director Melareai expressed concerns of odor. The odor is not from the sewer but stagnant water.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Sewer Project Delayed; Gravel and Sand Material Challenges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KASP is experiencing challenges securing sand and gravel for the project. Contractors are considering off-island purchase. Contractors for both projects, water and sewer, set to meet to discuss the possibility of sharing equipment.</li> <li>- Minister Sadang reports contractor also faced challenges increased cost of materials from Surangel Company. Price initially received from Surangel was \$45 per cubic yard. Surangel then raised the cost to \$110 per cubic yard. Minister Sadang has met with PPUC CEO Kione Isechal and the Project Manager in regards. Additionally, Minister Sadang has met with Koror State Government who is willing to provide sand material. Contractor expressed concerns of profit margin. CEO Isechal has met with Surangel Company. Minister Sadang as met with the OEK in regards to these matters.</li> <li>- Costs of cement block has also increased.</li> <li>- As result of these challenges, the project has been delayed by at least four months.</li> <li>- PPUC and contractor are exploring procuring materials from Philippines and Indonesia, however there is concerns of further delay of project due to shipping time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Progress Report of the National Emergency Committee (NEC) on Potential El Nino</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On May 17, the NEC held a meeting where all reporting was determined, including public announcement and adoption of the Action Plan – action detailed of lessons learned and reports of last drought. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo who is the Public Information Officer of the NEC will assist in coordinating the release of the public advisory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The NEC and PPUC to work together on water conservation outreach programs as well as mandate all agencies to identify and repair leaks. Additionally, the NEC will also work with PPUC to identify threshold level of water sources, including daily monitoring of Ngerimel Dam and Ngerikiil.</li> <li>- NEC Vice Chair Minister Obichang reports desalination unit in Peleliu to be connected. The unit has the capacity to pump and convert ocean water.</li> <li>- The drought is forecasted in August and is forecasted to be severe in both intensity and length – potentially 10 months.</li> <li>- Vice President Oilouch emphasizes importance of participation from PPUC particularly of representatives whom are capable and able to participate in the discussions and put matters into action. PPUC scheduled for meeting today at 2:00 pm on drought matter, Mr. Rudimch to bring up the request during this meeting.</li> <li>- Next NEC meeting scheduled for the end of the month.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NEC Meeting PPUC Participation</i></p> <p>a) <i>The President requests for PPUC CEO to attend next NEC meeting.</i></p>
<p><b>Ministry Briefings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ministry of Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Sadang thanks the whole for revising the 100 days report. The Management Action Plan (MAP) is in the final stages of finalization. Palau Embassy offices to receive copy of the 100 days report.</li> <li>- President expresses expectation of yearly progress report such as was done for the first 100 days of the administration at the end of year.</li> <li>- Minister Sadang reports budget call to the President. Minister Sadang reports meeting with both Senate and House Ways &amp; Means Chairman to update on PPEF contract signing as well as discuss Palau Embassy in Japan relocation funding. MOF further updated on Pristine Paradise Environment Fee (PPEF) progress.</li> <li>- PPEF Committee have met to set direction by October 1 for inclusion with IATA. Policy is in place.</li> <li>- Payment of fees for FAO and United Nations. Minister Sadang requests for letter and RQ to MOF for processing.</li> <li>- Minister Sadang reports interest expressed by Japan Ambassador for JMAS to survey fiber optic</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



landing area in Ngeremlengui channel for UXOs. Exec. Director Sakuma reports JMAS also contacted BSCC CEO. BSCC met with them last week. BSCC informed JMAS to they can assist as long as survey does not exceed the June 5 date. Site scanning has been conducted as part of the project.

- **ICT Plan:** 96-page ICT Plan has been submitted. The plan that was drafted with assistance by the World Bank and edited by Pramod Thummala has been forwarded to BSCC CEO.
- **PCS Family Day:** Recently held Family Day hosted by PCS on May 20 at Short Island was deemed successful. The program is anticipated to be held annually.

- **Ministry of Health**

- **Dengue Fever:** Last week, one death was reported as a result of dengue fever. Preventive education and awareness are ongoing. MOH seeking assistance for press conference on Wednesday for public awareness. Visitation has been reduced to 1 hour during the day and 1 hour during the evening. MOH expresses concerns over how laid back the community is. MOH working on state clean-up to remove trash and any debris that mosquitoes can breed.
- Minister Roberts to return home on June 4 and suggests for a meeting with Ministers and Governors for community clean-up. Request was made for states to take initiative. On May 23, MOH to meet with Koror State in regards as concentration of dengue fever is in Koror. Beginning in today, MOH to hold signs roadside to raise awareness.
- President expressed to MOH to ensure there's equipment necessary for clean-up efforts.

- **Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism**

- MNRET to share report of PCC on Mangrove Crab project to the President.
- President requests Minister Sengebau to coordinate efforts with Exec. Director Sakuma on The Oceans Conference in June.

- **Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries & Commerce**

- Minister Obichang reports he met with representatives in regards to future funding for FAA at recently held meeting in the Marshall Islands.
- Minister Obichang reports Dr. Furgo, who help conduct an Emergency Management System training and workshop in Palau, will resign from his current position. Reports indicates the White House asked him to resign as he is being considered for the position of Undersecretary to the Department of Homeland Security. Minister Obichang extended an invitation to him to visit Palau around July and August.
- **Legislation for Airport:** The legislation to amend existing law on airport passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The legislation will give the President the authority to expand the airport and includes a seedling of up to \$40 million. Minister Obichang and legal counsels working with Delegate Isechal on bill. The legislation is a House bill.

- **Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs**

- MCCA to work with everyone on coastal clean-up.
- Belau Games to begin on June 23.
- MCCA met with Governors requesting for partnership with national government for Youth Corp Program to build capacity.
- Minister Temengil-Chilton reports Tonga has withdrawn from hosting the 2019 Pacific Games. In their official statement, Tonga does not have the capacity to build and sustain the sports facilities. Tahiti put in their bid in the last couple of years and may host.
- For the last year, MCCA has been working with the U.S. Embassy of mandate on conventions as well as the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Regional Human Rights Office in Pacific in Palau regarding the convention of children's right. The office is working with different agencies in regards.
- Palau Housing Authority is experiencing issues relating to costs of materials in addition to confirming contractors for home construction. President Remengesau suggests looking into contracting projects outside.

- **Ministry of Justice**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police week was successful. Checkpoint conducted last week.</li> <li>- Vice President Oilouch for oath of office for Director of Narcotics Enforcement Agency (NEA).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jellyfish Lake</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statement supporting closure and expressing continuous discussion for a way forward has been released by MNRET.</li> <li>- Minister Sengebau reports 13 legislators have introduced a bill to impose a moratorium. Hearings to be conducted sometime this week. Minister Sengebau have met with Speaker Rudimch. Legislative findings reflects revenue, traffic and others. Reports indicates visitation to Jellyfish has decreased significantly.</li> <li>- Rubekul Oreor requested meeting the Vice President pertaining to the bul signage. MOJ continues to maintain safety, but is not getting in between KSG and Rubekul Oreor. The Rubekul Oreor have countersued KSG.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>President's Cup Series: President's Day Family Fishing Derby</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister Temengil-Chilton reports discussion made on May 19 included proposal for coastal clean-up program. MCCA requested for Belau Tourism Association (BTA) and Palau Chamber of Commerce (PCOC) to work with local agencies to designate areas for clean-up. MCCA is also working with Governors for a large coastal clean-up particularly in the Despedall area.</li> <li>- Coastal clean-up to be held on Thursday, June 1, President's Day. MCCA requests for all Ministries to participate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• National Invasive Species Committee released position and statement including examples in the region of tilapia. Public statement released in regards. Legislation introduced by Senator Kyota.</li> <li>• Nabeyama Farm to host lunch and visit by PVA and guests. The event to be filmed and aired on PVA's channel 37.</li> <li>• PNMS Office continues to work on FADs. PO has been released for materials. Sand is an issue, however working with Minister Obichang in regards.</li> <li>• Minister Temengil-Chilton suggests formal handover of Koror-Side Park to the state. Koror Side hosts many activities every weekend from birthdays to ceremonies and events.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</b></p> <p><i>Jellyfish Lake Statement</i></p> <p>b) <i>The President requests for MNRET to disseminate Jellyfish statement to all tour agencies and hotels.</i></p>
<p><b>Reminders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ministers are encouraged to note the following upcoming holiday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thursday, June 1: President's Day &amp; Coastal Clean-up Program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Office of the President will communicate the schedule of the next Cabinet Meeting once confirmed.</li> </ul>	

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