



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 2:01 pm – 3:22 pm
 Monday, January 25, 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 Billy Kuartei, MOS 4. Minister Elbuchel Sadang, MOF 5. Minister Umich Sengebau, MNRET 6. Minister Sinton Soalablai, MOE 7. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton, MCCA 8. Minister Charles Obichang, MPIIC 9. Director Brian Melairei, Public Works 10. Director Gustav Aitaro, Foreign Affairs 11. Director Casmir Remengesau, Budget & Planning 12. Director Debbie Ngemaes, Hospital & Clinical Servi 13. Director Eunice Akiwo, Domestic Affairs 14. Director Andrew Tabelual, Education Administrator 15. Director Sunny Ngirmang, Art & Culture 16. Director Debbie Sbal, Curriculum & Instruction 17. Director Naomi Ngirakemerang, Archive 18. Acting Director Gloria Oiph, Revenue & Taxation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Director Fred Sengebau, Agriculture 20. Director Hayes Moses, Commercial Development 21. Director Leon Remengesau, Marine Resources 22. Director Sterlina Gabriel, Land & Survey 23. Director Sherrilyn Madraisau, Public Health 24. Director Darnelle Decherong, Health Admin. 25. Director Ruth Wong, National Treasury 26. Director Peter Polloi, Aviation 27. Acting Director Omtei Ringang, Public Safety 28. Director Bouveau Anastacio, Tourism 29. Director Ltelatk Fritz, SBDC 30. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 31. Exec. Director Olympia Morei, BNM 32. Greg Decherong, Manager of Energy Office 33. EU/Climate Change Ambassador Olai Uludong 34. Palau Ambassador to US Hershey Kyota 35. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 36. King Sam, PAN Coordinator | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 37. NDBP Chair Marino Rechesengel 38. NDBP President Claire Harvey 39. Marcy Andrew, PNOC Administrator 40. Tutii Chilton, Energy Grant Coordinator 41. Aging & Gender Chief Klouldil Singeo 42. Immigration Chief Flavin Misech 43. Labor Chief Sylverius Tellei 44. Obichang Skebong, PAN Senior Advisor 45. COS Secilil Eldebechel 46. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 47. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 48. Calvin Emesiochel, Deputy HPO 49. Tetsuro Emesiochel, Media Information Manager 50. Orenge Ngemaes, Administrative Staff 51. Conrad Elechel, Information Systems Support 52. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO 53. Anthony Rudimch, Water Project Manager |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: The Vice President and I have discussed to continue Cabinet Meeting every Monday, and to organize a regular meeting with Directors as part of our efforts to update ourselves and report on all developments and progress made by agencies. Additionally, we also have the opportunity to invite special agencies such as the National Development Bank of Palau, EQPB and PPUC to provide us with an update of their programs, projects, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is my last term therefore I don't want anyone to think we can continue to ride out the waves. We're not going to take it easy instead we're going to be twice as productive. We're going to double up our efforts to improve services and programs - I urge everyone to apply these two themes as part of our direction for the next four years: "Think outside the box" and "follow up" - I humbly ask that you support the Office of the President and the Vice President in being proactive, and certainly doubling up all of our efforts and exceeding expectations for the benefit of the Palauan public. We're in the 10th Constitutional Government – in terms of scale – we cannot pursue less than a 10. It's an ambitious target, but we need to deliver. We'll make changes here and there. We're on the same boat regardless of the agency you work for – we need to get to the destination together. We need to move in one direction. - The Management Action Plan (MAP) will be in place to guide towards achieving those goals and objectives - Don't think four years down the road. Let's work together to accomplish our goals and objectives in the first 100 days, then the first year, second year, etc. I think it's very clear that within the first 100 days, Ministers and Directors must work closely to achieve those goals and objectives - We have a very friendly OEK this time around and so that helps. We have a golden opportunity to work with them. If there's a law that can strengthen our efforts let us know so we can collaborate with the OEK to accomplish it. It's important to note that at the end of day people expect implementation



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first step in demonstrating our desires is to wake up at dawn to participate in the National Sunset Prayer on Thurs, January 26 to offer our nation through Morning Prayer. All Ministers and Directors are encouraged to attend. Following the program, Vice President and I will meet with leadership of the OEK. They are set to commence their first 25 days of session. As you know, social security benefit increase has been suggested. We also want minimum wage increase for Palauans. We want \$8.50 an hour. There's never a good time to increase the minimum wage, but there's an increase in revenues despite the fact that tourism went down. - Tourism decreased as we expected. We don't want packaged tours. We want to encourage free independent travelers from Japan, Europe, U.S., and other places who will spend money and contribute to our economy. This is where we need your assistance – to spread the word and correct misconceptions from the public on this matter - We're also going to be implementing Pristine Paradise Palau focusing on quality over quantity - Legislations we are immediately working with the OEK on are minimum wage increase, Social Security benefit increase, high-end investment and campaign finance spending reform - Let's all make a difference, think outside the box, follow up and truly make a difference for Palau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President: Thank you for welcoming me. Today is my first day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President Remengesau is the head of our government, the captain of our ship - We are all responsible for various sections of this ship and as we move forward, we will need to work in partnership and effectively to steer our ship on course towards our destination - I am committed to working 110% to the best of my ability. I believe the Executive Branch and the OEK will be able to cooperate and partner up effectively into the future • Vice President Oilouch is Minister of Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: You all know we asked him and he kindly accepted to be Minister of Justice - I ask everyone to support his in this role - We are working to relocate the jail to Babeldaob - This morning, there was a groundbreaking for the Nippon Foundation & Sasakawa Peace Foundation for a new administrative building. A new wharf will follow including patrol boats and vessel. There's an immense expectation of the MOJ. The Ministry also faces domestic challenges such as violent crimes, drugs, and juvenile delinquency - Vice President Oilouch is not limited to just the Ministry of Justice because he fully understands the challenges of health, for example, as he was the Chair of the Senate Health Committee. He is also aware of our foreign affairs challenges. He will share responsibility and help us manage our government therefore expect him to be everywhere in various Ministries
<p>“It’s All About Us” Video Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: The one thing I took away from this video is communication. Communication is the key. If we can communicate effectively we can achieve our objectives and goals therefore we need to improve our communication efforts
<p>Update of Water & Sewer Projects from PPUC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Improvement Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPUC working to limit one-way street during construction periods. Consider moving construction that results in one-way to weekends - Restoration work in the stretch of road in front of Ngarachamayong anticipated to complete by the end of the month - Construction and excavation ongoing in Airai in road leading up to Treatment Plant, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Old NECO to Ngerkesoal ~ Secondary road in Dngeronger from Lebuu Street ~ Construction of water tank and other related work in Rois Ngemelachel is in progress - Discovery of Japanese bomb in Malakal has temporary seize all related construction work in the area per request from JICA's headquarters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ JICA won't allow construction unless the areas is surveyed and free of unexploded ordinances ~ PPUC scheduled to meet Cleared Ground Demining on Tuesday, Jan. 24 on how to proceed • Sewer Improvement Project



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractor of CIP to Malakal section to mobilize to Palau - Work to begin in April with pump station at CIP - New pump station at T-dock to commence work in February. Construction will occupy road at Bair a Meketii - New contractor for the treatment plant from New Zealand will hold signing ceremony around February or March - For the Kesebelau project, additional funding will be required. Discussion is also ongoing to include Ngerkesoal, Ngesaol and other areas to the network. Between now and October 2017, PPUC will work on additional funding for the project
<p>Remarks from Ambassadors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Ambassador to Palau Hershey Kyota <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of the U.S. Government and the inauguration of President Donald Trump was conducted on Friday, January 20 - My first priority upon return to the U.S., is to work to identify new sponsors from the House of Representatives and the Senate for the renewed compact agreement - Former Texas Governor Rick Perry was appointed Secretary of Energy. As an honorary citizen of Palau, if he's accepted, we can approach him for assistance and support - Looking into working with people with direct connection to President Trump seems to be the best strategy rather than through the State Department, which is really slow • EU/Climate Change Ambassador Olai Uludong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for bilateral member states of the United Nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ There's a tremendous amount of support and assistance from the EU that we can access. Asking for cooperation and communication in order to effectively lobby for assistance ~ MAP would better assist in seeking, identifying and lobbying for assistance - Responsible for climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Continue to seek opportunities, assistance and support in this area - Also Ambassador for FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ If there's any programs, projects, or assistance we require that coincides and relates to FAO let me know so I can work on them - Training and education opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Italy is accepting interns for a working holiday program. Contact me if you know anyone interested
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: We're going to provide a caring government ("ubechub"). This is what we hope to accomplish in the next four years • Year of the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire year of 2017 has been declared the Year of the Family meaning all areas of work relating to family must become noticeable - Programs must focus on family. Look into incentivizing families who have a role in government programs - Provide programs to encourage family participation - \$200,000 Grant Funding Program is under development to target programs and projects involving families - President: I implore everyone to think outside of the box to encourage, promote and provide incentives to families in farming and various other programs • Training & Capacity Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: I ask all of you to be involved in areas of training and education of Palauans. Opportunities are plentiful. It's sad knowing these opportunities are not being taken advantaged of - Mr. Lin of PRR recently offered four (4) full scholarships to Palau in areas of hotel management and tourism. For those at MNRET, if you know anyone interested in this program encourage



them to take advantage of it

- **Inauguration and Installation Program**

- Minister Temengil-Chilton and Inauguration & Arrangement Committee Chair thanks everyone for their support, assistance and cooperation
- Extended appreciation to Public Works for maintaining and ensuring a clean environment for guests
- President: Palau is one of the 10 best ethical destinations in the world. As I said in my inauguration speech, let's not take small things for granted. We are fortunate to live in country in peace without oppression, war and other challenges to our basic human rights

- **Renewable Energy Target of 40% by 2025**

- President: Our direction for the next four years is to switch over to renewable energy
- Our target is ambitious, but again I call for better communication between all agencies in order to achieve this goal
- European Union and Climate Change Ambassador Olai Uludong is based out of Europe working with European Union nations where there are major support and assistance available for Palau on areas of renewable energy. Work with her to tap into those opportunities
- **Update of Energy Projects (Mr. Decherong):**
 - ~ UAE project in partnership with NDBP for 100 systems is expected for implementation by end of the year. The program will provide incentives for installing energy efficiency appliances
 - ~ Working with a grant from New Zealand for a hybrid energy system for Kayangel
 - ~ UAE funded project for Peleliu and Angaur solar systems are operational. There's technical issue with low diesel generators. Discussion right now is between government to government. The energy office is working with the Ministry of State on this
 - ~ President: We need to put a closure on the Peleliu and Angaur project. Work with Judy Dean, Ministry of State and all relevant agencies to get it done

- **Water Tank from Turkey (Minister Obichang)**

- Ambassador of Turkey disclosed that the Turkish Government has forwarded around \$40,000 USD to his office in Japan to procure water tanks
- Requires Palau to prepare specifications of tank and select a contractor
- Based on initials discussions over two years ago, Turkey was to procure the tanks

- **Prioritize Overseas Travel**

- President: Prioritize overseas traveling. Accept those that yield results, opportunities and reward for participation, otherwise pass over the opportunity to someone who is deserving of the trip
- Encourage travel via federal funding and international grants – sponsored travel – rather than travel using local revenue. Travel via local revenue must be justifiable

- **Ocean Conference in June 2017, New York**

- Preparatory meeting line up has been complete
- Credentials must be sent beginning early February
- Response is required within the timeline

- **Money Laundering**

- President: I recently met someone who trained for money laundering
- We signed a membership for these matters under the United Nations Convention
- The law has been completed. Let's do an evaluation of exactly where we are and what needs to be done to combat money laundering.
- We need to learn and ensure our understanding of the many factors that enable money laundering so that we may opportunities and interests for Palau.

- **NDBP Update**

- Press Conference on Wednesday, January 18 was successful



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Palau Wave Radio has invited NDPB to provide an update on radio once a month• Management Action Plan (MAP)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Set to be finalized, bind and printed this week- As of today, Jan. 23, all activities listed under the MAP must begin implementation• Unified Budget for Fiscal Year 2017<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Submitted to the OEK at the first regular session• Directors to Provide Continuity of Work<ul style="list-style-type: none">- President: All Directors are required to provide continuity of work. You are classified under the Civil Service to manage and maintain services and programs. Do not wait for a Minister to come on board
Reminder	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting Attendance<ul style="list-style-type: none">- President: Every Monday, Cabinet Meeting will be held at 9AM in Ngerulmud for approximately 1 ½ hours. If a Minister is unable to attend Directors must attend on their behalf

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