



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 9:20 am – 10:34 am
 Monday, June 26, 2017

In Attendance:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr 2. Minister Elbuchel Sadang 3. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg 4. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton 5. Minister Umiich Sengebau 6. Minister Charles Obichang 7. Minister Sinton Soalablai 8. Director Darnelle Decherong 9. Director Brain Melairei 10. COS Secilil Eldebechel 11. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. NDBP CEO Claire Harvey 13. EQPB Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam 14. PNMS Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma 15. Postmaster-General Timothy Sinsak 16. Nick Ngwal, Special Asst. on Maritime Affairs 17. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean 18. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 19. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO 20. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer 21. Austin Gaylord, Legal Counsel |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Importance of “Follow Up”, “Think Outside the Box” and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President reiterated the need to “follow up” and “think outside the box” and further emphasized the importance of Ministries and Agencies in following up on all matters, in particular, assistance and support extended to Palau as a result of partnership agreement, meeting, conferences such as The Ocean Conference and many others. • President’s Travel Schedule: The President is due to depart for official trip on Friday, June 30th. He emphasizes the importance and necessity of these travel to solicit assistance, partnership and support on issues Palau is pursuing including climate change, renewable energy, the Ocean and others that require financial support and partnership that Palau doesn’t have. • Inception Workshop in August: In August, agencies such as the U.S. Department of Interior, Department of Energy, Earth Justice, Earth X and others will travel to Palau to sponsor a workshop on renewable energy. The workshop is anticipated to be held in the week of August 7. The objective and plan is to establish Palau as a showcase for renewable energy in the Pacific because of Palau’s target of 45% by 2025, including its efforts towards achieving said goal and to become a leader in renewable energy in the Pacific region. • Importance of Communication Emphasized: The President emphasized the importance of communication. An issue relating to diplomatic notes where the Ministry of State failed to timely forward a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Justice for their attention and action. Upon receipt, the Ministry of Justice failed to timely respond to the said diplomatic note pertaining to the U.S. Secret Service workshop with Palau’s law enforcement. The President further emphasized the importance of good communication and timely response of said matters. 	<div style="background-color: #F0E68C; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Thank You Letters & Follow Up on Potential Partners</div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>The President instructs Minister Sengebau to produce thank you letters to partners met during The Ocean Conference in New York as well as follow up discussions with potential partners.</i>
Progress Update of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of last meeting, NDBP has approved 3 new loans totaling \$36,000. NDBP is also set to restart 	

<p>NDBP's Agriculture, Aquaculture Loan Program</p>	<p>outreach programs as it was put on hold during the Belau Games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDBP reports successful meeting with Minister Sengebau pertaining to a potential agriculture project valued at \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 if it comes to fruition. - NDBP continues to work with MNRET and Minister Sengebau on the operation of the Slaughterhouse, including marketing, operation, etc. - NDBP reports it will be able to disperse the \$5 million grant within 12 months or sooner, if major projects such as the potential agriculture project discussed with Minister Sengebau moves forward. A \$500,000 crab farm in Peleliu is also in the pipeline pending an environmental report. - No large scale projects from the State Governments thus far, but NDBP is working on a grant to help states develop their environmental reports. - NDBP is working on developing plans on subsidiary industries for the Slaughterhouse, getting pigs from farms to the Slaughterhouse as well as planning another farm fair. NDBP continues to maintain contact with all clients as well as follow up with all clients at least once every quarter. The President urges NDBP to continue to explore and seek ways to disburse funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications Pending with EQPB: As of this meeting, EQPB have yet to receive any applications for large scale NDBP loan project including the \$500,000 crab farm in Peleliu. A project based in Airai have commenced and deployed fish cages, however they have not approached the government.
<p>Progress Update of PPUC Water & Sewer Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water improvement project continues in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KB Shell - Ngerbechedesau - Ngermid Intersection - Minatobashi - Ngerbeched near Sireib - T-dock - Road paving is anticipated to begin in Airai before moving forward to Ngerbechedesau - Malakal Water Tank construction is complete pending water proof testing. • JICA Team is scheduled to arrive on July 8 to study national grid distribution line in Babeldaob.
<p>Update from the National Emergency Committee (NEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEC Drought Action Plan has been finalized. PPUC requested for said Plan to match their existing procedures. Progress is ongoing between PPUC and NEC to identify a good threshold as a baseline to determine level of stages for action. The NEC Logistics Committee has made the decision not to disburse water, therefore all actions taken at this time is to maintain water levels where water distribution remains adequate even during the event of water rationing as well as ensure we do not reach a level where water disbursement will be required. Clean up efforts ongoing in water source areas. Plan to establish threshold is pending before PPUC Board and Management with a 99% chance for approval according to Dave Dengokl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEC is implementing the Plan according to three stages: Voluntary (Under drought watch level), Mandatory (Water rationing level) and Crisis (Under emergency level). At what point do we move to the next stage, this is the subject of discussion between PPUC and NEC. - Progress ongoing to establish standby water sources in Ngerderar and Tabecheding. - The President reports FAO released a downgraded 40-50% probability for El Nino, however no official announcement has been made in regards. - NEC continues to move forward as if the El Nino and subsequent drought will occur. • Extending Dam Wall: Discussion of plans to extend dam walls to trap water overflowing have reached the President's attention. The President inquires if it can be done and in partnership with both Koror and Airai state. Director Melairei expressed concerns of potential structural problems if extended higher.
<p>Ministry Briefings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Temengil-Chilton extends appreciation to all Ministers for their assistance with the Belau Games. The Games is scheduled to conclude on Sunday, July 2nd. - Constitution Day on July 9 falls on Sunday with holiday observed on Monday, July 10. Program to be arranged for coastal clean-up with respective states and agencies. Arrangements also to be made to host breakfast or lunch with framers of the Constitution. Minister Temengil-Chilton suggests Friday, July 7 as half-day for all government agencies to clean-up offices. President

- suggests for PAN rangers to work with state governments in picking up ocean trash.
- Minister Temengil-Chilton announces Youth office to work with State Governments for development of a youth festival in July.
- MCCA is working with MOF and NDBP to launch a women in business program with the Gender Office. MCCA is also working with MNRET on taro management program. The Gender Office is looking for a Gender Analyst. MCCA working with respective agencies on the hiring process.
- The Convention on Disability Report has been completed and finalized. Minister Temengil-Chilton requests for all Ministers to review and submit comments in regards.

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

- Minister Obichang, Director Polloi and Director Melairei recently attended the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Western-Pacific Region 8th Airports Conference in Anaheim, California. Issues brought up included continuation of FAA projects such as training and technical assistance as provided by FAA under Los Angeles Office. Palau is under the Japan Office. Process made to clear up Palau's position and to restore office back to LA. MPIIC to work closely with Mark and FAA agencies to look into technical assistance to Palau. MPIIC also working with ACT Clearance Office on landing schedule.
- **Landfill Update:** Assessment to be done for landfill as part of Japan assistance. Meeting to be held with Aimeliik in regards. Director Melairei cites issues with land. President reiterates the project should move forward as agreed.
- **One Stop Shop Building Design:** Director Melairei reminded to move forward with the planning and design of the building. Bidding for construction of the second floor of the Peleliu State Office ongoing. First floor complete and occupied.

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

- MNRET started the Kebeas Control project on June 15-18. MNRET continues to combat fruit flies as well as towards developing the operation capacity of the Slaughterhouse by continuing to provide piglets to farmers. Additionally, MNRET is working with the Marine Sanctuary Office and other partners to develop a small scale canning facility.
- The President inquired about the virgin coconut oil production in Kayangel. The facility which was spearheaded by Palau Conservation Society was destroyed during Typhoon Haiyan. Minister Sengebau and MNRET are considering establishing a virgin coconut facility with the small scale canning operation in Ngarchelong.
- Mariculture Center project is on schedule. Bidding to open in Japan on August. EQPB permitting done. Working on following permits pending at KSG.

- **Ministry of Finance**

- Minister Sadang reminds the whole of the deadline for budget call and the Management Action Plan last week Friday, June 23. Some Ministers have yet to submit their reports. Request made for reports to be submitted to MOF by the end of day.

- **Ministry of Health**

- There are 99 confirmed cases of dengue fever as of Friday, June 23 for the month of June. Top three states with dengue cases are: Koror, 249, Airai, 29 and Ngarchelong with 10. MOH reports part of the reason why cases have increased is that more people are coming to the hospital in the earlier stages of the virus for medical attention. In Koror, Medalaii and Ngerbeched continues to have steady cases. The Dengue Taskforce established by the President during the June 15 Joint Leadership Meeting have met twice. MCCA proposed for a general clean-up activity for the July 9 Constitution Day. MOH is proposing for the event to be held on Friday, July 7. Taskforce will be partnership with the Governor's Association for clean-up. MOH continues to work closely with Belau Games Committee to ensure safety and health of athletes. No athletes as of date has been reported with dengue fever. The President suggests for MOH and the taskforce to work with Koror State Legislators for clean-up activities. The next taskforce meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 29 at 10:30 am. President recommends for Ministers Temengil, Obichang and Roberts to set up a national day for clean-up.
- **Announcement of Upcoming Health Programs and Services:** Korean Dentist Mission is scheduled for August 11, 14-16 at Ngarachamayong Cultural Center. ENT Mission from July 17-28. Cardiologist visit in August.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports Winfred Wise a 97 year old war veteran is visiting Palau. He will be visiting Peleliu in a site where he landed during the war. • Ministry of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening ceremony of the Pacific Education Conference (PEC) to be held on Monday, July 17 at 5:00 pm in Ngerulmud. All Ministers are encouraged to attend the ceremony. The President will give his opening remarks that will touch on ocean and how it's relevant to teaching of our children. Minister Soalablai reports Acting CEO of PREL requested information regarding the status of dengue fever. Minister Soalablai informed MOE has taken precautionary measures to ensure health and safety of attendants. 			
<p>Update from EQPB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since June 21, EQPB has entertained 22 large scale projects, including Bedochel Sadang's 680 Apartment to be located in Malakal, Robert Tkel's building expansion for motel across from old NECO in Idid and Sheraton Hotels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One stop shop meeting held last week. EQPB Exec. Director Blesam and FIB representatives met with COS Eldebechel. Group to meet again on applications entertained by FIB that are deemed low impact, high value projects. - EQPB have not received any applications for new quarry. - EQPB extends appreciation to the President for the ratification of the Minata Convention on Mercury. The convention has adopted by the OEK. The first Conference of the Parties is anticipated to be held in Switzerland in September. This is the first Convention that Palau has become a member of and will take part in deciding membership fees, etc. 			
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <th data-bbox="1182 961 1555 1050" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="386 961 1182 2011" style="vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Programs for the Summer Suggested: The President suggests focused youth program for the remaining summer and encourages Ministries to develop programs for youth participation. A tragedy occurred over the weekend involving a young 16-year old boy who took his life. The President emphasized the need for our society to provide support that will prevent this kind of despair. The whole is instructed to plan whatever they can for the summer providing enjoyable and positive opportunities for the youth to enjoy this summer. • Vaka Motu to Palau: Okeanos Foundation, a foundation established by Chairman Deiter Paulmann is due to build and provide for Palau a fully equipped Vaka Motu powered by solar energy and coconut based biofuel. The Vaka has a speed capacity of 15 knots per hour. The Vaka is designed and built for Palau for free with the condition that Palau identifies 5 people who will be trained to operate the Vaka as well as develop a plan for operation and maintenance of the Vaka. The Vaka is anticipated to arrive in Palau by the end of the year. • Mangrove Crab Program: First phase of the program has been completed. In partnership with PCC Hatchery, over a million crab seedlings as purchased from farmers have been released in Babeldaob including Ngeremlengui, Ngiwal, Ngchesar and Peleliu. Minister Sengebau reports the program is experimental and the idea is to purchase female mangrove crabs at every stage and release back to the wild using two types of methods, leaving the pregnant female crab to give birth within a protected cage placed in the wild or scooping seedlings for release. • Koror State Jellyfish Bill: Koror State bill to close Jellyfish Lake passed on Friday, June 23. The Governor will reportedly will not take action. The bill will take effect in 15 days without his signature. </td> <td data-bbox="1182 1050 1555 2011" style="vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 0;"><i>Youth Program for the Summer</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <i>The President requests all Ministers to develop positive and enjoyable Youth Programs for the summer.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Mangrove Crab Program</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. <i>The President requests Minister Sengebau to ensure good monitoring of Mangrove Crab Program to determine success.</i></p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Programs for the Summer Suggested: The President suggests focused youth program for the remaining summer and encourages Ministries to develop programs for youth participation. A tragedy occurred over the weekend involving a young 16-year old boy who took his life. 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Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Ministers are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” to develop new initiatives, and in particular, matters that require timely response and/or action. Better communication is also emphasized.• There’s no Cabinet Meeting on Monday, July 3 while the President is traveling on official trip. The Office of the President will notify everyone accordingly should this change.
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***Meeting minutes subjected to change and approval**