



CABINET MEETING

Office of the President

Meyuns Satellite Office | 11:13 AM – 12:47 PM

Monday, March 26, 2018

In Attendance:

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| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 8. Ambassador Hershey Kyota |
| 2. Minister Elbuchel Sadang | 9. Director Debbie Tkel-Sbal |
| 3. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton | 10. Director Brian Melairei |
| 4. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg | 11. Acting Director Aloysius Alonz |
| 5. Minister Emais Roberts | 12. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei |
| 6. Minister Umiich Sengebau | 13. MOS COS Jeffrey Antol |
| 7. Minister Charles Obichang | 14. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<p>Update on Appointments and Matters Before the Cabinet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Congressional Visit Cancelled: Meeting with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Chairperson of U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen of American Samoa and Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the CNMI scheduled for today was cancelled due to mechanical problems. The delegation will instead arrive on Wednesday, March 28 and departing on Thursday, March 29. • Tropical Depression Jelawat: The depression is currently north of Palau with 25-35 mph winds. The brunt of the depressions is anticipated to pass Palau between noon to later this evening. • Status of Water Shortage: As of this morning, water levels at Ngerimel Dam are recorded at 8 feet. Water rationing schedule from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am to continue. According to the NEC, daily water consumption is equivalent to 1 foot. The President inquires about the possibility of capturing the overflow in Ngerikiil to supply Ngerimel Dam. • Signing of Proposed Bills: The President is set to sign two bills: (1) HB No. 10-15-1, HD2, SD2, PD1 – Encouraging the Development of High-End Accommodations and (2) SB No. 10-30, SD1, HD1 – To regulate childcare centers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two additional bills were submitted today for the President’s review and approval: SB No. 10-23, HD2 – to restructure cost and classification of tax assessed to foreign owned private yachts and cruise ships, and SB No. 10-5, SD4, HD2 – establishing a moratorium and increasing penalties on hawksbill turtles. The President instructs Minister Sadang and Minister Sengebau to review both legislations prior to Thursday, March 29 for possible signing at the leadership meeting. - Bill to increase social security benefits is anticipated to pass the House of Delegates today; meanwhile the Supplemental Budget request has been submitted to the OEK. • Compact Funding Approved under U.S. Omnibus Funding Bill: President Trump has signed the Omnibus Funding Bill that contains \$123 million funding to the long awaited Compact II agreement. The President notes a copy of the actual language of the deposition must be obtained. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of State are instructed to review the documents and look into the required or appropriate process for implementation. Ambassador Kyota will look into arranging a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Interior in

terms of process of disbursement. Ambassador Kyota instructed to familiarize himself of Palau's direction and position in regards to the Compact prior to departure in order to communicate with U.S. officials accordingly. Director Tkel-Sbal reports language of federal grants received notes MOE is only eligible until the passage of the Compact. MOE to forward language to Ambassador Kyota. Deputy Chief Kesolei instructed to arrange for legal counsels to meet with Committee.

- Part of the language states "Funds may not be made available under this section prior to Compact Review Agreement and its appendices entering into force". Ambassador Kyota reports there are provisions stated under the Compact that require signatures by both Palau and U.S. to sign. Ambassador to set up a conference with Mike and the President's legal counsels. He is seeking to contract Mike under the Palau Embassy in the U.S. to work with Palau on the matter. Minister Sadang is in communication with Tom in regards. The President notes the issue of the U.S. Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) with veto power of funding expenditures, which has grouped Palau with the FSM and RMI in this process.

- **Earth Day:** MNRET and MOH instructed to highlight the importance of the environment to the health and wellbeing of the people as part of Year of Good Health during the Earth Day activities. Minister Temengil-Chilton reports a program outline is under development for Earth Day. Earth Day is on Sunday, April 22. Minister Temengil-Chilton and Minister Sengebau met with EQPB regards to the program. The program to be planned for the week and are hoping to declare the whole week as Earth Week. This year's theme is "Our Environment, Our Health: Working together to end plastic pollution". Global campaign is to end plastic pollution. Activities include drawing and essay contest, e-waste and battery drive, rock island clean-up and walkathon. An award to be developed to recognize companies that encourages plastic-free practices. Ministry of Education instructed to involve the four youth ambassadors who participated in the Peace Boat in upcoming Earth Day activities.
- **Kebeas Eradication Update:** MOH met Aimeliik and Ngatpang. Meeting today to determine when to commence efforts. Both states are partnered up with MOE. Japanese company currently in Palau looking into turning kebeas into biogas. The company is still in the planning stages of its proposal.
- **BLS to Work Closely with States:** Minister Obichang instructed to develop a memorandum to the Bureau of Lands and Survey to work closely with States in anticipation for an upcoming large housing project. BLS is currently meeting and working with Aimeliik State on the status of private and public lands. Minister Obichang instructed to follow-up on Ngarchelong school land to the state.
- **Update on Cuba Baseball Coaches:** Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports Ambassador Lago initially offered to develop MOA. An MOA has been developed and under review with Minister Temengil-Chilton. Ambassador Uludong to present her credentials as cross accredited to Cuba. Presentation to be done in the UN.
- **Naito Appointment:** Appointment made for Uchel Naito as Consul General with post in Hawaii. Ambassador Kyota sent a diplomatic note to reopen the position. Naito is required to personally apply for his diplomatic passport in Palau and his A1 visa through the U.S. Embassy in Palau. Following issuance, he is eligible to apply for renewal while in Hawaii.
- **Ambassadorial Appointment to Fiji:** Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports initial candidate for appointment has withdrawn and seeks for assistance to identify someone qualified to assume position.
- **One-Stop Shop Building:** Director Melairei reports contract has been executed. Challenges

	<p>expressed of change of location for temporary office. CIP is working on layout to be enclosed with an official request to Governor Gibbons. The President recommends for Director Melareai to send correspondence from Minister Sadang, who initially discussed the matter with Governor Gibbons. Discussion ongoing for relocation of Ernguul Park/Night Market to Asahi Baseball Field area for additional One-Stop Shop Building parking. Challenges reported of cement costs. Cost is currently over \$100 per cubic yard. Contractor to develop cost comparison of pre-cast cement in Taiwan compared to Palau.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of National Jail: Bidding closed on Wednesday, March 21 with PNQ as the sole bidder. Undergoing review of submitted bid. Director Melareai reports the project can be completed by next year. • Aimeliik Landfill Project Update: EQPB approved permit application for the project last week. President sign Exchange of Notes with Japan. • Airport Expansion Project Update: MPIIC undergoing pre-bid meeting. One bidder remains with four issues, non-major. The bid closed on March 26th. • Survey Board Update on Assets: Director Melareai reports the Survey Board disposed 19 vehicles, 79 computers and 24 printers. Surveyed vehicles will go under bidding as sold assets. MOF hired new consultant to work with Ministries on asset management. • Awarding of Year of Good Health Logo Contest: Minister Roberts reports awarding will be conducted during leadership meeting. Finalized schedule of events to be distributed at the meeting. Minister Roberts further requests for Minister Rehuher-Marugg to ensure attendance of its Ministry at Committee meetings. • WHO Request from Taiwan: Minister Roberts are in communication with Deputy Chief Kesolei in regards. • Displaced Families: OEK to pass a resolution to create an ad hoc committee on displaced families. Minister Temengil-Chilton and Minister Obichang • Executive Health Check-Up Reminder: All Ministers are reminded to allow employees to take administrative leave for health check-ups. • Other Activities Shared: Island Conservation team currently in Kayangel on a rodent (rat) eradication project. PICRC, PVA and Koror State are partnering up for a coral reef planting project.
<p>Reminders of Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers are requested to attend and participate in the following upcoming events, and to ensure to bring their Directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ambassador Tseng Farewell: Monday, March 26 at PRR (6:00 PM) - Leadership Meeting: Thursday, March 29 at Old OEK (10:00 AM)

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