



CABINET MEETING
 Office of the President
 Ngerulmud | 9:10 am – 11:11 am
 Monday, February 27, 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 4. Minister Elbuchel Sadang 5. Minister Emais Roberts 6. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton 7. Minister Sinton Soalablai 8. Minister Umich Sengebau 9. Director Brian Melairei, Public Works 10. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 11. COS Secilil Eldebechel 12. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. NDBP Chair Marino Rechesengel 14. Karla West, NDBP Operations Manager 15. Jeff Ngirarsaol, NDBP Agri/Aqua Broker 16. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam, EQPB 17. Keiden Kintol, VP Special Assistant/PIO 18. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 19. Stalin Pedro, MPIIC 20. Ucheliou Demei, Foreign Service Officer 21. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer 22. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator 23. Anthony Rudimch, PPUC Water Project Manager 24. Isebong Rengulbai, PPUC PIO |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
<p>NDBP Update on Agri/Aqua Mega Loan Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP outreach program started on Wednesday, Feb. 22 in Airai. NDBP is scheduled to return on March 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agri/Aquaculture Broker Ngirarsaol is currently working with 4 prospective clients with a possible project totaling more than \$100,000. ~ Progress is ongoing to address design of piggery and matters relating to septic tanks, etc. - President reiterates need to disburse the funding before the year comes to an end. • \$500,000 awarded by NDBP to date covers the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40% crops, 23% piggery, 13% poultry, 10% clam, 7% crab, 7% fish - Majority of pending application are piggery-related activities. • Mangrove Crab Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reminds all concerned the need to establish a funding mechanism to implement the program. Minister Sengebau to work on a revolving fund in regards. - President asks for progressive efforts and new updates at the next Cabinet Meeting.
<p>PPUC Update on Water and Sewer Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation and installation begun today in front of Desekel in Ngerbeched. PPUC collaborated efforts with Ngerbeched Legislator one week in advance to properly inform residents of scheduled work. - An incident was recorded over the weekend where a car fell into an excavation site near Bluebay. Construction sites are marked with fence, reflect tape, lightning and signages, etc. to ensure the safety of motors. The incident reportedly occurred around 1:30-2:00 am. As of this meeting, PPUC have yet to receive the incident report. - Announcements to the public were made in regards to construction work scheduled over the weekend.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Trimming on Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As scheduled, tree trimming in the area on Sunday was completed. - President extends appreciation to PPUC, as there were no unscheduled power outages over the weekend. However while visiting the hospital the power was out due to a scheduled tree trimming in the Medalaii/Meyuns area. The hospital's backup generator was unable to meet electric demand during the time resulting in discomfort for patients at the hospital. At 4:10-4:15 pm the President requested Deputy Chief of Staff Reblud Kesolei to ask PPUC to restore power immediately. President asks PPUC to restore power at the scheduled time, and remain consistent in regards. • Traffic Condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vice President Oilouch, Minister Obichang, Minister Soalablai, and Director Melairei were able to meet with PPUC officials on Wednesday, Feb. 22 discussing possible solutions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ (1) Frequent and consistent road repair. On Sunday, Feb. 26, efforts were made to touch up roads. Pavement will begin in March. ~ (2) Improve public awareness and announcement: Beginning in March, PPUC will provide radio updates to the public. ~ (3) Proposal has been put forth for roadwork around the Sansaro area in Ngermid to begin at 9:00 AM to alleviate traffic in that section. A request was submitted to EQPB on Friday, Feb. 24 to allow 24/7 work in the area. - PPUC has provided information requested by Taiwan Ambassador in relation to possible assistance with traffic condition. On March 1, Taiwan experts to arrive in Palau to assist in improving the flow of traffic. - PPUC and traffic officers of the Bureau of Public Safety to maintain regular updating on traffic condition. • PPUC/PNCC Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPUC representatives are unaware of current updates in regards. - President: Continue looking forward for solution between PPUC and PNCC. • JICA Feasibility Study and Streetlight Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment is complete. PPUC representatives to forward a copy of the report to the Office of the President. - President asks PPUC to follow up on discussion and efforts with the Energy Office in regards to the Streetlight Project. • Additional Funding for the Sewer Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: Follow up is required with ADB for additional funding. Immediate action also must be made as well as efforts to the OEK for additional funding. • UAE/Mastar Project in Peleliu and Angaur <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: Requires follow up and closure. I'm still anticipating efforts to complete the amended contract and update of where we are in regards.
Ministry of Justice Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President Oilouch reports first 100 days action plans are being prepared. Copy will be submitted to the President soon. • Review Committee Team for Immigration and Labor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three (3) people have been appointed members of the Review Committee Team to review the Immigration and Labor plans, and to provide suggestions and recommendations to the Vice President within 30 days. - Selected to the Team are Okada Techitong, who serves as the Chairman, Jenkins Mariur and Russ Masayos. Chief of Labor and Acting Chief of Immigration have been instructed to provide support and assistance to the team during the review process.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on Bangladeshi Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public has expressed concerns over Bangladeshi workers population in Palau. Vice President Oilouch supports the implementation of a directive to Immigration and Labor in regards. - Within 60 days of implementation of such directive, Vice President Oilouch suggests an amnesty program similar to the program established by former President Toribiong. Through this proposed program, Immigration and Labor is suggested to identify Bangladeshi workers and their employers, assess their documentation and perhaps deport workers who are in violation of Palau's laws. The proposed program requires action from the OEK. - Immigration and Labor currently does not have a Director. A vacancy announcement has been made for this position. • Public Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director Ismael Aguon has resigned effective end of March 2017. - Phase 2 of reclassification of police officers has been completed. - Formation and inspection of law enforcement officers are scheduled for March 21. MOJ proposes to hold event at the Palau National Gym. - Progress ongoing to fill vacancies. • EO on Search and Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOJ working in collaboration with Deputy Chief of Staff Kesolei to put the Executive Order together ahead of a major conference to be held in New Zealand. • Demolition of BRT Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director Melareis reports receiving estimate for demolition last week, which has been returned to the engineers for a deeper look with the final report to be submitted to the Vice President this week. - Initial assessment indicates the ground level of the building is safe and can be saved from demolition. However the 2nd floor up must be demolished. - Vice President: The Ministry is facing relocation issues. The administration section occupying the ground floor will require relocation prior to demolition to ensure services to the public are not disrupted. - Director Melareis suggests demolishing the ground floor to construct an entirely new building rather than constructing a new building on top of the existing ground floor. - Prefabricated units are being considered for office space during the demolition and construction period. - President instructs Director Melareis to prepare his recommendations for review. • Ngardmau Substation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife officers have relocated to the Ngardmau Substation. CID personnel who occupy an office in the condemned portion of the building have submitted a request to occupy Wildlife's former office near the Belau National Museum in Ngerbeched. • Ammunition Request to PNMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vice President requests Marine Sanctuary Office for their support and assistance with ammunition supplies to Marine Law. • National Emergency Committee (NEC) Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First meeting has been arranged for the end of the week.
Ministry of Health Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First 100 Days Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOH preparing first 100 days action plan. Anticipates submittal to the Office of the President as soon as possible. • Healthcare Fund Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOH officials with HCF officials on Feb. 22 along with MOF. Discussion included the funding



	<p>and construction of the HCF building to be located in the vicinity of the CHC in Ngerbeched. HCF has agreed to fund the building. Public Health comprising of about 150 employees may also occupy the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If this building is constructed soon, space will be made available to enable establishment of the step-down unit within the hospital. In the meantime, Minister Roberts has instructed his staff not to discharge patients who still requires further monitoring and assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incinerator Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOH installed and ran the incinerator unit on Feb. 24. Dr. Thorten from the AUS Environmental Hazards who held a workshop on the same day stated the unit is best to be located within the hospital grounds for safety purposes. He recommended operation of unit at night and over the weekend particularly during windy weather. - President requests MOH to withhold operation between 8:00 – 4:30 pm. • Medical Referral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOH to stop patient to St. Lukes Hospital for a while and shift patient referral to other hospitals. • Intern Program for Medical Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOH has appointed Dr. Lala to spearhead the intern program. All doctors including Dr. Yano and Minister Roberts will help mentor the students. • Meeting with Toribiong Uchel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Toribiong met with Toribiong Uchel last week, who is currently undergoing his 3-year residency in Detroit, Michigan for internal medicine. - Toribiong proposes to return to Palau for a two-month rotation next year. He requested assistance with his student loans to allow his quick return to Palau upon completion. MOH working on making arrangements to help him. • Request for LED lights for Hospital Parking & Assistance with Minor Repair Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repair underway within the hospital. MOH requests some assistance from Public Works. - MOH requests for LED lights. Director Melairei to follow up with PPUC. • NCD Coordinating Group Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee has met with PICRC discussing application mechanism. - Minister Roberts has instructed the group to simplify application progress. • DEH and CDU Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress is underway - Prefabricated housing unit for CDU under bidding for construction of foundation. Records indicate costs will range between \$37-38,000.
<p>Ministry of Finance Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing of Management Action Plan (MAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled meeting on Feb. 28 aimed to finalize first 100 days report including components for overall MAP for submittal to the President. • FY2017 Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Sadang met with Senator Rudmich on Feb. 26. He expressed satisfaction of budget proposal. A meeting is scheduled today, Feb. 27, at 4:30 pm with the Senate President. Minister Sadang and Director Casmir Remengesau to attend meeting. The meeting will also determine if a public hearing will be necessary. - President instructs Minister Sadang to collaborate efforts with the Senate for funding to the Civil Service Pension Plan (CSPP). Recommend appropriating \$1.5 million covering April 1 to September 30th for CSPP to prevent loses. - Minister Sadang has met with Chairman of Health of both Houses of possibilities of housing in the Philippines. Working with Director Remengesau in terms of funding and languages to address this matter. The matter will be brought during MOF meeting with the Senate.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union Request for Brief on Taxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Sadang and Minister Kuartei instructed to combine efforts and respond to request made by European Union.
Ministry of Education Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Soalablai reports Chris Henry, a recruiter from Grand Valley State University has arrived in Palau. Arrangements being made for meeting with PNSB and PCC. • Tobi Trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOE representatives to leave on Wednesday, Feb. 29. Tobi Elementary School is at the brink of sinking. MOE officials to assess the structure and report. - President suggests constructing a prefabricated unit on island to solve the matter. - MOE team to return next week with a final report. • Disney Trip to High School Valedictorian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea Passion Hotel to award high school valedictorian, his/her family a round trip to Disneyland in Hong Kong. Minister Soalablai to clarify if the award is extended to valedictorians of all high schools
Ministry of CCA Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCCA is working in collaboration with various agencies in preparation for the March 15 program focusing on career development. ~ March 9 Conference: MCCA proposes half-day. MCCA engaged with MOE, IWOA, and PCAA in this respect. MCCA proposes to align many programs. PCAA to reinstate ENT and elderly care training. IWOA to fund the activities. - Year of Family and upcoming national event to reinforce government programs to reach community level. Youth and Family Fair on Agriculture program proposed. - International Women’s Day on March 8. A walk and run event on the same to be held in observation of the day. • MCCA is working closely with Australian Embassy on a gender mainstreaming program. Request has been made to hire a gender analyst to help with statistics on men, women and children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scholarship from Australia and AusAid Grant selection progress to open in April • Community Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCCA working in collaboration with MOJ, MOH, Civil Court and Senator Senior on outreach program for the Family Protection Act. ~ Community awareness has been completed in Ngarchelong and Ngaraard ~ Meeting scheduled for March 15 ~ MCCA to host press conference on Feb.29 • Ministers in Boards, Commissions & Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Temengil-Chilton: Creating a mandate may create a political influence for boards that wishes to maintain autonomous in decision-making. Suggests ex-officio membership or through executive order for membership of Ministers related to their Ministries.
Ministry of NRET Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major part of the funding is to improve communication with state governments. Suggestion made to utilize the Bureau of Domestic Affairs to improve communication to state governments. GEF 6 representatives are currently meeting with stakeholders. - President: Can we put together a program with state governments to control kebeas? President instructs Minister Sengebau to arrange meeting with State Governors to plan national efforts in regards.
Ministry of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense Department exit meeting following survey has been requested. DOD officials will be meeting



<p>Update</p>	<p>with PNCC and PPUC officials on March 6 to discuss telephone and electric connections in areas identified during the survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President instructs Minister Kuartei to arrange meeting with PPUC and PNCC prior to DOD's meeting on March 6. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeland Security official has arrived. Meeting will begin tomorrow. Vice President Oilouch is spearheading arrangements of relevant MOJ agencies and officials in regards. • Representative for NZ grant on renewable energy arrives next week to meet with Minister Obichang, Director Casmir Remengesau, Greg Decherong and Joe Chilton of Energy Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: In our meeting with the EU Ambassador, he was under the impression that we are replenishing the existing streetlight system, and not installing energy efficient system. That needs to be clarified.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rat Eradication Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Roberts has received no updates in regards. Minister Roberts to follow up and report back. - President: MNRET must work with KSG not just on the rat eradication but also in improving restroom facilities. - EQPB Exec. Director Blesam reports the working group (EQBP, KSG, PPUC and Environmental Health) is working to address rat population and improve restroom facilities these issues. EQBP has issued permits for restroom facilities. Summerhouses and compost toilets are under bidding. EQPB provided the list of Rock Islands under the bidding process following the Cabinet Meeting on Feb. 27: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Ulong: Three (3) new summerhouses, two (2) compost toilets, and additional benches ~ Ngeanges: One (1) new compost toilet and additional benches ~ Kemurbeab: Two (2) new compost toilet, one (1) expansion of old summerhouse, one (1) new summerhouse, and additional benches ~ Ngchelobel: Two (2) new compost toilets, one (1) new summerhouse, and additional benches ~ Ngemelis: Three (3) new summerhouses, change walling of compost site and additional benches ~ Ngermeaus: Two (2) new compost toilets, one (1) new summerhouse and additional benches ~ Ngeremdiu: Three (3) new summerhouses and additional benches ~ Babelomekang: Two (2) new compost toilets, three (3) new summerhouses, and additional benches ~ Ngchus: Two (2) new compost toilets, three (3) new summerhouses, and additional benches - In partnership with the Conservation International (CI), rat eradication is also in progress with use of chemical. There is impact to species at the Rock Islands therefore an announcement will be made to the public not to consume land crabs and coconuts for a period of 6 months to one year. • Economic Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President thanks the whole for their participation and contribution in organizing the recently concluded 4th Economic Symposium. - Minister Sadang instructed to provide a copy of the ADB assessment report to all Ministers. Everyone is encouraged to review the report thoroughly. - Minister Sadang: Outcomes from the Symposium will be prepared, organized and submitted to the concerned agencies. MOF to host next Economic Symposium. Efforts will be made to concentrate on implementation of policies resulted from the 4th Symposium. • New Jail Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permitting process and bidding has been completed for phase 1. Contractor has mobilized. Phase 1 includes the access road. Construction of underground water tank and septic tank. Incorporating changes made by EQPB based on consultation. CIP to bid out Phase 2 in about 2-3 weeks. - EQPB has surveyed and collected water sample in the area to establish a baseline. The septic tank was moved to safer grounds as not to impact the Ngerikiil watershed. - PNQ moved fence to save some of the forest as requested by EQPB. CIP to monitor to ensure



there's no erosion.

- **One-Stop Shop Building Concept**
 - Director Melairei reports of a request made by former Minister Ngirmang to design and construct a “one-stop shop” building in the existing lot occupied by Social Security Office, Treasury and Finance. The proposed 3-story building with a similar design to the Executive building in Ngerulmud was according to discussed was to be funding by SS Trust Funds.
 - The approximate cost of the building was noted at \$3.5 million.
 - The building is proposed to host various agencies to provide convenience to both the public and service provider in addition to more parking spaces.
 - President instructs Director Melairei to prepare a plan for review and direction.
- **Tobi Family Malakal Land Issue**
 - Minister Kuartei reports the land is within identified defense land under Compact.
 - The matter is in Court. Vice President suggests the State Ministry to get involved in the case.
 - President instructs Vice President Oilouch to ensure the family's protection in the meantime unless otherwise stated by the Court.
- **Near Shore Fish Aggregated Devices (FADs) Update**
 - PNMS under discussion with the Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR) to mobilize efforts to install buoys in existing near shore FADs. Efforts underway to conduct community outreach program to determine need for FAD system. Materials are available. PNMS ready to mobilize in collaboration with BMR.
- **Update from Bureau of Public Works**
 - Discussions have been made for a family beautification challenge for intersection of state road from the Compact road. Award to be made in November during the Appreciation Luncheon. Award will also be made to the family that can sustain those efforts. Proposed program to be funded by the Road Maintenance Fund.
 - Beginning March 1, BPQ will implement family challenge for large redemption during March 1 to April. \$1,000 to be awarded to the winning family.
- **Slaughterhouse Update**
 - Equipment is due to arrive in Palau within the next 2 weeks around mid-March. Will require approximately 6 weeks for installation. Looking to be operational in April.
- **Housing Update**
 - Progress moving forward in regards to the amendment to the MOU.
 - Many have submitted requests for containers. Minister Temengil-Chilton working with Director Melairei in this respect.
 - Minister Temengil-Chilton reports 2,000 square meter of land in Melekeok around the new Archive Office has been extended to the Palau Housing Authority as approved by Reklai. Additional land has also been extended to PPLA and the Bureau of Land & Survey.
- **Skotsio Appeal Case**
 - President: Major park development project was proposed for the Skotsio area. Meyuns stakeholders were in support of the project; however Koror State is another matter.
 - Minister Sadang, Minister Temengil-Chilton and Minister Obichang perhaps will need to arrange dialogue with Koror State Governor in regards. There's funding available for the project. If the project cannot proceed, funding will be utilized in another development project in different state.
- **Executive Orders and Directives**
 - Deputy Chief of Staff Rebluud Kesolei instructed to prioritize pending Directives and Executive Orders, including “one-stop shop” initiative and others.
- **Performance Report and Recognition of Employees**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reminds the whole of the importance of quarterly review to recognize employees of the quarter. Out of those employees we'll be able to select the employee of the year in November. - Assessments, evaluations, reviews and recognitions are important aspects of the National Government's initiative to provide incentives to its employees. • Implementing the Year of the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President reminds the whole to implement and incorporate the Year of the Family in all programs and activities. - President suggests organizing a major family fishing tournament. Suggestion also made for agriculture to host a summer family festival. Minsiter Sadang instructed to identify funding for the proposed summer programs from the private sector. - Suggestions also made to provide incentives for new parents. • Upcoming Major Events/Holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 15 (Youth Day): Minister Temengil-Chilton spearheading efforts in regards. - Anniversary of Japan Imperial Visit in April. April 9 is a declared state holiday for Peleliu State. Representatives from Hokkaido Prefecture are expected to travel to Palau. Minister Kuartei spearheading efforts in regards.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers are reminded to submit action plans for the first 100 days to the Office of the President as soon as possible. • All Ministers concerned are reminded to follow up on pending ratifications of conventions, such as the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ratification of the Convention on Eliminating Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) b) Ratification on Convention on the Cultural Rights c) Ratification on Arms Trade Treaty d) Ratification on Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court • The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 10AM, Monday, March 6, 2017 at NEMO Office in Airai. Attendance of all Directors is requested.

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