



CABINET MEETING
Office of the President
 Meyuns Satellite Office | 9:56 am – 11:27 am
 Monday, January 30, 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 Umiih Sengebau, MNRET 6. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton, MCCA 7. Minister Charles Obichang, MPIIC 8. Director Brian Melairei, Public Works 9. Director Casmir Remengesau, Budget & Planning 10. Director Sherrilynn Madraisau, Public Health 11. Director Andrew Tabelual, Education Administration | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Acting Director Omtei Ringang, Public Safety 13. Exec. Director Keobel Sakuma, PNMS 14. COS Secilil Eldebechel 15. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei 16. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo 17. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer 18. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor 19. Ismael Aguon, Head of Drug Taskforce 20. Ucheliou Demei, Foreign Service Officer 21. Jerry Nabeyama, PNMS Project Coordinator |
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Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

| AGENDA | DISCUSSION |
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| Opening Remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Every Monday, our Cabinet Meeting is scheduled at 9AM at the Capitol. A request to speak before Maris Stella School’s Family Day event as part of their Catholic Week program was scheduled this morning resulting in our meeting at 10AM here in Meyuns • Reminders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of the “Year of the Family”: Incorporate the theme in programs and projects as much as possible • Press Conference: Vice President Oilouch to work with Press Secretary Kazuo to provide updates and reports during this week’s press conference • Dr. Roberts’ Swearing-in Ceremony: Ceremony has been scheduled for 10AM, Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Community Health Center in Ngerbeched • OEK 25-day Regular Session: The 25-day will end on Feb. 17, if there’s any immediate legislative matters we need to bring to their attention let’s get them together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ In terms of Budget, we are targeting before Friday, Feb. 3 for submission |
| Post Inauguration Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Temengil-Chilton: In terms of budget and reporting, I’m meeting with Director Remengesau and Minister Sadang to clear payments to vendors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee is working on putting together the report including recommendations by Wed, Feb. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Looking to distribute draft of financial report to the Office of the President, and prepare and ready for submission to the OEK • The Committee is proposing to host luncheon for inauguration committee on Wednesday, Feb. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Planned to be held at Peleliu Club grounds ~ Lunch to be prepared ~ Workers to be awarded with certificate including overtime • President: Make sure vendors are paid and complete report for submission to the OEK |



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| <p>Strengthen Communication & Provide Timely Updates to the Public</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: If there's good information and updates from agencies of the government draft a press release and disseminate to the public through radio and other mode of communication including social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route the information to Olkeriil and Rolynda • We need to strengthen our efforts through communication • We work under the belief that the public is aware of the government's progress, project and programs, but that's not true • There must be a printed media and information shared through press conferences from your offices especially through our Facebook accounts because that's how people communicate • Timely and Consistent Updates of Public Health Alerts/Notices/Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: A clear press release must be disseminated to the public in relation to the Zika Virus in a consistent matter. This includes all government efforts to improve infrastructure, jellyfish, dengue, etc. • President instructs Director Madraisau to draft a press release today to tour operators and the public in general including Ministry of State to share with all Embassies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Tour operators in Palau are concerned with the Zika situation. Misconception must be cleared • Director Madraisau reports Public Health are presently working with Olkeriil on weekly public service announcements and through press conferences |
| <p>Miscellaneous</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for the First 100 Days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Make sure all policies and matters requiring action in the first 100 days must be implemented particularly legislative matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Reminder again to ensure Ministries conduct activities executing and in relation to our theme of "Year of the Youth" • Public Health Relocate to Ngerulmud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutoff date to move out is Feb. 15 - Challenge is internet connectivity - COS Eldebechel has meet with Conrad and PNCC representatives who has agreed to provide a connecting line to the Ministry of Finance at the Capitol - President: Make sure this is taken cared of immediately • Incorporating "Year of the Family" in National Holiday Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Temengil-Chilton suggests implementing and incorporating "Year of the Year" as a theme across all national holidays for the remainder of the year starting with the Youth Day in March • Update on Lighthouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister Obichang and Vice President Oilouch has discussed the lighthouse situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Has been repaired and is now operational ~ It is unclear if it was a rust problem, but after it was moved to a separate room it became operational - President: How about buoys? Are there any instruments we can utilize to light up sea lanes to address the lighting problem? Contact Greg Decherong of Energy Office to find out if there's any equipment that can be utilized <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Minister Obichang: We've identified affordable lighting from Trusts Corporation of Japan who may be able to assist us ~ President: Let's assign some people to conduct a survey and put together a plan of action • PPUC Representation in Cabinet Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President: Despite Ministers only meeting, PPUC must be represented at all Cabinet Meetings to provide updates. At present, we need to follow up on Angaur Water Billing matter - COS Eldebechel: PPUC Chairman Masang requested for a meeting with you - President instructs COS Eldebechel to schedule it this week |



- ~ We need to discuss certification of UAE Projects in Angaur
- ~ Before they attend this meeting, we need to communicate to them in writing on matters for discussion such as sewer pump station, plan for power outages, UAE projects and Angaur water
- ~ They need to be prepared to provide solutions on these matters during the meeting
- ~ We need to identify a plan with them on how they will proceed on addressing these matters

- **Rat Infestation Update**

- Director Madraisau reports Environmental Health continues to work with KSG to address the issue
- Latest update was submitted to the Office of the President two weeks ago
- Through partnership with KSG, rat traps were prepared for Ulong and other rock island locations
- National Sanitation Department working with KSG on restroom facility issues
- President: Director Madraisau, at some point we need a report about the maintenance and report of restroom facilities, and that rat population has decreased
 - ~ KSG revenue collection was \$15 million, but unfortunately, sanitation has been left unaddressed. It's not appropriate when the Association of Tour Agencies from Japan and tour guides appeal to the President of the Republic about sanitation problems and discomfort of tourists at the rock islands due to long restroom lines
 - ~ In this connection, I hope you strengthen partnership with KSG to address this matter
 - ~ How many traps have been installed? *I don't have that information at this time, but I can inquire with Chief Uchel of Environment Health and inform you accordingly*
- Consider working with Agriculture representatives and collaborate efforts in preparing traps. Major efforts must be made in a comprehensive manner to address this. Additionally, restroom facility issue I hope is addressed immediately

- **New Jail Facility Update**

- EQPB has approved permit. Contractor has started working
 - ~ Main challenge with EQPB is on septic tank
 - ~ EQPB recommends separate system for grey water (discharge from sink) and black water (discharge from restroom facilities)
 - ~ In this respect, the septic system must be redesigned
- Phase 1 of the project includes construction of access road and completion of fence
- Permit approved is for everything; The provisional permit was approved to proceed with the network
- Designing is complete
- First funding \$500,000 through supplemental; Second funding \$500,000 through unified budget
 - ~ Total cost of facility is \$2.5 million; Designed cost of building is \$1.5 million
 - ~ The project requires an additional \$1.5 million
 - ~ Contract awarded to PNQ (\$930,000) for the whole design of the facility, access road to site, construction of underground water tank and septic tank
 - ~ It is possible that expenses will go beyond the budget
- There's a big shortage of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch crushed gravel in Palau
 - ~ Director Melairei is meeting with all contractors to explore and discuss the idea of procuring gravel overseas and splitting the cost
 - ~ At present, Surangel and PNQ are the only companies with gravel in Palau
 - ~ There are no four companies operating quarry: Surangel, Hawaiian Rock, Mr. Ha's company and Terry, a Chinese national whose company is not operational at the moment
 - ~ President: The country cannot come to a standstill because there's no gravel
- Ribbon cutting may be towards the end of 2018
 - ~ President: Let's not hold on to this for four years. It needs to be done quickly
 - ~ President instructs Minister Sadang to look for funding

- **Slaughterhouse Update**

- Substantially complete
- Equipment will not arrive until March



- ~ Once arrived it will require 4-6 weeks for installation and testing
- ~ Full operational around April

- **NDBP Loan Program Update**

- Udui reports contract is being finalized
- People are submitting applications
- President: At some point during the year, we need to inform Taiwan that we've disbursed this funding. We can't seek new loan development programs if this has not been disbursed

- **Housing Development Update**

- Some housing have been awarded; Some are in the waiting list
- In the case of Malo, we're working on an immediate solution with Public Works. Will be taken care of this week
- President: In the "Year of the Family", housing is a major component of the "family"

- **Tourism Policy Plan**

- Finalized draft along with the President's statement has been submitted
- Part of funding from DOI
- Nippon funding for equal tourism is a separate project
- President reminds everyone to prepare practical plans for better implementation

- **Airport Project Update**

- Minister Obichang reports negotiation to begin in the 2nd or 3rd week of Feb. Officials to meet in Guam on Feb. 9 with U.S. representative responsible for the Micronesian region
- Funding is part of the agenda for discussion in terms of new administration
- There is funding from FAA left, but not large
- Palau requested funding to purchase equipment and design of safety area between fence and runway. The request was agreed for about \$300,000

- **Progress of Grants**

- Judy Dean is still hospitalized
- President: We need a closure on these grants. Palau cannot afford to lose out on grant opportunities when Judy is unavailable

- **Streetlights Update**

- President: We must follow up on the streetlights project for all states. Who knows the status of that?
- In terms of the technical aspect, Minister Obichang has met with Trust Corporation representatives on several occasions. Proposal from the company for lighting up the turn points into states, docks and the Compact road was provided
 - ~ Trust Corporation is a manufacturing company
 - ~ One streetlight product cost about \$150.00; Over 20 lights were identified through the taskforce
 - ~ Roughly costs \$120, 000-130,000
 - ~ President: Does the company have the ability to provide the products quickly? *Yes, as a manufacturing company they will be able to process the order quickly*
 - ~ President instructs Director Melairei to put together a plan costing up to \$200,000, and to organize a meeting with Joe Tutii Chilton of the Energy Office and PPUC representatives in relation

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

- President: There must be major efforts towards achieving our target under MNRET, MPIIC, and MOS
 - ~ MOS is responsible for seeking grants in support of renewable projects
- PPUC's use of diesel is an issue. Rather than increase use of diesel, utilize solar power in state governments, street lighting, etc.



- This is subject area for discussion with the Energy Office
- Minister Sengebau reports Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) can be utilized toward renewable energy target
- **Operation Rai Balang**
 - Next joint surveillance operation scheduled in March
 - U.S. military is request support for P-3 aircraft
 - Two week operation will address FADs
 - President instructs Vice President Oilouch to ensure that the Justice Ministry is ready to mobilize and no one is on sick leave
- **Mid-U.S. Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Feb. 16**
 - Meeting has been scheduled for Thurs, Feb. 16 followed by the turnover of Civil Action Team on Fri, Feb. 17
 - Meeting is to finalize agenda ahead of full JCM in Hawaii. Some matters for discussion includes:
 - ~ Marine Sanctuary is a top priority
 - ~ Request for airway in Peleliu and Angaur
 - ~ Request for military surplus. President: Guam Governor has received our request and gave his support on this matter. We are fortunate to have Oyaol Ngirariki there. She's our connection to the Governor. A follow up is required
 - Can funding for FAA be discussed during JCM? *Possibly during full JCM. We will need to make that request through mid-JCM*
 - President instructs Vice President and Ministers to formulate plans and prepare for the meeting
- **Meeting with NZ Officials on Feb. 7**
 - Defense issue
 - Scheduled for 11:00 am
 - Before official arrives a briefing must be conducted
- **Travel Policy and Procedure**
 - Major change to policies and procedures for travel
 - Travel voucher exempts the President and the Vice President
 - ~ President instructs Minister Sadang to remove exemption
 - Everyone will be required to submit trip report within 30 days
 - ~ DCOS Kesolei informed to ensure trip reports are completed on all travels
 - President: The issue was we wanted to limit alcohol, but there are occasions when you can't limit people
- **MNRET Update**
 - Challenge with State Governors is on access and beneficiary
 - Working with Pramod Thummala to draft legislation
 - States have expressed concerns and do not want to apply for permit not just for mariculture but agriculture
 - President: It must be a two way street, using science and research, but States also must benefit
 - Suggestion made to utilize Traditional Knowledge and Expression of Culture report
- **Traffic Condition Update**
 - Acting Director Ringang reports traffic conditions have improved
 - Suggestions made for unique and innovative techniques in diverting traffic such as dancing to enable a different and more enjoyable feature during rush hour
 - ~ President instructs Vice President Oilouch and Minister Kuartei to request assistance from Taiwan for training traffic officers in this respect
- **Public Parks Update**
 - President: Koror side water slide has been reported with stagnant foul-smelling water that needs to be addressed



~ Director Melairei reports the only way to address this is by scooping and discarding the water weekly under the maintenance plan. Converting the existing design and incorporating a piping system similar to the Airai park would cost around \$20,000

- President: Grassroot engineers have suggested placing some sort of net around the slide in Airai side to protect children from the current
- Suggestion made to place signage such as “Parent Supervision Required” and “No lifeguard on duty. Swim at your own risk” as well as information relating to the use of the slides

- **\$40,000 Water Tank Assistance from Turkey**
 - Specifications for the tank are needed
 - Division of Corrections have stated the need for the tank; Education, Head Start, Housing, Capitol, etc. all have water tanks in place

- **Scholarships for Higher Education**
 - President instructs Director Tabelual to put in effort to maximize number of students to take advantage of scholarships available to Palau

- **Master List of Boards, Commissions & Authorities**
 - President instructs Rolynda to distribute copy to all Ministers as soon as possible

***Meeting minutes are subjected to change and approval at next Cabinet Meeting**