



CABINET MEETING

Meyuns Satellite Office | 9:44 AM – 11:08 AM
Monday, June 4, 2018

In Attendance:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. | 13. COS Secilil Eldebechel |
| 2. Minister Umich Sengebau | 14. DCOS Rebluud Kesolei |
| 3. Minister Sinton Soalablai | 15. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo |
| 4. Minister Emais Roberts | 16. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Sen. Econ. Advisor |
| 5. Minister Elbuchel Sadang | 17. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean |
| 6. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton | 18. NDBP President Claire Harvey |
| 7. Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg | 19. NDBP Norbert Villanueva |
| 8. Director Brian Melairei | 20. PNCC AGM LeoBen Teriong |
| 9. Director Melson Miko | 21. Legal Counsel Austin Gaylor |
| 10. Exec. Director Nick Ngwal | 22. Legal Counsel Daniel Klopper |
| 11. Exec. Director Roxanne Blesam | 23. Nace Soalablai, Legislative Liaison Officer |
| 12. Postmaster General Timothy Sinsak | |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Meeting with Australia Foreign Affairs Minister and Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held this morning with Julie Bishop, Australia’s Foreign Affairs Minister. Discussions touched on areas of health and education, including the school of diplomacy and other educational opportunities and pharmaceutical supplies assistance. Minister Rehuher-Marugg instructed to develop synopsis of meeting and distribute to the Cabinet as well as to develop a letter of appreciation and to follow up on discussions further.
Ministry Briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education: The President reiterates the importance of ensuring accessibility of opportunities to all graduates, particularly of high school valedictorian and salutatorians, to achieve higher education through the many available scholarships offered to Palauan students and further emphasize the need for recruitment. MOE reports of 100% enrollment rate to PCC as the first process of application to higher education. The second process is through access and application to scholarships according to the student’s preference. Minister Soalablai instructed to make arrangements for outstanding students’ recognition dinner this week. Minister Soalablai reports PHS’s Class of 2018 graduates is recorded as the lowest number of graduates at PHS to date at 124 students. MOE seeks for support in payment of membership dues to the Pacific Community (SPC). Belau Modekngai School’s graduation class this year was a total of 2 students. Discussion made for consideration to consolidate the school as an extension of Palau High School to address operational costs. MOE to develop list of recommendations to the President to consider in regards to this matter. • Ministry of Health: Minister Roberts instructed to invite the Palau National Scholarship Board to the next Cabinet Meeting for further discussion and to report on the status of Palauans students studying in Cuba. Minister Roberts reports of successful start of the Ngchesar State Kebeas Eradication Project that commenced over the weekend with participation from the youth. Melekeok Start to begin soon with participation from youth. Minister Sengebau instructed to follow up on the delivery of required chemicals for Kebeas Eradication Project. Minister Roberts reports of final health exam rate clearance review pending before the Healthcare Fund. An award ceremony is anticipated for the \$1 million Indian Government grant awarded through the United Nations. Awarding is scheduled in NYC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of State: Minister Rehuher-Marugg reports of recent meeting with Romanian Ambassador on Friday, June 1. Discussion included scholarship opportunity to a medical school in Romania. • Ministry of Finance: Minister Sadang reports of budget call signed by the President and seek for cooperation from all Ministers to work closely with the MOF in regards. MOF considering combining all Ministers and Directors' cellphones under one cell plan to reduce communication costs. Minister Sadang instructed to look into the maintenance fund to fund painting and tree planting projects with participation from the youth during the summer. Director Miko instructed to work with Minister Sadang in regards. COS Eldebechel instructed to follow up on all programs discussed. • Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism: Minister Sengebau reports of a consultant from the Conservation International (CI) on island to assist MNRET in developing Palau's proposal to Green Climate Fund. • Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs: Minister Temengil-Chilton reports of successful President's Day activities and programs on June 1st. Ambassador Chow of the ROC participated in the visit to Angaur, Peleliu, Ngatpang and Aimeliik to honor and pay tribute to late Presidents Salii, Remeliik, Etpison and Oiterong as well as helped present awards to the participants of the President's Day Junior Anglers Fishing Derby Program. Press Secretary Kazuo reports 40-plus participants registered to the program aged between 9-14 years old. First to fifth place winners were awarded on site. Press Secretary Kazuo instructed to develop letter of appreciation to Blue Bay and Sea Passion. MCCA instructed to develop second Junior Anglers program for July and to consider moving the event to Babeldaob, possibly Ngeremlengui or other states. Minister Roberts suggests incorporating with upcoming Men's Health Fishing Derby scheduled for July in Ngatpang. Minister Temengil-Chilton reports of our upcoming 25th Independence Anniversary in 2019. Consideration and discussion are ongoing of the possibility of setting up plaques and monuments in Ngerulmud to honor late Presidents with support and assistance from their families. Minister Temengil-Chilton instructed to develop a Directive or Executive Order in creating a Committee to plan for the 25th Independence next year. MCCA working with MOE in preparation for an Applied Arts Learning Program from June 17 to 23. Assistant Secretary of Interior due to visit Palau. Ngchesar to host Olechotel Belau in October this year.
Agency Briefings and Other Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDBP Progress Update: NDBP reports as of date 103 applications under the agriculture, aquaculture loan program has been approved for a total value of \$1.6 million. NDBP is currently developing a survey to determine the success rate of approved projects. • PNCC Progress Update: PNCC reports of recent fiber disconnection issue two weeks ago that was a result of cable powered down in Singapore for a scheduled second splice. PNCC utilized backup satellite connection during the period of outage. Following completion of splice, services returned back to normal. PNCC reports of upcoming official travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with the RUS on July 9. Objective of the meeting is to update the RUS of RPPL No. 10-17 (Telecommunications Regulatory Framework) in addition to discussing the possibility of investing PNCC's loan reserve valued at \$3 million in the money market. PNCC reports outbound mobile roaming will take effect at the end of the month, however inbound roaming is working. • EQPB Progress Update: EQPB reports of two environmental assessments under review: (1) Palau Blue Gold Resort located in Ngeruluobel, Airai. EQPB received letter from Airai

	<p>Governor supporting the hotel project. The project valued at \$80 million is under review until June 25; (2) PECCI relocating to the landfill area in M-Dock. The President reports of Sheraton Hotel's proposal to develop a hospital in Palau catering to medical tourism. Director Melairei instructed to sit down with EQPB concerning CIP projects. Director Melairei reports of challenges of securing Historical Preservation Clearance due to lack of manpower and is further working with Director Ngirmang to streamline Historical Preservation Clearance process. Deputy Chief Kesolei instructed to work with legal counsels to develop language and to further work with the OEK to explore the possibility of waiving the Historical Preservation Clearance to move pending CIP projects forward. Minister Temengil-Chilton instructed to follow up with staff concerning the delays discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants Office Update: Grants Coordinator Dean reports of communication from the India Embassy in Manila of review progress for annual grant aid. Minister Rehuher-Marugg instructed to develop diplomatic note to follow up with the Indian Government in this matter. • Updates from Kaleb: Plans underway for the first regional meeting. Kaleb instructed to communicate with PIFS Secretary General to propose date for event and members to invite for the 2020 "Our Oceans" Conference. • OEK Legislative Update: The House of Delegates is prepared for a session this week. Procurement and Micronesian Games budget to be addressed. • Energy Updates from Nick: Reports anticipating by July to release no objection letter concerning the \$10 million to NDBP energy program. Behind on programming from RMI and FSM. Nick requests for inclusion of the land use for solar farm as part of the discussion at the upcoming leadership meeting. Green Climate Fund Board Meeting to be hosted in Palau next year. About 300-400 participants. Nick instructed to provide information of Palau's responsibility in regards. • Executive Order on Energy Office: Deputy Chief instructed to develop an Executive Order to alleviate the Energy Office by Wednesday this week.
<p>Reminders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ministers and Directors are reminded to "think outside the box" and "follow up" on all initiatives. • All Ministers are reminded note in their calendars the upcoming meeting this week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and State Leadership Meeting: Wednesday, June 6 at 11:30 AM. The President will be signing the FY2018 Supplemental Budget Bill during the meeting. <i>**The Leadership Meeting was moved to 10 AM, Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the Old OEK Building after the conclusion of the Cabinet Meeting.</i>

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