



CABINET MEETING

Office of the President

Meyuns Satellite Office | 10:08 AM – 11:33 AM

Monday, August 6, 2018

In Attendance:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr | 12. Kaleb Udui, Jr., Senior Economic Advisor |
| 2. Minister Emais Roberts | 13. PNCC Chair Norman Ngiratecheboet |
| 3. Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton | 14. Myers Techitong, PNCC |
| 4. Minister Sinton Soalablai | 15. NDBP President Claire Harvey |
| 5. Minister Umiich Sengebau | 16. Norbert Villanueva, NDBP |
| 6. Chief Secilil Eldebechel | 17. Press Secretary Olkeriil Kazuo |
| 7. Deputy Chief Rebluud Kesolei | 18. Legal Counsel Austin Gaylord |
| 8. Director Eunice Akiwo | 19. Legal Counsel Daniel Klopper |
| 9. Executive Director Roxanne Blesam | 20. Nace Soalablai, Spc. Asst. on Legislative Matters |
| 10. MOS Chief Lydia Ngirablosch | 21. Fermin Meriang |
| 11. Grants Coordinator Judy Dean | |

Prepared by Rolynda Jonathan, Office of the President

| AGENDA | DISCUSSION |
|---------------------------|---|
| Ministry Briefings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health: Minister Roberts reports community events led by the Ngardmau States were successful, including the recent Back-to-School Concert on August 3rd and the Fishing Derbies. The Division of Environmental Health recently conducted an unannounced inspection of Budget Mart in Idid, Koror where they were found illegally selling medications. The drugs were confiscated. The Ministry is undergoing a hospital repaint project in partnership with states. MOH is looking at procuring a new incinerator that produces no smoke. Minister Roberts further reports of ongoing challenges with PNSB on identifying assistance in paying off students' debts at PCC to allow staff hiring. Addition challenges reported of translation of Cuba Medical students records. President instructs Chief Eldebechel to draft letter of communication to PNSB in regards. Assistance from the ROC-Taiwan in terms of one orthopedist and one family practitioner due to arrive to assist Palau for 6 weeks. Minister Roberts is scheduled to meet with Western WHO Office representative and further reports of recently attending the Asia Pacific Health Conference in Davao, Philippines. • Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs: Minister Temengil-Chilton reports of ongoing visit with homebound seniors. In partnership with MOH, beds were built and provided to seniors in need. Recommendation made to work with NDBP to further engage with and assist seniors in need of small repairs and/or renovation work. <i>The President's media team is instructed to develop a press release in regards and disseminate to the public.</i> MCCA and the organizing committee are continued efforts and preparation for the 24th Independence Day celebration in October. Global Peace Run event planned to coincide with the Independence Day activities. <i>Minister Temengil-Chilton is instructed to develop a report of all summer activities and programs, and to work with PS Kazuo and Fermin in its dissemination.</i> Ad Hoc Taskforce to meet this week and are preparing to submit its report to the President as soon as possible. PNMS to work with MCCA on hosting fishing derbies at every holiday. • Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism: Minister Sengebau reports of meeting with Pacific Micronesian Islands Form. Discussions included efforts on invasive species such as the rhino beetle. Efforts ongoing on drafting the legislation for agriculture. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Minister Sengebau seeks for Austin’s assistance in its review. MNRET to present findings of the Environmental Symposium on Aug. 28th to the leadership. <i>Minister Sengebau is instructed to work with Dr. Yimnang Golbuu in inquiry of Biota Aquarium.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education: Minister Soalablai reports of changes in the delivery of math and English in schools. Beginning this week, math and English courses in classroom have increased to 90 minutes of lesson time. MOE expressed appreciation for repair to 8th Grade building by PNCC. The President informs MOE of \$10,000 grant to be awarded to the Ministry to develop, publish and disseminate NCD-related posters and other educational materials on health to all schools. <i>MOE is instructed to work with the MOH in this initiative as well as develop a display showcasing contents of sugar and salt in products. MOH is further instructed to bring the nutrition room to schools to educate students on the importance of healthy eating.</i> |
| <p>Agency Briefings and Other Updates</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th Micronesian Games and Team Palau: Appreciation and congratulations expressed of successful participation by the Team Palau at the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap. <i>Minister Temengil-Chilton is instructed to develop awarding for medalists and the teams to be presented at the ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 11th.</i> The OEK leadership is invited to attend. Minister Temengil-Chilton reports PNCC provided free Wi-Fi access to Team Palau through the O3b network. Yap has further extended an invitation to Palau to return for additional sporting events. Yap has also been invited to participate in the Belau Games next year. The 2022 Micronesian Games is to be hosted by the Marshall Islands. RMI has an initial budget of \$12 million for the Games. \$7 million is to develop an over the water track and field facility. • Proposed Legislations under Consideration for Signing on Weds, Aug. 8th: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SB No. 10-59, SD1, HD3: To establish an Institutional Review Board regulating medical and scientific research in Palau on human subjects and other related purposes. 2. HB No. 10-12-1, HD1, SD1: To establish school zones, increase speed on the Compact Road, require speed limit road signs, to prohibit consumption of alcohol beverages or possession of open alcohol beverage containers in motor vehicles, and for other related purposes. • Proposed FY 2018 National Annual Budget: The Budget is under finalization and is expected to be submitted this week. • PNCC Update: Chairman Ngiratecheboet reports of its upcoming 36th Anniversary on Aug. 23rd. PNCC recently met with leadership of Sonsorol and Tobi to improve services. PNCC reports its long-term plan includes expansion as a regional company to manage Yap Telecom. • Kebeas Eradication Project: Minister Roberts and Minister Sengebau are instructed to look into awarding for eradication of large kebeas trees and submit recommendations to the President. Melekeok launched its Kebeas Eradication Program over the past weekend. Koror and Airai have yet to start, however some parts of Airai have commenced efforts on their own. • EQPB Update: Executive Director Blesam reports ongoing review of Ngarchelong’s Sand Mining Project who submitted application and environmental assessment. Review process is to end on Aug. 30th. Palm Spring Resort is also undergoing review process. EA reports can be accessed online at www.palau.gov.pw/eqpb. The Board is also undergoing review of the ICB3 of Koror-Airai Sanitation Project. The Board approved the construction phase 3. PPUC |

expressed concerns of the \$20,000 delay fee. EQPB expressed concerns of the project that is focused more on the construction of the Plant than the affluent to the ocean. EQBP to work with MOF in regards. The Aimeliik Hotel project reportedly proposes 593 units and 800+ rooms including bungalows. EQPB reports existing laws cannot allow reclassification of mangroves with 50 feet width. Thus the permit only covers land base project. The project's sewer system is proposed to be processed on land and discharged to ocean, however the study submitted did sufficiently convey the treatment system. Permit does not allow discharged to the ocean. What was reported in the media is not accurate as the Board did not permit ocean discharge and development. Water system is of a concern as Ngchemiangel water source is not large. The project is committed to explore wells. The President emphasizes high-end does not only necessitate high-value, low-impact tourism, but of high-value investments who are willing to develop sustainable water and wastewater systems in exchange receive incentives from the Republic.

- **Grants Office:** Grants Coordinator Dean reports more applications have been received for the YGH Small Grants Program. Review process undergoing for final applicants. Judy further reports the New Zealand renewable energy project in Kayangel is ready to go. The overall agreement includes the system in PCC. Agreement between PCC and PPUC is pending. *The President's media team is instructed to develop status and progress of all grant projects for public dissemination.*
- **NDBP Update:** NDBP has awarded a sum of \$1.750 million as of date and continues to work with the community to encourage application. The President reports pushing forward agriculture, aquaculture loan beyond the individual farmer concept. The President is looking into inviting large scale projects from businesses, organizations and others. (a) Housing Development Program: \$15 million housing program under negotiation. President hopes for groundwork to be laid in advance, partnership and collaboration with relevant agencies, such as EQPB and others. Road access, including challenges in connecting utilities noted to be addressed through partnership with PPUC. Meeting to be arranged with stakeholders to develop a realistic plan.
- **Our Oceans Executive Committee:** Chairman Udui reports committee for venue, logistics and communication has been activated. Havas to manage the marketing and promotion aspect of the meeting. The Committee is working on finalizing the delegation to Bali, Indonesia in attendance of this year's Our Oceans Conference, and are considering Director Melairei as a delegation member to assess logistics and venues used. The Committee further reports of receiving commitments from SPREP to fund speakers and guests. A list of all partners and donors is under development.
- **Policy on Single-Use Plastic:** President reports an executive order is under development eliminate the use of disposable plastic at government functions and meetings.

Reminders

- All Ministers are reminded to “follow up” and “think outside the box” on all initiatives.
- All Ministers are reminded to note upcoming events and meetings:
 1. **Team Palau 9th Micro Games Awarding Ceremony:** Sat., Aug. 11th @ Short Island
 2. **Men's Conference:** Tues, Aug. 14 @ Ngarachamayong
 3. **2nd Environmental Symposium:** Tues, Aug. 28 @ Ngarachamayong
 4. **25th Mechesil Belau Women's Conference:** Weds, Sept. 19 to Fri, Sept. 21 @ Ngarachamayong

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