



# REPUBLIC OF PALAU

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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August 17, 2022

### **Sonsorol State Visit**

Office of the President  
Koror, Republic of Palau

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#### **Citizens share success with youth programs; help is needed to maintain**

Koror, PALAU- From the trash that ends up on the shores of the islands of the Republic of Palau to promoting healthy lifestyles among the youth, the Sonsorol community raised a number of issues effecting our nation.

Sonsorol Delegate Yutaka Gibbons, Jr. thanked the President and Cabinet for the work they've completed thus far and asked them to ensure Sonsorol remains a part of the discussions as solutions are sought for issues common to all Palauans.

Legislator Dean Terry, an educator and coach, also thanked the president and cabinet members for the work they've done to help all of the people be a part of a truly prosperous Palau.

He asked for continued support for programs that he and others have worked to provide for the Sonsorolese youth, including a robust athletic program at the Echang Basketball Gym, which is where Tuesday's state visit took place.

Representatives of the Ministry of Health and Human Services assured him that there are health and safety programs and grants that Sonsorol organizations can participate in and apply for.

There also were concerns about the trash that ride the currents and land on the beaches of the Sonsorol islands. An issue President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. noted that was discussed and raised on the global stage, including at the recently held Our Ocean Conference.

Speaker Sumor also noted that Sonsorol and even Hatohobei need help with transportation, for emergencies, transportation of equipment and supplies, and others also noted as well that bringing Palauans from other states to the southern islands for cultural sharing and fellowship is an opportunity as well.

The President said they've also had discussions with US military about helicopter pads in the southern islands that could help reduce the time it takes to transport medical patients.

The President and Ministers also noted that they are looking for fiscally sound solutions that would address concerns but also noted that cultural exchange is a great idea and could open doors to other opportunities.

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“We don’t have all the answers, and that’s why we came. The government is all of us. It’s not just the executive or legislative branch - it’s all of us,” the President said.

“This won’t be our last meeting,” he added, noting that ministries will return to follow up on some of the issues raised tonight.

The next State Visit will be in Kayangel State tomorrow, Aug. 18.

See photos at: <https://bit.ly/3T3aaQh>