



REPUBLIC OF PALAU
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.
President

Executive Order No. 469

To Reorganize the Land Settlement Agreement Review Committee

WHEREAS, the National Government is committed to working with the state governments to ensure that there is open dialogue regarding national land use matters that provide a public benefit; and

WHEREAS, national review committees have been an effective tool of negotiation between the National Government and the state governments; and

WHEREAS, this executive order will reorganize the Land Settlement Agreement Review Committee to enable the National Government to open discussions among all applicable parties regarding national land use matters; and

WHEREAS, the Land Settlement Agreement Review Committee will address the exclusive rights the National Government has to operate certain government offices in Koror State; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Republic of Palau, Koror State Government, Palau Public Lands Authority and Koror State Public Land Authority entered into a Land Settlement Agreement, executed on February 3, 1997, to lease certain Koror State lands to the National Government for the purposes of operating certain government offices; and

WHEREAS, past administrations have worked with Koror State Government and the Koror State Public Land Authority to negotiate the use of the lands discussed in the Land Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the National Government currently maintains offices both in Koror and in the Capitol Complex in Melekeok State; and

WHEREAS, a new or revised Land Settlement Agreement may be required to provide for updated needs of the National Government and other parties; and

WHEREAS, this Committee shall also be responsible for future negotiations regarding land use matters between the state governments and the National Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the applicable laws of the Republic, it is hereby ordered as follows:



1. There is hereby established, in the Republic of Palau, the Land Settlement Agreement Review Committee ("Committee.")
2. The Committee's duties include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a) Review and evaluate the best way forward regarding use of lands by the National Government;
 - b) Make recommendations regarding appropriate revisions to the Land Settlement Agreement, in light of current land use, contemplated future land use, payments allegedly owed by Koror State, and all other pertinent matters;
 - c) Monitor the status of the properties subject to the Land Settlement Agreement thereafter; and
 - d) Review and negotiate future land use matters between the state governments and the National Government.
3. The Committee shall have the following membership:
 - (a) Minister of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries, who shall act as the Chairman;
 - (b) Minister of the Ministry of State;
 - (c) Member of the Palau Public Lands Authority, Board of Trustees;
 - (d) Chief from the Division of Land Resources Information from the Bureau of Land and Survey;
 - (e) the Attorney General;
 - (f) Chief of Staff from the Office of the President;
 - (g) Member of the Senate, as appointed by the Senate President; and
 - (h) Member of the House of Delegates, as appointed by the Speaker.



4. The Committee shall hold its first organizational meeting no later than March 31, 2022.
5. At the first meeting the Committee shall select one of its members as Vice Chairman.
6. The Committee shall meet monthly thereafter until a revised Settlement Agreement is finalized. The Committee shall also have the ability to call special meetings when necessary.
7. Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.
8. Administrative support may be reasonably requested by the Committee and the Chairman shall relay such request to the Office of the President if existing staff of the government offices identified in the Committee membership are insufficient.
9. The Chairman shall submit written recommendations to the President, including a final draft of a revised Land Settlement Agreement. The Committee shall endeavor to conclude negotiations on a Land Settlement Agreement no later than July 31, 2022.
10. Following the conclusion of the Land Settlement Agreement, the Committee shall meet from time to time to review the status of the properties, any matters pertinent to the Land Settlement Agreement.
11. The Committee may also address any other national land use matters between the state governments and the National Government.
12. The Committee shall report to the President at least annually, with the first report submitted on or before December 31, 2022.
13. Previous orders, Amended Executive Order No. 240 and Executive Order No. 468 are hereby superseded to the extent that they conflict with this Order.

18th IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this day of May, 2022.

Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau