

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 137

### *Creating a Committee on Air Transportation and outlining certain Policies with regard to Air Transportation*

**WHEREAS**, efficient and appropriate air transportation is a critical component of building a strong and self-sufficient economy and is vital to the well-being of the Palauan people; and

**WHEREAS**, as an independent nation there are a number of important policy issues (collectively the “Issues”--individually the “specific issues”) associated with Air Transportation which face us including, but not limited to, the following: (1) developing a National Flag Carrier Airline; (2) establishing bilateral and/or multilateral discussions with foreign governments on air routes; (3) ensuring that the Airai International Airport terminal and runway (the “Airai Airport”) are to appropriate standards; and (4) determining whether a large international airport should be constructed in central Babeldaob; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the specific issues have been examined by a Committee composed of members of the executive and legislative branch as well as traditional and state leadership and members of the private sector and the Republic has received advice on some of the specific issues from those with expertise in these areas and will continue to seek such advice; and

**WHEREAS**, there is ongoing litigation with regard to the Airai Airport as well as concerns regarding the suitability and safety of the Airai Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to formulate overall policy goals with regard to the issues and to establish a Committee to implement said policies;

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

1. It is appropriate for the Republic to work towards the development of a National Flag Carrier Airline in order to promote economic development, encourage competitive rates and enhance national prestige; and
2. It is appropriate for the Republic to work to establish bilateral and/or multilateral discussions with foreign governments on air routes; and
3. If an unbiased building report indicates that the terminal at the Airai Airport is unsuitable and/or unsafe then, depending on the outcome of the litigation regarding the Airai Airport, the National Government should seek to build a new terminal building at the Airai Airport and an independent engineering survey shall be undertaken to determine how to lengthen and strengthen the runway at the Airai Airport so that it is appropriate for future anticipated air transportation

needs; and

4. Simultaneously with the improvement of the Airai Airport to meet future air transportation needs, the Republic shall evaluate the feasibility of constructing an alternative international airport in central Babeldaob; and
5. A Committee on Air Transportation (“CAT”) is hereby established to implement the above policies. The Central Organizing Committee (“COC”) of CAT shall consist of the following members:

Minister of State  
Minister of Resources and Development  
Minister of Commerce and Trade  
National Planner  
House of Delegates Representatives  
Senate Representatives  
Rekemesik Ngiratkel Etpison

CAT shall be further organized based on the specific issues with different members of COC-CAT having a lead responsibility for separate issues (“Project Leaders”).

The Minister of Commerce and Trade shall be the Project Leader for item number one, the Minister of State shall be the Project Leader for item number two, and the Minister of Resources and Development shall be the Project Leader for item number three, and Rekemesik Ngiratkel Etpison shall be the Project Leader for item four. The Governor of Ngaremlengui State, the Governor of Ngchesar State, and the Governor of Ngatpang State shall be advisors on item number four. The following resource personnel shall be assigned to COC-CAT: Attorney General, Director of Land and Survey, Chief of Fire Protection, Legal Counsel to the President, PPLA Lawyer, and Airport Manager. COC-CAT shall also seek professional advice from all appropriate private sources and may call on executive branch personnel for assistance as needed.

A report from each Project Leader on the specific issues shall be made to COC-CAT by Wednesday, February 15, 1995. COC-CAT review the reports and make recommendations to the President and the Olbiil Era Kelulau on each of the specific issues by Wednesday, March 1, 1995.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my official seal this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 1994, in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Kuniwo Nakamura  
President  
Republic of Palau

