

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 156

### *Establishing a Tour Operator Review Task Force*

**WHEREAS**, tourism provides a major source of revenue for the Republic of Palau (“Republic”) and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Republic’s maintenance of a professional, adequately regulated, and well-regarded tourism industry is essential to the preservation of the Republic’s strong international reputation and to the continued development of the Republic’s tourism industry and its economy generally; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the Republic of Palau is vested with the authority to approve and grant licenses to tour operators within the Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, all tour operators must apply for, and obtain, such a tour operator’s license before being permitted to do business in the Republic; and.

**WHEREAS**, the President, by virtue of the authority vested in him under the Constitution and 11 PNC 901, and pursuant to Executive Order No. 155, has directed the Board of Directors of the Palau Visitors Authority (“Palau Visitors Authority”)[sic] to develop an application for licensing Tour Operators within the Republic, which application is to include, at a minimum, (1) evidence of the applicant's compliance with all applicable laws and regulations; and (2) a certification and recommendation from the Palau Visitors Authority for approval or denial of the application: and

**WHEREAS**, the President may, by virtue of the authority vested in him under the Constitution and 11 PNC 904, examine statements, information, and documents filed with the tour operator’s application, other information received from the applicant, and information received from any other person, in the course of determining, in consultation with the Palau visitors Authority, whether the applicant is qualified to receive a license to operate as a tour operator; and

**WHEREAS**, the President and the Palau Visitors Authority can streamline the process for reviewing tour operator applications by providing for the regular submission of pertinent regulatory information to the Palau Visitors Authority;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, a Tour Operator Review Task Force (the “Task Force”) is hereby created. The Task Force's duties and responsibilities shall be as follows:

1. The Task Force shall consist of representatives from the following government offices, boards, and divisions (“Member Agency”) and shall be assisted, as necessary, by additional employees and staff of these Member Agencies:

Office of the President (one representative)  
Palau Visitors Authority (two representatives)  
Foreign Investment Board (one representative)  
Minister of Administration's Revenue & Tax Division (one representative)  
Minister of Commerce & Trade's Labor Division (one representative)  
Minister of Justice's Immigration Division (one representative)  
Minister of Justice's Marine Law Enforcement Division (one representative)  
Office of the Attorney General (one representative)

The Chairperson shall be a member of the Palau Visitors Authority

2. The Task Force shall be responsible for creating and implementing procedures that will (a) require each Member Agency to report to the Palau Visitors Authority incidents in which a tour operator has failed to comply with a statute or regulation falling within the Member Agency's purview; and (b) allow the Member Agencies to report such incidents to the Palau Visitors Authority in a timely, regular, and efficient manner, so that the President and the Palau Visitors Authority may have access to such reports when they evaluate pending and future applications for tour operator licenses.

3. The Task Force shall also share responsibility, along with each Member Agency, for referring matters of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations by tour operators to the Office of the Attorney General for such enforcement actions as that office might deem appropriate.

4. The Task Force shall, before March 15, 1998, submit a report to the President setting forth the procedures described in paragraph 2, as well as any recommendations for further action, including, but not limited to, proposed modifications in existing law.

5. Use of government vehicles and other equipment and necessary overtime in conformity with Ministry budgets shall be authorized for the performance of work as required by the Task Force.

6. The Task Force shall convene for a meeting to be attended by the President on December 8, 1997, at 9:00 a.m., at the Office of the President.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed by official seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 1997.

Kuniwo Nakamura  
President of the Republic of Palau