

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18

Subject: 32-Hour Workweek and Freeze on Government Hiring, Travels and Strict Control of Expenditures

WHEREAS, a 2.5 Million Dollar FY 82 budget deficit was carried over into October, 1982, beginning of Fiscal Year 1983, and that the administration in early April, 1983, forecasted an additional 2.5 Million Dollar deficit would be incurred by September, 1983, end of Fiscal Year 1983; and

WHEREAS, despite the Administration's effort in stepping up collections on overdue electric utilities and delinquent taxes, revenues generating therefrom have not been sufficient to remedy the cumulative 5 Million Dollar deficit without new sources of funds being forthcoming either from the United States or through increases as a result of new tax or revenue laws; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the Republic of Palau is now entering the last month of its fourth and final quarter of Fiscal Year 1983 and all indications are that cash shortfall will be experienced unless emergency measures are resorted to in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, in his response to our request for reprogramming of CIP funds and other FY 82 Special Funds to cover the operation costs, including government payroll requirements, the Assistant Interior Secretary for International and Territorial Affairs Office advised that approval for reprogramming or any additional funding request is contingent upon Palau's making its own best efforts to alleviate its fiscal difficulties; and

WHEREAS, enumerated among such contingencies are: enactment of a new tax legislation to increase and generate additional local revenues for Fiscal Year 1984; freezing all government vacancies; reorganizing government functions to avoid duplication; encouraging early retirement of certain categories of government employees; improving collection of utilities, etc; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by and is the consensus of the Leadership of the Olbiil Era Kelulau and the Presidential Cabinet that 32-hour workweek be effectuated and freeze on government hiring and travels be imposed as a means to hold down government expenditures during the remaining balance of Fiscal Year 1983; and

WHEREAS, if the above-referenced measures are not taken at this time, all employees of the National Government will be faced with a real possibility of pay-less paydays during the month of September, 1983 and early part of Fiscal Year 1984; and

WHEREAS, the "Unified National Budget Procedure Act of 1981" (RPPL No. 1-16), in Section 12(2), authorizes the President of the Republic of Palau to take actions necessary to defer, withhold, delay or preclude the obligation, effectuation, or expenditure of any budget authority established by the Olbiil Era Kelulau and to immediately notify said Olbiil Era Kelulau of such action or actions so taken, and

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President under RPPL No. 1-16, Section 12(2), it is hereby declared, proclaimed and ordered as follows:

1. Commencing on Sunday, September 4, 1983, all employees of the National Government of the Republic of Palau, including those of the Executive Branch, the Olbiil Era Kelulau, and the Judiciary, shall be placed on a 32-hour workweek until either a new tax law has been enacted and taken effect or the United States has approved the reprogramming request for additional funding. The Chief Justice, the Presiding Officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau; the Ministers in the Executive Branch and the Bureau Directors under their supervision, shall formulate work schedules for their respective employees in order to ensure that vital government functions continue uninterrupted or unimpeded. Government employees paid under U.S. Federal Grant or other special funds or are on contract are exempted.

2. Effective immediately, all government vacancies within the National Government, all forms of promotion, and new hiring, shall be frozen forthwith during the remainder of Fiscal Year 1983, except those positions for which employment contracts with the government have already been executed.

3. Effective immediately, no government travel shall be allowed outside the Republic of Palau unless otherwise deemed absolutely necessary and specifically approved by the President, by the Chief Justice or by the Presiding Officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau with respect to government officials or employees under their supervision.

4. Effective immediately, all categories of government expenditures, except expenditures relating to essential functions of the government, are frozen forthwith.

This Order becomes effective immediately upon its issuance and shall remain in force and effect until superseded or otherwise rendered ineffective by force of law enacted by the Olbiil Era Kelulau.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 31st day of August, 1983, in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Haruo I. Remeliik
President
Republic of Palau