

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 224
To Establish a National Trade Facilitation Committee

WHEREAS, economic diversification and development are fundamental to the progress and prosperity of Palau; and

WHEREAS, a healthy international trade is an indispensable component to a vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum and a signatory to both the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations and the Cotonou Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Palau's success within the international marketplace depends upon the effective promotion of appropriate trade policies and upon the efficient utilization of the trade facilitation support offered by countries and organizations; and

WHEREAS, to develop a national trade policy, Palau must solicit and consider the views of both public and private entities; and

WHEREAS, to take advantage of the trade facilitation support programs at our disposal Palau must establish a principal body to interface with the international community; and

WHEREAS, an executive trade committee would provide a forum for the discussion of international trade issues and would serve as a focal point for the implementation of trade facilitation support programs and the development of trade 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, it is hereby ordered that a National Trade Facilitation Committee be created to formulate trade policy and facilitate Palau's continued entry into the global economic community, as follows:

1. **Duties and Functions.** The Trade Facilitation Committee shall have the following duties and functions:
 - a. To coordinate efforts among the many agencies and departments that have a role to play in Palau's trade with foreign nations;
 - b. To act as the central forum for the discussion of trade issues affecting the Republic;
 - c. To formulate recommendations on trade policy and submit such recommendations to the President; and
 - d. To strengthen Palau's participation in and compliance with trade agreements to which Palau is a party, to include, but not to be limited to:
 - gathering appropriate information for submission to administrative bodies

- in accordance with our obligations under the relevant agreements;
- coordinating participation in trade conferences, formulating positions on various trade issues facing Palau and maximizing Palau's benefit from the various agreements; and
- expanding Palau's domestic capacity, through technical assistance, to respond to trade issues.

2. **Membership.** The Trade Facilitation Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- The Minister of Commerce and Trade or designee;
- The Director of the Bureau of International Trade and Technical Assistance or designee;
- The Director of the Bureau of Agriculture or designee;
- The Director of the Bureau of Marine Resources or designee;
- The Minister of Finance or designee;
- A representative from the Association of Governors;
- The Chairperson of the Palau Visitors Authority or the Board's designee;
- The Chairperson for the Foreign Investment Board or the Board's designee;
- The ACP/EU National Authorizing Officer or designee; and
- A representative of the Palau Chamber of Commerce.

3. **Reporting.** The Committee shall draft a report outlining its recommendations on National Trade Policy and submit it to the President within six months from the date of this order.

4. **Administrative Support.** Administrative support to the Trade Facilitation Committee shall be provided by the Bureau of International Trade and Technical Assistance, the President's Office, and such other government agencies as deemed necessary.

5. **Meetings.** The Committee shall meet within 30 days of the issuance of this order at a time and place set by the Director of the Bureau of International Trade and Technical Assistance, and at least once per month thereafter.

SO ORDERED THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2004.

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau