

Executive Order No. 247

Creation of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau committed to the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 at the United Nation's Millennium Summit, whereby it signed on to the agreed set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for eliminating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women; and

WHEREAS, the eight goals, eighteen targets and forty-eight indicators of the Millennium Declaration constitute the core of the global development agenda called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and

WHEREAS, Palau is required to report on the progress in achieving the MDGs, and the first national MDG report is long overdue, and an initial report is intended to establish baseline information for achieving the eight MDG's goals; and

WHEREAS, Palau must have established monitoring mechanisms in place in order to be able to report on the MDGs every three (3) years; and

WHEREAS, official statistical information is a vital basis for development in economic, demographic, social and environmental fields, and the quality of statistical information available to the government and the people is largely contingent on the cooperation of citizens, enterprises and other respondents in providing appropriate and reliable data needed for statistical compilations and on the cooperation between users and data producers and amongst data producers; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of non-governmental and civil society organizations in gauging all national development activities constitutes an important element of country ownership; and

WHEREAS, Many of the MDG indicators can be compiled from administrative data collected by the line ministries and agencies of the Republic of the national government as components of the programs and policies that they implement, which data is a rich source for compiling MDG and other social and economic indicators; and

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WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of governmental agencies to compile administrative data to strengthen programs and to monitor MDG and other socio-economic indicators,

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. **Creation of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force.** There is hereby established a Millennium Development Goals Task Force (MDGTF).

(a) Composition: The MDGTF shall be composed of the following members:

- The Minister of Finance or his designee;
- The Minister of Health or his designee;
- The Minister of Education or his designee;
- The Minister of Justice or his Designee;
- The Minister of Commerce and Trade or his designee;
- The Minister of Resources and Development or his designee;
- A member appointed by the Environmental Quality Protection Board;
- The National Environment Planner or her designee; and
- A member from the Civil Society Organizations

The Chair of the Task Force shall be the Minister of Finance, and the Ministers of Health and Education shall jointly serve as Vice Chairs.

(b) Powers and Duties of the MDGTF: The powers and duties of the MDGTF are as follow:

i. Assess existing administrative data reporting systems within the National Government's line ministries and agencies by identifying key weaknesses within the systems and their outputs and make recommendations for improvements in the use of the varying information systems.

ii. Recommend a feasible national data infrastructure, with a view towards developing and strengthening inter-agency synergy in the line ministries and agencies' statistical functions. Such synergy should be developed and nurtured in support of enhancing the statistical functions of the Office of Planting and Statistics.

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iii. Design a formal data flow system that would ensure consistent and efficient dissemination of data and statistics to the public, external entities and the Office of Planning and Statistics.

iv. Ensure availability of data for the purpose of monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals and other socio-economic indicators.

v. Support the National MDG Coordinator and the Bureau of Budget, Planning and Statistics in delivering the commitments of the Republic of Palau under the Millennium Declaration.

vi. Utilize the technical expertise of the international donors and development partners in strengthening Palau's national capacity to monitor the MDG indicators and other social and economic indicators.

vii. Monitor the work of the Millennium Development Goals Working Group.

(c) Meetings. The Chair of the Task Force shall call a meeting of the Task Force within two weeks after the effective date of this Executive Order.

(d) Administrative Support. Administrative support for the Task Force shall be provided by the Ministries of Finance, Health and Education.

(e) Reporting. The Task Force shall issue quarterly reports to the President delineating the progress of the Task Force in pursuing its duties as set forth herein. The Task Force shall also provide a final report of its findings and recommendations.

(f) Duration of Task Force. The Task Force shall remain in existence until terminated by the President.

2. **Creation of Working Group**. There is hereby established a Millennium Development Goals Working Group.

(a) Composition: The Working Group shall initially be composed of the following members:

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- Two members appointed by the Minister of Finance;
- One member appointed by the Minister of Justice;
- Two members appointed by the Minister of Health;
- Two members appointed by the Minister of Education or his designee;
- One member appointed by the Minister of Resources and Development;
- One member appointed by the Environmental Quality Protection Board;
- One member appointed by the National Environment;
- Other members as determined necessary by the Task Force, preferably from the civil society organizations or non-governmental organizations.

The Task Force may alter the composition of the Working Group in order to ensure that the Working Group is composed of appropriate management, administrative, technical and legal members, to include professional advisers and technical consultants.

The Working Group shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

(b) Duties, Responsibilities and Powers. The duties, responsibilities and powers of the Working Group shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- i. To compile and assess all the data required to compile the MDG indicators;
- ii. To identify all non-existing administrative data on the MDGs, as well as other key social and economic indicators, and recommend measures to allow for the capturing of such data;
- iii. To review existing data collection, auditing and sharing practices within the Executive Branch and recommend measures aimed at improving intra- and inter-agency data collection, auditing, and sharing with a view towards strengthening the integrity of all administrative data and statistics and at devising a synergetic scheme by which all compiled data and statistics are officially transmitted to the central statistics office of the Government of Palau, namely, the Office of Planning and Statistics;

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iv. To work with the National MDG Coordinator and the Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance, in compiling the Republic of Palau's national MDG reports;

(c) Meetings. The Working Group shall meet as necessary to accomplish the goal of the Task Force and the Working Group as herein set forth. The Working Group shall call its first meeting no later than two weeks after the first meeting of the MDG Task Force to elect its officers and devise a working plan to achieve its mandated duties and responsibilities.

(d) Administrative Support. Administrative support for the Working Group shall be provided by the Bureau of Budget and Planning and other appropriate agencies of the National Government as identified by the Task Force.

(e) Reporting. The Working Group shall issue quarterly reports to the Task Force delineating the progress of the Working Group in pursuing the duties and responsibilities of the Working Group as set forth herein. The Working Group shall also provide a final report of its findings and recommendations.

(f) Duration of Study Team. The Working Group shall remain in existence until terminated by the MDG Task Force or by the President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 22nd day of February, 2008, at the State of Melekeok, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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