

## Executive Order No. 261(A)

Effectuating Further Changes to Executive Order No. 243, as amended by Executive Order 261, empowering the Extended Continental shelf Task Force (ECSTF) to negotiate Palau Maritime Boundaries

**WHEREAS**, an *Interagency Committee on Palau Maritime Zone Determination and Boundary Delimitation, hereinafter Interagency Committee*, was established by late President Ngiratkel Etpison under Executive Order 94 on August 15, 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, consisting of senior officials of Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Bureau of Resources and Development, Office of the Attorney General, Palau Maritime Authority, and the Division of Lands and Surveys, the Interagency Committee was charged, among other things, “... with responsibility for the formulation, computation and determination of the maritime zones and boundary delimitation of the Republic of Palau..”; and

**WHEREAS**, at Interagency Committee’s request, Messrs. William Ball and Jon Abrams, retired geography experts with Mineral Management Service, Mapping and Boundary Branch of the US Department of the Interior, helped computed Palau’s maritime coordinates depicting detail descriptions of equidistance lines between Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of the Philippines, including associated official maps and charts; and

**WHEREAS**, holdover Interagency Committee Chairman, former Resources and Development Minister Fritz Koshiba, presented in 2004 the Committee’s final report to former President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., and advising of the completion its assignment; and

**WHEREAS**, during the June 2006 Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, former FSM President Joseph Urusomal and former ROP President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., executed the “**Treaty between the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau Concerning Maritime Boundaries and Cooperation Related Matters**” on behalf of their respective governments; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 4, 2008, said maritime boundary treaty was ratified by the Seventh Oibii1 Era Kelulau in House Joint Resolution No- 7-46-7, and to date the treaty has not been acted upon by the Federated States of Micronesia and needs to be revisited; and

**WHEREAS**, bilateral maritime boundaries between the Republics of Indonesia and the Philippines, the other two neighboring whose 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones overlaps with the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Palau, and that both countries are anxious to engage Palau in bilateral dialogue on maritime boundary issues;

**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 that Executive Order No. 243, as amended by Executive Order No. 261, is further amended in the following particulars:

1. New paragraphs (vii), (viii) and (ix) are hereby added to Section 1(b) Powers and Duties of the ECSTF to read as follows:

“(vii) To negotiate Palau’s maritime boundaries on the basis of the attached equidistant (median) geodesic lines between the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia and the Republic of the Philippines respectively, and;

“(viii) To hire, recruit, retain or otherwise engage services of a qualified maritime boundary consultant whose fees shall be met from funds externally sourced from donor agencies, organizations or Palau’s development partners; and

“(ix) To incur per diem allowances, travel and other contingency expenses for members on official duty travels overseas in furtherance of delimitation of maritime boundaries with neighboring countries with whom Palau’s 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone or continental shelves overlap”.

2. His Excellency Mr. Ramon Rechebei, Palau’s resident Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines as non-resident Ambassador to Indonesia, shall serve as an advisor to the eCS Task Force.

3. In undertaking its additional tasks under this Executive Order No. 261(A), the Task Force shall meet no later than March 31, 2010 to select its team leader, and furthermore shall, on December 31, 2011, submit to the President a report of its findings and recommendations, including any negotiated maritime boundary treaties for onward submission to the Olbiil Era Kelulau for legislative ratification.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010, at Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau