

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 265 (A)

Extending the life of the Joint Task Force on Domestic Tuna Industry Development to February 28, 2010

WHEREAS, established on August 13, 2009 under Executive Order No. 265, the Joint Task Force on Domestic Tuna Industry Development (JTF/DTID) was given a total of sixty (60) calendar days within which to produce a roadmap for domestication of tuna industry as a means for revenue generation and to maximize economic returns from exploitation of tuna and other highly migratory fish stocks harvested in the Republic of Palau's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and to develop a legislative framework for establishing an institution that would carry out fisheries policies, programs and projects the primary objectives of which are the promotion and development of tuna industry in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, during its organizational meeting, the ten-member Joint Task Force elected its officers as follows: (1) Co-chairmen: Honorable Celestine Yangilmau, Chairman of House of Delegates Committee on Aquaculture and Agriculture and Mr. Victorio Uherbelau, Presidential Assistant; (2) Co-Vice Chairmen: Senator Regis Akitaya, Vice Chairman of Senate Committee on Resources, Commerce, Trade and Development, and Ms. Nannette Dilyaur Malsol, Fisheries Law Compliance Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism, (3) Co-Counselors: Ms. Ernestine K. Rengiil, Attorney General and Ngirakebou Roman Bedor, private sector representative, and (4) other members are Honorable Harry R. Fritz, Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism; Senator Adalbert Eledui, Chairman, Senate Committee on Resources, Commerce, Trade and Development; Delegate Tmewang Rengulbai, Chairman of House of Delegates Committee on Maritime and Fisheries, and Ngirasibong Lucius Malsol, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ngardmau Free Trade Zone Authority, and

WHEREAS, during its several meetings the Joint Task Force discussed a variety of fisheries related subjects including (a) road map for resources/fisheries development opportunities, aspirations and policy framework; (b) sponsoring public forum on tuna fisheries, akin to the symposium held in the Republic of the Marshall Islands that tuna fisheries consultants, economists, lawyers and managers would be invited to as guest speakers; (d) **[sic]** seeking external financial support from Asia Development Bank, the World Bank, Australian Government grant aid (AUSAID) and other development partners with

which to recruit outside consultants or experts to assist the Republic in institutional strengthening and national capacity building; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Task Force has found, during the first 60 days of its work, that more time is required for it to accomplish its assigned tasks, most prominent of which are the development of Palau tuna policy reform; legislative framework for establishment of a National Fisheries/Tuna Authority; Public Symposium on Tuna Fisheries to be held in January 2010; familiarization with and support for various initiatives of the 8 Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), especially creation of a separate PNA Office that will be commerce-focused and responsible for organizing an OPEC-style tuna cartel for the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, it is hereby ordered that the sixty (60) lifespan of the Joint Task Force on Domestic Tuna Industry Development, prescribed under Section 4 of Executive Order No. 265, is hereby extended to Sunday, February 28, 2010.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 19th of November 2009, at Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/
Johnson Toribiong
President of the Republic of Palau