

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 293

### *Establishing a Special Investigative Task Force to Investigate Allegations of People Trafficking and Abuse of Non-resident Workers*

**WHEREAS**, it is the Constitutional obligation of the national government of Palau to take positive action to attain certain national objectives and to promote certain national policies, among them being the protection of the safety and security of persons; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to the community and culture and to the citizens and residents of the Republic of Palau that the lives and well-being of the non-resident workers invited to work in Palau be safeguarded to the maximum extent possible; and

**WHEREAS**, there are several pending allegations and complaints that some non-resident workers, particularly those employed as hostesses and waitresses, have been brought to Palau in violation of Palau's *Anti-People Smuggling and Trafficking Act*, or are otherwise being abused by their employers in violation of Palau's labor laws and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the President has determined that these allegations and complaints of possible illegal trafficking of persons and of abuse need to be promptly investigated and action taken in regard thereto;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in the President by Article VIII of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau, the President orders as follows.

1. Special Investigative Task Force. There is hereby established a Special Investigative Task Force consisting of the following persons, and such other persons as the President shall, from time to time, designate.

- The Director of the Bureau of Labor or his designee, who shall serve as the Head of the Task Force.
- The Director of the Bureau of Immigration or his designee.
- Henaro Antonio, Special Advisor to the President on Immigration.
- The Palau Attorney General or her designee.

2. Duties of the Special Investigative. Utilizing all laws and regulations at their disposal, the Task Force forthwith shall, as advised and directed by the President, immediately undertake an investigation of all pending allegations and complaints of illegal trafficking of persons and abuse of non-resident workers and shall, for each individual complaint, report back to the President as soon as possible, but no later than April 30, 2011. Without limitation, the report of the Task Force for each complaint shall include the results (preliminary or final) of its investigation, actions taken, and recommendations for further action.

3. Administrative Support. In the first instance, the Ministry of Justice shall make available staffing and other resources as requested by the Head of the Task Force. Should the Ministry of Justice be unable to fully meet the needs of the Task force, then all other Ministries and agencies of the Executive Branch of the National Government shall cooperate with and make available staffing and other resources as requested by the head of the Task force.

4. Effective Date and Duration of Task Force. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force and effect until it has been determined by the President that the assignment of the Task Force has been completed.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

/s/

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Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau