

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 297

Establishing a Presidential Task Force to Advise and Assist the President in Acquiring an Underwater Fiber Optic Cable for Palau

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 promotion of the national economy; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to Palau's economic development that Palau be able to provide broadband Internet connectivity to its citizens and residents, particularly for educational and business purposes; and

WHEREAS, the only cost-effective and practical means of providing broadband Internet connectivity to Palau is through an underwater fiber optic cable; and

WHEREAS, the Palau National Communications Corporation ("PNCC"), pursuant to its mandate to establish, provide and operate telecommunication services in the Republic under Chapter 3 of Title 15 of the Palau National Code, the so-called "Palau National Communications Corporation Act", has taken the lead in identifying and pursuing opportunities to acquire and deploy an underwater fiber optic cable to Palau; and

WHEREAS, because the most recent opportunity to acquire an underwater fiber optic cable pursued by PNCC is time-critical, the National Government and PNCC must work together to try to secure the interim and long-term financing necessary for taking advantage of the opportunity:

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. Presidential Task Force. There is hereby established a Presidential Task Force to be called the "Underwater Fiber Optic Task Force", consisting of the following persons, and such other persons as the President or the Task Force itself shall, from time to time, designate or invite to participate.

- Ngiraibelas Tmetuchl, who shall serve as Chairman
- Kevin N. Kirk.

- Richard Misech, PNCC General Manager
- House Speaker Noah Idechong or his designee
- Senate President or his designee

2. Duties of Task Force. The Task Force forthwith shall meet and consider the various financing alternatives available to the Republic of Palau to acquire an underwater fiber optic cable pursuant to the most recent opportunity being pursued by PNCC, and shall advise and assist the President on the sequence, schedule, and manner of implementing such alternatives.

3. Administrative Support. In the first instance, the Office of the President shall make available staffing and other resources as requested by the Chairman of the Task Force. Should the Office of the President be unable to 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 Chairman.

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 is completed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 21st day of July, 2011.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau