

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 317

Rescinding Executive Order No. 279 and Executive Order No. 301, as amended, in order to reduce the cost and restore accountability for official travel expenses by Executive Branch officials

WHEREAS, Republic of Palau Executive Branch officials often are required to travel off-island as part of their official duties; and

WHEREAS, on these trips the officials are entitled to have their official expenses covered; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 199 set forth policies and procedures setting forth per diem rates and the requirement to justify and account for all official expenses to be paid with public funds; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 199 is a comprehensive and detailed order that covers all Executive Branch officials; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 279 amended Executive Order 199 to change per diem rates for the President, Ministers and others designated by the President, to the level of Ambassadorial per diem rates, as set forth in the House of Delegates travel policies; and

WHEREAS, this amendment is not based on any independent economic analysis or justification, and increases the cost of travel to the Republic at a time when the people cannot afford it; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 301 exempted the President and Vice President from the requirement of justifying their expenses while on official trips. As a result, all of the President and Vice President's expenses are paid by the people, whether they are justified or not; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 301 was subsequently amended to require the Minister of Finance to acquire credit cards to be used by the President and Vice President on official trips. The effect of this amendment is that the President and Vice President have a line of credit in the people's name without any check on their spending; and

WHEREAS, for the aforementioned reasons, Executive Order No. 279 and Executive Order 301, as amended, are not in the best interests of our Republic, as they increase spending and reduce accountability;

NOW, THEREFORE by virtue of the authority vested in the President by Article VIII of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau and the aforementioned laws, the President orders as follows:

That Executive Order No. 279 and Executive Order No. 301, as amended, are **RESCINDED** in their entirety.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 17th day of January, 2013.

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President
Republic of Palau