

## **Executive Order No. 335**

*To establish an advisory Committee to establish a national standard to govern the removal and disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the Republic.*

**WHEREAS**, in World War II, Palau was involved in a world-wide war that involved the United States of America and the Empire of Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, during battles that took place on Palau during World War II, many explosives were deployed that did not explode during the war; and

**WHEREAS**, these unexploded ordnances now pose a serious risk to human life and limb and have, in fact, caused serious injury following an explosion; and

**WHEREAS**, during the construction of the Compact Road, on the island of Babeldaob the U.S. Army Corps of engineers found over 5,000 unexploded bombs that needed to be removed and safely disposed of; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in the President to execute the law of the land, including the Environmental Quality Protection Act, codified at 24 PNC §§ 100 et.seq.; the Historical and Cultural Preservation Act, codified at 19 PNC § 100 et. seq.; and the general duty to protect the people of the Republic of Palau from harm, it is hereby ordered that:

- (1) An advisory Committee to develop a national standard to govern the removal and disposal of UXOs within the Republic is hereby created. The Standard created shall be known as the Palau UXO Action Standard.
- (2) The UXO Committee shall be composed of the following:
  - (A) The Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, or the Minister's designee.
  - (B) The Minister of State, or the Minister's designee.
  - (C) The Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries, and Commerce, or the Minister's designee.
  - (D) The Minister of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism, or the Minister's designee.

- (E) The Minister of Health, or the Minister's designee.
  - (F) The Minister of Justice, or the Minister's designee.
  - (G) Governor of Koror State, or the Governor's designee.
  - (H) Governor of Peleliu State, or the Governor's designee.
  - (I) Governor of Aimeliik State, or the Governor's designee.
  - (J) The Governor's Association shall appoint one member, who shall not be the Governor of Koror State, Peleliu State, or Aimeliik State, to represent the interests of all other states. The reason that Koror State, Peleliu State, and Aimeliik State are specifically included in the Committee is because these states have significant previous experience with UXO clearance and disposal, which will enable these Governor's to provide specific advice on the development of Palau's UXO Action Standard.
  - (K) Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) shall designate one member of the Board to serve on the Committee.
- (3) As may be necessary, the Committee may request the legal advice of the Attorney General's Office or the Legal Counsel of the President.
- (4) The Committee shall work together to do the following:
- (A) The principal objective of the Committee is to create a Palau UXO Action Standard that shall serve as the national standard to govern the removal and disposal of all UXOs in the Republic in a manner that is safe, and with respect for our environment and culture. In developing a national standard for the removal and disposal of UXOs in the Republic, the Committee shall be guided by the international Mine Action Standards promulgated by the United Nations and any international Treaties to which Palau is a party.
  - (B) The Committee shall hold its first meeting not less than fifteen (15) days of this Executive Order. Because the Ministry of State has been closely involved with mine clearance activities to this point, the Ministry of State shall organize the initial meeting of the Committee. At the first meeting, there shall be two objectives:

- (I) The Committee shall organize itself appropriately, develop rules of decorum and procedure, and set benchmarks for the Committee to meet in the pursuit of the Committee's principal objective.
- (II) The Ministry of State shall begin a presentation to inform the rest of the members of the Committee on:
  - (a) The UXO clearance work that has taken place in the Republic so far.
  - (b) A detailed listing of all international grants and non-government organizations that are currently operating in the Republic in regard to UXO removal and disposal.
  - (c) An explanation of any international agreements that Palau is a party to that may affect UXO removal and disposal.
  - (d) Make any recommendations on initial steps that should be taken in order to create a Palau UXO Action Standard and identify any challenges that may exist.
  - (e) As a part of the presentation that the Ministry of State is responsible for pursuant to this subsection, the Ministry of State may solicit assistance from any organization with experience in UXO removal and disposal, or any other entity that may be able to provide advice that may be helpful in informing the Committee of the relevant issues presented with creating a Palau UXO Action Standard.
- (C) The Committee shall provide a quarterly report to the President month on the development of a Palau UXO Action Standard.
- (5) The Committee shall not possess any authority with respect to any war claims made by any person, entity, or nation, including claims made by Palauan citizens.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this  
May 14, 2013:

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/s/  
Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau