

## **Executive Order No. 344**

*To Order the creation of a High-speed Broadband Internet Task Force (The HBI Task Force).*

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau is in a remote corner of the world in which it can be difficult to connect to the wider world; and

**WHEREAS**, in the most recent decade the use of the Internet as a means of communication, learning, and as a business tool has exploded around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the internet is now the most widely used medium of communicating information between people, between countries, and between different cultures as the world is now beginning to develop a shared community by connecting with one another through the internet; and

**WHEREAS**, the remoteness of the Republic of Palau has historically led to it being isolated from the rest of the world, and the current level of internet bandwidth of the Republic threatens to exacerbate that isolation unless something is done to strengthen Palau's connection to the rest of the world through the internet; and

**WHEREAS**, as telecommunications technology advances, the means of connecting to high-speed internet diversifies and improves with each passing year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Republic must investigate the various means of connecting to high-speed internet and after undergoing a thorough cost-benefit analysis of each connection system, develop a High-speed Broadband Internet Infrastructure Plan that will balance the following factors: (1) the remoteness of the Republic, (2) the limited resources of the Republic, and (3) the need for High-speed Broadband Internet in the Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a stated goal of the Republic to attract high-end tourists as a part of its development plan and the implementation of high-speed internet will support that goal because high-end tourists expect quality high-speed internet wherever they go; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority and power set forth in the Constitution in the President, the President hereby orders as follows:

**Section 1. Creation of a High-speed Broadband Internet Task Force.**

- (a) A High-speed Broadband Internet (HBI) Task Force is hereby created that will consist of the following members:
  - 1. Rhinehart Silas, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President
  - 2. Keobel Sakuma, Press Secretary, Office of the President.
  - 3. Takon Chin, Chief, Division of Communications, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industry, and Commerce.
  - 4. One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate President.
  - 5. One member of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker.
  - 6. Richard Misech, General Manager, Palau National Communications Corporation.
- (b) The following individuals from the private sector are invited to join the Task Force:
  - 1. Salvador Tellames, Owner and Operator of Palau Wave Radio.
  - 2. Sam Masang, Owner and Operator of Palau Telecomm.

**Section 2. Duties of the HBI Task Force.**

- (a) The HBI Task Force shall evaluate maximum capabilities of the internet infrastructure that is currently in place.
- (b) The HBI Task Force shall evaluate all possible means of upgrading the current infrastructure in order to increase the bandwidth available to the Republic.
- (c) The HBI Task Force shall develop a High-speed Broadband Internet Infrastructure Plan that will provide a road map, including a financing plan, for improving the bandwidth available to the Republic in—
  - (1) the immediate future;

- (2) the medium-term; and
  - (3) the long-term.
- (d) The HBI Task Force shall evaluate the current legal framework that is in place and compare the current telecommunications framework to other legal frameworks that are in place throughout the region, particularly those legal frameworks that encourage the development of a robust telecommunications private sector.
- (d) In carrying out its duties set forth above, the HBI Task Force shall balance the following factors:
- (1) The remoteness of the Republic.
  - (2) The limited resources of the Republic.
  - (3) The need for High-speed Broadband Internet in the Republic.

**Section 3. Report to the President by October 1, 2013.**

The HBI Task Force shall provide a written report to the President on its findings not later than October 1, 2013.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this July 30, 2013:

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