

## **Executive Order No. 345**

*To create a Community Task Force Against Crime and Violence.*

**WHEREAS**, the people of the Republic of Palau have a unique culture and tradition where everyone is part of one big island family through our clans, lineage, family unit, communities, and villages that has been preserved and passed down through many generations; and

**WHEREAS**, among the most important aspects of our culture is our sense of community, in that we unite together in every endeavor we venture into, in every challenge that we encounter, and in every action that we take; and

**WHEREAS**, within the past year the Republic has seen an unprecedented rise of crime and violence in our community that has threatened our overall welfare and unless we come together immediately to unite to stop the rising wave of crime and violence our society will become lawless where the rule of law is no longer honored and the fundamental rights of everyone will no longer be respected; and

**WHEREAS**, believing that the immediate collective effort of everyone will more effectively combat the wave of crime and violence, the leadership of the Republic, from the President to the Rubekul Belau, from the members of the Olbiil Era Kelulau to the Governor's Association, has met and called for a public forum of the community to come together against crime and violence in order to address the wave of crime and violence in our communities and to come up with an Action Plan to combat and stop the rising wave of crime and violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent public forum, A Community Against Crime and Violence, at the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center on August 8, 2013, called by the Office of the President and endorsed by the Rubekul Belau, the leadership of the Olbiil Era Kelulau, and the Association of Governors, identified a series of actions to be taken as a part of a comprehensive Action Plan to combat and stop the rising wave of crime and violence thereby ensuring that peace in the community, the safety of the people, and the rule of law are maintained and preserved; and

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

**Section 1. Creation of a Community Task Force Against Crime and Violence.**

- (a) A Community Task Force Against Crime and Violence is hereby created that will consist of the following members:
- (1) One member from the Office of the President to be appointed by the President.
  - (2) One member from Rubekul Belau to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Council of Chiefs.
  - (3) One member from the Senate to be appointed by the Senate President.
  - (4) One member from The House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker.
  - (5) One member from the Governor's Association to be appointed by the Chairman of the Governor's Association.
  - (6) One member from the Chamber of Commerce, to be appointed by the President of the Chamber of Commerce.
  - (7) One member representing the faith-based community and churches, to be selected by the President.
  - (8) The Ministry of Justice representative.
  - (9) The Ministry of Education representative.
  - (10) The Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs representative.
  - (11) Ministry of Health representative.
  - (12) One member representing the Youth to be selected by the Palau National Olympic Committee.
  - (13) One member of the Mechesil Belau.
  - (14) One member from the Red Cross.

- (15) One member from the Ulekerreuil a Klengar.
- (b) The following individuals shall serve as the technical members of the Task Force:
  - (1) Wanda Techitong-Remeliik, Assistant, Office of the President.
  - (2) Scott Delaney, Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender.
  - (3) Kambes Kesolei, Editor, Tia Belau Newspaper.
  - (4) Xavior Ngirameong, Retired Police Officer.
  - (5) Dulei Subris, Retired Police Officer.

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

- (a) This Task Force shall serve as the eyes and ears of the Leadership of the Republic to oversee and supervise the implementation of the Action Plan for the Community Against Crime and Violence in the Republic of Palau.
- (b) The Task Force shall follow through all of the recommended activities by working closely with relevant government agencies and community organizations and other non-government organizations or groups in order to ensure continued progress in the Action Plan.
- (c) The Task Force shall meet to evaluate the progress of work, discuss progress, and provide recommendations to the Leadership of any necessary changes to the Action Plan.
- (d) The Task Force shall collaborate with the relevant government agencies and community organizations in order to ensure that networks of cooperation and partnership are being developed and strengthened to ensure successful implementation of the Action Plan.
- (d) The Task Force shall provide an informal report on a monthly basis to the President the progress of the work activities.

**Section 3. Report to the Public Forum on February 14, 2014.**

The Task Force shall provide a comprehensive written report to the President and the Leadership of the Republic on the implementation of the Action Plan that will be unveiled on February 14, 2014, at the next Public Forum for a Community Against Crime and Violence. The Report shall outline progress of the implementation of the Action Plan and specify any recommendations for future improvement of the Action Plan. The Public Forum will review the progress of the Task Force and make recommendations.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this August 22, 2013:

/s/

---

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

## **PUBLIC FORUM ON COMMUNITIES AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE**

In recent months a wave of violence and crime in our communities has threatened the overall welfare of the people of the Republic and has alerted the Leaders in our communities to come together to seek ways to unite and restore peace, safety, and order to the Republic of Palau.

On Thursday, August 8, 2013 at the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center, a Public Forum on Communities Against Crime and Violence was called for and organized by the Leaders of the Republic to explore more inclusive, innovative, and effective solutions to combat crime in the Republic of Palau.

The Forum has resulted the foregoing recommendations, ideas, and solutions that has been put together as an action plan with strong emphasis to engage national and state government leaders, traditional leaders, community leaders, and various community groups.

### **ACTION PLAN**

#### ***Short Term Interventions***

#### **1. Readjust BPS policies toward Community Policing strategies; Augment BPS police officers with State Rangers and to implement a neighborhood watch program in each hamlet.**

a. Goal: To bolster ties among law enforcement and to increase visibility of law-abiding citizens, and to provide a more proactive deterrent to would-be criminals; and

To increase the number of law enforcement personnel available to patrol

To engage at-risk children in their communities.

b. Task: Implement all possible community policing strategies as understood by the Director of the Bureau of Public Safety. Such strategies may enhance cooperation with neighborhood leaders, increase police officer foot patrol visibility in problematic areas, and bolster BPS' capacity to solve crimes by developing reliable sources of information regarding criminal activity within each hamlet.

Task: Reassign State Rangers from patrolling the seas to patrolling the streets pursuant to appropriate policies regarding scope-of-authority and use-of-force. If deemed appropriate and necessary, BPS may also deputize certain vetted community members pursuant to appropriate policies to further augment law enforcement personnel.

Task: Empower hamlet-level leadership to organize individuals within each neighborhood to implement a neighborhood watch program as each hamlet sees fit. Programs may include citizen foot patrols or signs warning potential criminals that neighbors will report all suspicious activity. Watch

programs may also involve community-organizing activities, such as community clean-up days and other types of service, in which neighbors reach out to otherwise disengaged children.

c. Groups Responsible: Ministry of Justice, including the Bureau of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General, Governors Association, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs — PNYC and Community Leaders.

d. Note: this is also a medium-term intervention as such strategies can be implemented and refined on a continuing basis over time.

## **2. Ensure street light operation.**

a. Goal: To increase visibility at night and reduce the cover of darkness within which criminals may travel unseen.

b. Task: Ensure that all street lights in Palau are working and turned on at night, regardless of which governmental agency must bear the electricity cost.

c. Groups Responsible: Office of the President, PPUC, State Governments

d. To be implemented immediately.

## **3. Publish a pronouncement by Rubekul Belau against crime (with or without associated bul).**

a. Goal: To emphasize the social tax imposed by crime on our traditional values.

b. Task: Draft and publish in the newspapers, on the radio, and elsewhere, proclamation explaining the scourge of crime and degradation of traditional values, while also highlighting the need for personal responsibility and a return to customary principles.

c. Groups Responsible: Council of Chiefs.

## **4. Set forth a unified voice of all leadership against crime and violence.**

a. Goal: To denounce, with one unified voice by all of our leaders, all violence and crime, in a show of force against those who may commit crimes.

b. Task: Draft and publish in all available media a single statement, signed by as many traditional and political leaders as possible, denouncing the in the strongest

Possible terms both violence and the community-destroying factors that lead to violence.

c. Groups Responsible: Office to the President to lead, with all other government and traditional leaders supporting, including the Council Of Chiefs, the Governors' Association, Mechesil Belau and Palau National Youth Council

## **5. Create a task force against violence and crime.**

a. Goal: To organize stakeholders into a task force to leverage the assets of each constituent community group and governmental organization and ensure the implementation of both short and long term interventions.

b. Task: Issue Executive Order by the President creating the task force, then invite and ensure attendance of all interested community groups and government agencies.

c. Groups Responsible: Office of the President.

## **6. Increase enforcement of current alcohol laws.**

a. Goal: To ensure compliance with current laws regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol, including laws regarding the service of intoxicated bar patrons, hours of operation for bars, and the provision of alcohol to individuals under the age of twenty-one.

b. Task: Reconstitute a significant number of Alcoholic Beverage Control ("ABC") Inspectors to ensure the availability of personnel necessary to ensure compliance with liquor laws. Relieve police officers of ABC enforcement duties so they may better focus on their core duties.

c. Groups Responsible: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce -- ABC Office

## **7. Organize a "Light Up the Streets" community support campaign.**

a. Goal: To present a unified community front against violence, and to accentuate the positive collective strength of our citizens to fight crime.

b. Task: This campaign will include components designed to organize various community groups and members, and to introduce tangible, visible markers of the community's united front against crime. Example components may include ribbons, signage within each hamlet, public demonstrations at visible areas in Koror, and a unified statement published in readily accessible media from our political and traditional leaders condemning the violence. The campaign message will also emphasize the need to initiate social reform efforts by strengthening the nuclear family.

c. Groups Responsible: Office of the President; Community Groups.

**8. Establish a National Curfew Law.**

a. Goal: To ensure all children under the age of eighteen comply with a uniform curfew law. Campaign will to inform/remind residents of Koror and Airai of curfew.

b. Task: Public announcements broadcasted through radio, television, and by mass texting at 10:00 p.m. thereby notifying all youths that curfew is in effect.

c. Groups Responsible: Olbiil Era Kelulau

d. To be implemented immediately.

**9. Introduce a social media outreach campaign targeting youths.**

a. Goal: To create a forum in which school-age children can discuss, participate in, and contribute to our efforts to address crime and violence.

b. Task: Establish an online meeting place, perhaps on Facebook, and invite our youths to discuss the problems they see and the solutions they propose.

c. Groups Responsible: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs-PNYC, and Ministry of Health.

**10. If legally-permissible via bul, force all bars to close at midnight.**

a. Goal: To reduce the overconsumption of alcohol, which contributes to violent events, by limiting access to alcohol late at night.

b. Task: Introduce a bul requiring all establishments serving alcohol to close at midnight.

c. Groups Responsible: Council of Chiefs, Office of the President.

## **Medium Term Interventions**

### **1. Close all bars and late-night food providers by midnight and 2:00 a.m., respectively.**

- a. Goal: Reduce access to environments conducive of crime and violence by limiting business hours of high-risk establishments.
- b. Task: Via legislation, require that all bars and late-night food provider (i.e., burger huts) close earlier. Bar closing hours should revert to the previous time of midnight, while late-night food providers should close by midnight or 2:00 a.m.
- c. Groups Responsible: Office of the President, OEK, and Governors Association.
- d. Note: As with all proposed legislation, this change in law may require longer than eighteen months to implement, and therefore may be classified as a long term intervention as well.

### **2. Address truancy in schools.**

- a. Goal: Reengage at-risk youth who have dropped out of school by eliminating chronic truancy, thereby reducing risk factors for crime and violence.
- b. Task: Identify and locate children who have dropped out of school or who rarely attend. Work with school officials, parents, guardians, and extended family members to reengage truant students in the school system.
- c. Groups Responsible: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Justice.

### **3. Develop community activity centers for children.**

- a. Goal: Divert at-risk children away from unsupervised areas by increasing access to constructive, supervised activities in hamlet-based community activity centers.
- b. Task: Identify buildings or land in each hamlet available for use as community activity centers at no or low cost. Develop programming and activities for at-risk children through collaboration with community groups and athletic organizations. Leverage community networks to identify and engage at-risk children in center-led activities. Provide ongoing supervision in a constructive environment to maintain engagement.
- c. Groups Responsible: Office of the President, Governors Association, Community Groups, Chamber of Commerce, Faith Based Ministries

#### **4. Develop and deliver parenting classes.**

- a. Goal: Enhance parenting capacity of new parents through educational counseling.
- b. Task: Develop a best-practices curriculum for parenting, and identify an organization to teach the courses. Publicize the course and secure referrals from all healthcare providers and community organizations.
- c. Groups Responsible: Ministry of Health, Public Health-Faith Based, Council of Chiefs, Community Groups.

#### **Long Term Interventions**

- 1. Impose an additional tax on the sale of alcohol to reduce consumption.
- 2. Introduce random drug testing for public servants.
- 3. Require all individuals to carry identification cards at all times.
- 4. Increase fines on vendors of alcohol who sell to minors.
- 5. Introduce mandatory training for all bartenders on dealing with intoxicated patrons and overconsumption.
- 6. Prohibit billboards and alcohol advertising, alcohol sponsorships of civic events, and alcohol giveaways.
- 7. Create a junior law enforcement academy or junior ROTC program.
- 8. Hire additional counselors in the Ministries of Education, Health, and Justice.
- 9. Revise elementary and high school curriculum to inculcate traditional values of respect for elders, collective community support, and sharing.
- 10. Ban the manufacture and sale of taro wine or locally-brewed alcohol.
- 11. Censoring of TV, Movies, Video Games

