

## **Executive Order No. 346**

*To establish the Landfill Task Force.*

**WHEREAS**, the Republic relies heavily on the landfill at M-Dock in Koror State to satisfy its need to dispose of solid waste in the Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, the landfill at M-Dock has reached capacity and is threatening to overflow; and

**WHEREAS**, although the capacity of M-Dock has improved since 1996, as far back as 1996, in the 2020 Master Development Plan for the Republic, the authors noted that the site at — Dock was then at 80% capacity and that a new site was urgently needed (p. 6-65 § 6.20.1); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, in the Medium Term Development Strategy for the years 2009 to 2014, entitled, “Actions for Palau’s Future” noted the need to “prepare a new clean-technology landfill site, probably in Aimeliik, for when the M-dock site is closed, probably in 2011” (p. 52 ¶ 309); and

**WHEREAS**, there have been many studies on the need to move the location of the national landfill located at M-Dock to a location on Babeldaob where there is far more space available to address the solid waste disposal needs of the Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts to move the location of the national landfill from M-Dock have been plagued by the NIMBY syndrome—“Not In My BackYard”—because no state wants to have any of the potential adverse effects that may come with placing a landfill within their state, regardless of the national need for another location that will adequately address our solid waste needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the NIMBY syndrome that afflicts nearly all states ignores the potential for a clean technology landfill and the fees that could come from charging other states for its use; and

**WHEREAS**, a national solution must be found in the near future before the overflow of garbage at M-Dock causes irreparable damage to our pristine marine environment; and

**WHEREAS**, a solution may be comprised of individual state solutions, shared state solutions, or one national solution; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority set forth in the Constitution of the Republic of Palau as vested in the President of the Republic to enforce the law of the land, the President hereby orders as follows:

- (a) That a Landfill Task Force is hereby created in order to reach a decision on a national solution to handle our solid waste.
- (b) That the members of the Landfill Task Force shall consist of the following individuals:
  - (1) Charles Obichang, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries, and Commerce, who shall act as the Chairman of the Task Force.
  - (2) Fritz Koshiba, Special Assistant to the President, who shall act as the Vice-Chairman of the Task Force.
  - (3) Brian Melairei, Director of the Capital Improvement Office.
  - (4) Governor Leilani Reklai of Aimeliik State.
  - (5) Governor Maria Gates Meltel of Angaur State.
  - (6) Governor Jeffrey Titiml of Kayangel State.
  - (7) Governor Yositaka Adachi of Koror State.
  - (8) Governor Aloysius Tellei of Melekeok State.
  - (9) Governor Laurentino Ulechong of Ngaraard State.
  - (10) Governor Brownny Salvador of Ngarchelong State.
  - (11) Governor Renguul Masahiro of Ngardmau State.
  - (12) Governor Wilson Ongos of Ngeremlengui State.
  - (13) Governor Jersey Iyar of Ngatpang State.
  - (14) Governor Zacheus Kotaro of Ngchesar State.
  - (15) Governor Ellender Ngirameketii of Ngiwal State.

- (16) Governor Temmy L. Shmull of Peleliu State.
  - (17) Governor Victoria N. Kanai of Airai State.
  - (18) Governor Jacob U. Yangilmau of Sonsorol State.
  - (19) Governor Thomas Patris of Hatohobei State.
- (c) Rules of Procedure.
- (1) The Task Force shall agree upon rules of procedure by a majority vote that shall govern meetings and the decision making process.
  - (2) The Report to the President required in subsection (g) shall be adopted by a vote of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the Governors sitting on the Committee voting in favor thereof.
- (d) Options for Consideration. The Task Force shall consider the following options:
- (1) One location for a “national” solution to our solid waste needs.
  - (2) Several locations for states to share landfills that would address our solid waste needs.
  - (3) Sixteen (16) independent locations, one for each state, that would address the solid waste needs of each state independently, except that, if this solution is adopted, then there must be some additional decision reached as to what to do with solid waste from Koror State because Koror State is already at capacity.
- (e) As a part of its evaluation of the different options available the Task Force shall evaluate all of the previous plans for developing and moving the landfill operations of the Republic that are located at the Capital Improvement Office.
- (f) The Task Force shall evaluate the potential for “clean technology” to be utilized by the landfill or landfills and the potential for a landfill to turn a profit as a result of charging for its use.
- (g) The Task Force shall provide a Report to the President with its recommended solution to address our solid waste problem by no later than November 31, 2013.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my band and affixed my official seal this August 22, 2013, in the Republic of Palau.

/s/

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