

Executive Order No. 371

To order the creation of the “E-Sign Task Force” to explore the use of “E-Signatures” within the Government in order to improve government efficiency.

WHEREAS, an “e-signature” is an electronic indication of an agreement or approval to the content of a document, such as a contract; and

WHEREAS, e-signatures are enforceable by law in approximately twenty-seven (27) countries around the world, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the United States there are two (2) public laws that provide a legal framework for the enforceability of e-signatures in order to facilitate e-commerce and specify what constitutes an e-signature; and

WHEREAS, the use of e-signatures within the government has the capability to significantly reduce costs and increase efficiency within an organization; for example, the use of paper may be significantly reduced when replaced by electronic transmission and storage of documents while the transmission of documents electronically over the Internet is far more efficient than conventional means; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority set forth in the Constitution as vested in the President, I do hereby order as follows:

- (a) “E-Sign Task Force” is hereby created.
- (b) The “E-Sign Task Force” shall initially be composed of the following individuals:
 - (1) Secilil Edebechel, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the President.
 - (2) Greg Ngirmang, the Minister of Health.
 - (3) Umerang Imetengel, the Director of the Bureau of Personnel.
 - (4) Casmir Remengesau, the Director of Budget and Planning.
 - (5) Conrad Ellechel, Advisor on Information Systems, head of the Information Technologies for the Republic.

- (c) The E-Sign Task Force shall have the following initial responsibilities and duties:
- (1) To operate a three (3) month pilot e-signature program that shall be limited to personnel matters within the Ministry of Health.
 - (2) In order to carry out duty (c)(1), the Minister of Health may authorize any employee within the Ministry of Health to execute their own personalized and secure e-signature in lieu of signing a carbon document.
 - (3) The three (3) month pilot e-signature program shall commence once all of the members of the E-Sign Task Force and authorized signers fully understand how the e-signature operates and all of the members of the Task Force and authorized signers are in possession of the technology that will enable the e-signature program to function.
 - (4) The E-Sign Task Force shall advise the President of the date that the pilot e-signature program is to commence by providing an overview presentation to the President and the assembled Ministers at a cabinet meeting called by the President regarding what a finalized e-signature program would look like when implemented across the entire government.
 - (5) At the end of the three (3) month program the E-Sign Task Force shall provide a presentation of the outcomes of the pilot program to the assembled Ministers at a cabinet meeting called by the President.
- (d) For purposes of the pilot program only a “secure e-signature” may be utilized. A “secure e-signature” means an electronic signature that is:
- (1) is unique to the person making the signature;
 - (2) the technology or process used to make the signature is under the sole control of the person making the signature;
 - (3) the technology or process can be used to identify the person using the technology or process; and
 - (4) the electronic signature can be linked with an electronic document in such a way that it can be used to determine whether the electronic document has been changed since the electronic signature was incorporated in, attached to or associated with the electronic document.

