

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE NO. 09-01

Confirming Continued Existence of Oil and Gas Task Force

WHEREAS, Oil and Gas Task Force, established on February 16, 2007 by Executive Order No. 241, was to “...*remain in existence for six (6) months, or until completion of its assignment, unless early termination occurs by decree of the President*” (Term of the Task Force); and

WHEREAS, said Oil and Gas Task Force was to be administratively supported “...*by the Office of the President, Office of Environmental Response Coordination (OERC), the Ministry of Resources and Development (renamed under RPPL No. 7-43 as Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism) and other government agencies, as required*” (Administrative Support); and

WHEREAS, composition of the nine-member Oil and Gas Task Force is broadly based to reflect various sectors of the community as follows: two (2) members appointed by the President of the Republic of Palau; one (1) by the Senate; another by the House of Delegates; one (1) by the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB); two (2) by the Palau Chamber of Commerce (with one representing the tourism industry, the other fisheries private sector) and two (2) by the Governors’ Association; and

WHEREAS, completion of Oil and Gas Task Force's assignment, carried out under the guidance of and with World Bank’s financial and technical assistance, is one of the country’s top priorities for its potential contribution to the nation’s self-sufficiency and sustainable economic growth while simultaneously safeguarding Palau’s beautiful and fragile marine environment and its terrestrial ecosystem;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau by the Constitution and laws of the Republic, it is hereby directed that:

Section 1. Existence; Powers and Duties. The nine-member Task Force on Oil and Gas shall remain in existence until it has successfully completed its assignment, and to continue exercising its powers and perform its duties as the same are prescribed in Paragraph 3 of Executive Order No. 241 and which are re-iterated hereunder as follows:

“a) to oversee and direct the analysis and the preparation of comprehensive report on the following:

- 1. The prospectivity of oil and gas in Palauan off-shore;*
- 2. The possible impact of hydrocarbons in the Republic’s Territory and the impact of oil exploration and production on the Palauan environment, economy and community;*
- 3. Recommendations on the opportunity and alternative ways for the oil and gas sector.*

“b) Based on comments from the President and the Olbiil Era Kelulau on the Task Force report, oversee and direct the preparation of:

- 1. Recommendations on the institutional set up for the management and oversight of the oil and gas sector, including the related financing, staffing, technical assistance and capacity building needs; and*
- 2. A draft comprehensive sector legislation, ... including a hydrocarbon code, model agreement, and related environmental operational and tax regulation.”*

Section 2. Composition.

a) With the exceptions of Presidential appointees, those by the Senate and the House of Delegates, 8th Olbiil Era Kelulau, and one of the two appointees of the Governors’ Association, the original members of the Task Force appointed by the Palau Chamber of Commerce, and the Environmental Quality Protection Board, shall continue to serve in the Task Force membership.

b) Task Force members from the Senate, the House of Delegates, 8th Olbiil Era Kelulau, the Association of the Governors and by the President of the Republic of Palau, shall be made by no later than seven (7) days following the date of the promulgation of this Directive.

Section 3. Continue in Force and Effect. Other provisions of Executive Order No. 241, to the extent that they not [sic] are modified by this Directive, shall remain in force and effect and shall be binding on the Oil and Gas Task Force reconstituted.

Section 4. Officers; Meetings; Secretariat Services. The restructured Oil and Gas Task Force shall hold its organizational meeting no later than two (2) weeks from the effective date of this Directive convened by the senior Presidential appointee. At that meeting the Task Force shall elect, from amongst its members, the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Secretary who shall oversee secretariat services provided to the Task Force by the Office of Environmental Response Coordination. (OERC).

SO DIRECTED THIS 6th, DAY OF March, at Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau