

## Meeting of the Palau Language Commission

10 January 2013

This meeting was convened in the office of the Palau Language Commission in the Palau National Scholarship Office building on the campus of Palau High School, in Koror.

### **Attendees:**

Hon. Gregorio Ngirmang, Acting Chairman  
Honorable Debbie Tkel-Sbal, Member  
Honorable Alfonso U. Megreos, Member  
Mr. Noah Secharraimul (up for re-nomination)  
Mr. Jonathan Masaichi, Researcher/Staff

### **General Business**

Members began by discussing at length the accomplishments and tasks completed in this past year, 2012. In line with this idea, it was noted that PLC's report was submitted to Transition Committee of the President-elect Tommy E. Remengesau Jr outlining goals and accomplishments of PLC. Namely some of the tasks completed this past year (1) re-elect new officers (2) outlining goals and objectives to meet PLC's mandate, establish general outline and timeline of some of the basic goals. The biggest accomplishment was the adoption of the concept of the official Palauan Grammar and Orthography for Palauan language to be used by our schools (and had been implemented by MOE) and as a guideline to a better literate Palauan society in generations to come. PLC had also embarked on the second phase of its work which is on loanwords.

Members also discussed "courtesy resignations" requested by the Transition Committee on behalf of the incoming President. It was noted that all active members are in the process of submitting their respective resignation letters within the requested timeframe.

Mr. Noah Secharraimul added that Director Tkel-Sbal and Jonathan writes a letter from PLC to the new President, upon his swearing into the office, congratulating him of his election and to again reiterate the board's support of the re-nomination of Mr. Noah Secharraimul and Ms. Ignacia Oilouch to the board of PLC, as was conveyed last August to President Toribiong. It was noted by the Director and Jonathan for action later.

The members also discussed the fact that a new law, RPPL 8-55, signed into law on 7 December 2012 mandating instruction of Palauan language and orthography using the system adopted by PLC in April 11, 2012, and had been applied by MOE for sometimes from first grade to twelve grade. This also includes spoken language, history, and cultural subjects. The members were satisfied with this development and to note that the PLC's work on loanword is proceeding as planned.

Uchel mentioned an incident that was experienced by the officials at MOE, and which Director Tkel-Sbal is very familiar with. This incident involved parents of a foreign student who attended one of the local private schools in Palau. The parents pleaded with Ministry of Education to waive their child from having to take Palauan studies. Of course, MOE denied their request, and appropriately so.

Members also discussed the issue on stipend limit (cap). It was noted that PLC's board request to lift the stipend cap was conveyed to the new President's Transition Committee on Boards, Authorities, and Commissions orally and in writing during its meeting with that committee. The Transition Committee understood the request and was very receptive to the idea of removing the stipend limit in RPPL 8-7 and promise to work on it.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Recorded and compiled by: Jonathan Masaichi

Signed,

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Secretary

Adoption: 2/13/13