

Meeting of the Palau Language Commission
Third Meeting
13 February 2013; 3:30 pm

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

Attendees:

Hon. Gregorio Ngirmang, Acting Chairman
Hon. Debbie Tkel-Sbal, Member
Hon. Alfonso U. Megreos, Member
Hon. Rachel Ngiruos Ucherbelau
Mr. Jonathan Masaichi, Researcher/Staff

Adoption of Journal

A copy of the minutes of the previous meeting was provided to all members prior to this meeting so the members knew of the minutes involved. In fact Director Debbie Tkel-Sbal made a few amendments and changes to the minutes, and the minutes were adopted on this meeting.

General Business

First order of business, by agenda, is the letter to President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. from Palau Language Commission regarding the need to have the three appointees to fill the currently vacant three positions on the board of this commission. Director Tkel-Sbal inquired from Jonathan if the letter had been composed. Jonathan said that he had not composed the letter, and that Mr. Megreos had called the meeting for the discussion of this letter, among other matters.

Members inquired if there had been any prior letters on this matter. Mr. Jonathan pointed out that there had been a letter sent to then President Toribiong on the need to have new members appointed to the board, last August 2012. That letter also recommended reappointment of Ms. Ignacia Oilouch and Mr. Noah Secharraimul to continue as member of the board of Palau Language Commission. No action was taken or had been taken regarding new members to PLC board, when the commission inquired at the office of the Senate and the office of the President toward the end of 2012.

Mr. Uchel Megreos pointed out the fact that President Toribiong had talked with Mr. David Ngirakesau one time before of his desire to nominate Mr. Ngirakesau to the board of PLC to replace the seat held by the now deceased Mr. Kazumoto Rengulbai. This was toward the end of the year (2012) so nothing came out of that action.

Members all agreed with Mr. Megreos that a letter will be written to President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. from this commission requesting anew of the need to have three vacant seat filled as soon as it possibly can. This letter will again ask the new President to reappoint, if possible, Ms. Ignacia Oilouch and Mr. Noah Secharraimul to continue as board members of PLC. It was decided that the Researcher will write the draft of the letter for the members to review and have the final copy of the letter to be completed and delivered by Friday, 2/15/13. It was so agreed unanimously.

The members agreed that this letter will point the importance of having the rest of the members on board to help with the work of the commission and to have adequate number of board members to conduct its business.

With this, the Director says that when these other members come on board, then the commission can organize the officers. Mr. Gregorio Ngirmang opined that maybe the members can elect their permanent officers now. Mr. Megreos added that maybe they can continue working with temporary chairman Mr. Gregorio Ngirmang. Mr. Ngirmang says that he is concern about him living in Ngiwal and that sometime when the office have urgent business it's hard for him considering the distance and the cost of gasoline. Rachel added that if Ms. Ignacia and Mr. Noah will be reappointed, then they can be considered for these offices since they are retired and have more time to handle many functions of the offices. Director says Mr. Gregorio Ngirmang is retired already so he has the time to assist the commission as well.

After much discussion it was agreed that they should put the idea of electing a permanent officers to the floor vote on this meeting. Director then moved the idea to a floor vote after noting that Mr. Ngirmang has a valid point. Everyone then unanimously voted to elect Mr. Alfonso Uchel Megreos as the new Chairman, Mr. Gregorio Ngirmang as the new Vice Chairman, and Ms. Rachel Ngiruos Ucherbelau as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Decision was unanimous. Mr. Alfonso Megreos then took over the meeting as the new chairman of PLC.

So Chairman Megreos took over the meeting by proceeding to the next topic in the agenda which is a "work plan". Chairman says, our work presently is on Loanwords. Last meeting, while it lacked quorum the three members who attended asked Jonathan and Hilda, in addition to compilation of loanwords, to identify and lists all the existing loanwords in our dictionaries and other reference books.

On another idea, Chairman then says he will request Director Sbal to formulate or work out a working plan/timetable. To which the Director request that Mr. Jonathan Masaichi draft a tentative plan for the board's review. So it was decided so. Jonathan point out that we are working under an original plan agreed upon based on RPPL 8-7. Of course, we need a new/revised plan to better reflect our work. According to the original plan the timetable of loanwords work was to be completed by May of 2013, and Jonathan further says that by next meeting he will present the list of the loanwords identified thus far. It was agreed that by next meeting we will go over the word list by use of projector. Members discussed the next possible meeting date. They decided on Tuesday February 26, 2013 @ 3:30pm as the schedule of the next meeting.

Miscellaneous Items

Chairman moved to the next topic on the agenda. **Miscellaneous items**. Jonathan brought out Lydia's letter to PLC on the official grammar. Director says that RPPL 8-55 should be cited in the letter to Ms. Lydia Charles. The letter should convey to Ms. Lydia Charles that PLC had completed its work on Palauan orthography and adopted it and transmitted to the President and OEK last April 2012. As a result RPPL 8-55 had been passed mandating usage of this grammar and orthography. A copy of RPPL 8-55 will accompany our letter.

Announcements

Office Supplies: the staffs will list the supplies needed and prepare necessary documents with the Chairman. **Talk show with Kambes Kesolei**: Chairman says so far he has not really gauged the work we have accomplished to date. Being a chairman he asks that the idea of the talk show be postponed until maybe around May where we have completed our work on Loanwords, so on that talk show we can then have something to present to the public. Director adds that the work plan should help by setting our goals and timeline of our work. So when we go out to the public/audience we have clear path/plan in place. Director also mentioned Ms. Ignacia Oilouch, that if we're lucky to have her on board again, to organize orthography workshop for the members so that we can understand the subject clearer. All the members should know the Palauan Orthography, she says. So it was decided that PLC is not ready for the talk show.

Chairman says the meeting is concluded. Before adjourning the meeting, Chairman ask that the staffs maintain the office clean.

Meeting is adjourned.

Compiled by: Jonathan Masaichi

Certified by: Rachel Ngiruos
Secretary/Treasurer

Adopted on: 2/26/13