

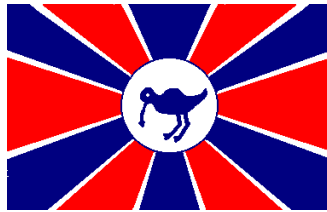


## Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP)



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

### MELEKEOK STATE



### GOVERNANCE CLINICS FOR CITIZENS REPORT

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**April 10 – May 1, 2018**

REPORT DATE: 28 August, 2018

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Governance Clinic for Citizens was made possible through many consultations and engagement with people from various parts of the community. These include consultations with and advice received from both formal and informal partners. This critical advice made the Melekeok State Governance Clinic for Citizens a successful activity in 2018. In particular, the following entities or individuals were notably very supportive and provided their guidance and physical efforts to the clinic exercises:

- Melekeok State Government;
- Melekeok Community Facilitators – Ms. Magaria Tellei, Mr. Jefferson Thomas, Mr. Frutoso Tellei, Mr. Noe Yalap;
- Ministry of State, Bureau of Domestic Affairs – Mr. Abra Osima;
- Palau Resources Institute – Ms. Julita Tellei;
- Technical Advisors – Ms. Bernie Keldermans, Ms. Madelsar Ngiraingas; and
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



*Melekeok Governance Clinic for Citizens, Women's Session, April 12, 2018 @ Bailechesau, Melekeok*

# INTRODUCTION

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***Melekeok Governance Clinic for Citizens, First All Community Meeting, April 10, 2018, Bailechesau***

The Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP), commenced implementation in September 2016 following the official signature of the Project Document between the Government of Palau and UNDP. The Project is funded through financial support from the Government of Palau and UNDP. The Project is directly managed by UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji which provides technical project management, procurement and policy advisory services through its technical advisors.

The three-year project provides assistance to the Government of Palau in improving local governance and service delivery through responsive and accountable governance at the local State level. The project is being implemented in phases with one of the key aims to provide capacity development support to the respective pilot States; namely Aimeliik, Melekeok, Ngeremlengui, Hatohobei, and Kayangel; also taking into account their role in implementing and supporting the 2030 Agenda and the localization of the SDGs. Hence, one of the key aspects of the project is to strengthen the relationship between the State Governments and the citizens, and empowering the citizens further through the promotion of knowledge sharing and open debates and feedback on good governance and accountability. This support is delivered under Output 3 of the Project, which is designed to ensure that “Local residents from pilot states, including youth and women, have increased understanding of central and local governments’ roles and responsibilities and participate more actively in local decision making and oversight”.

To support the above citizens empowerment and knowledge sharing on good governance and between citizen-state relationships, the Project in 2018 is running governance and leadership clinics per pilot state. The first batch of these clinics have been completed in latter part of quarter 1 and earlier part of quarter 1, 2018.

This report outlines the work undertaken as part of the Governance Clinic that was conducted with Melekeok State including necessary information on the methodology applied, key aspects covered, key findings from the citizens in terms of challenges faced in fulfilling their roles as effective citizens, and key lessons learned for future clinics and citizen engagement exercises.

## **MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNANCE CLINIC FOR CITIZENS**

1. Improve citizens' understanding of their civic rights and duties
2. Provide some basic civics education & highlight differences in the traditional vs. democratic systems
3. Encourage more citizen participation & determine culturally appropriate ways to do this
4. Explore barriers to civic engagement & work to develop solutions
5. Work towards improved understanding of citizens' priorities in order to inform decision-making

## **GOVERNANCE CLINIC DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

There were six separate consultative meetings that were conducted with the Governors of Hatohobei State and Melekeok State, various community facilitators, key informants, state government staff and technical advisors from both states to inform the process for successful implementation of the clinics for citizens. These consultative meetings provided critical information related to perceptions about current levels of awareness of citizens with respect to governance and related aspects, the political climate, cultural barriers to voicing out, etc. These meetings also served as a way to check in and validate the objectives of the governance clinics to ensure what we were planning was in fact needed and potentially useful for strengthening local governance in their respective communities.

A major recommendation coming from these consultative meetings was that the clinics would best be done with separate sessions for Women, Men and Youth to ensure higher participation rates thus stronger engagement overall. Considering this recommendation, the length of the clinics was designed to run five sessions per State – one introductory meeting with whole community to introduce the main clinic objectives and schedule, then three sessions with each of the three groups separately. A final session with the whole community would be the last session and would provide an opportunity for each group to report back on results and discuss a strategic way forward to work with their State governments to address concerns raised as a result of this governance clinic for citizens.

The Melekeok Governance Clinic for Citizens was conducted primarily in Melekeok at the Melekeok State Office at Bailechesau. There was an initial preparatory meeting held in Koror at Palau Community College on April 5, 2018 for Melekeok citizens residing outside of Melekeok. This meeting was held to inform them about the upcoming sessions of the clinic to be held in Melekeok and to highlight the importance of this clinic to maximize participation. In addition, a meeting was held with Paramount High Chief Reklai and the Honorable Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, Minister of State on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at lunch time at Okemii Deli before any of the clinics were held. This meeting was mainly to discuss the objectives of the governance clinic for citizens and to get the blessing of Reklai to carry out this activity. The meeting was also to reassure Reklai that the project in no way was advocating to minimize traditional governance or change the Constitution of Melekeok State.

Based on the feedback from stakeholders, the sessions were initially scheduled as per the following dates:

- April 5, 2018, 6pm – 8pm – Preparatory Meeting at PCC
- April 10, 2018, 6pm – 9pm – First All Community Meeting at Bailechesau, Melekeok
- April 12 – 19, 2018 – Three Group Sessions at Bailechesau, Melekeok
- May 1, 2018 – Final All Community Meeting at Bailechesau, Melekeok

## **SUMMARY OF KEY PRESENTATIONS, QUESTIONS RAISED AND FINDINGS FROM EACH SESSION**

Overall a total of 253 participants were recorded during the entire governance clinic for citizens activity conducted for Melekeok State. As indicated above, the clinic exercises were conducted through the use of presentations on various aspects of governance and raising knowledge and awareness of citizens through participatory exercises to determine key governance challenges and identifying solutions for those challenges. The participants included representation from members from both the legislative and executive branches, traditional leaders and general members of the community including many women and youth. A summary of the key presentations made, questions posed to facilitate discussions and key findings from each of the sessions is provided in the following sections.

### Preparatory Meeting for Melekeok Citizens Residing Outside of Melekeok, April 5, 2018, Palau Community College, Koror

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The main objective of the Preparatory Meeting held in Koror at Palau Community College was to inform Melekeok citizens residing outside of Melekeok State about the upcoming Governance Clinic for Citizens and to ask for their advice on how to maximize participation. In addition, it was used as an opportunity to inform members of the community about the Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project and its objectives in strengthening governance in Palau. There were a total of 35 participants.

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# Session 1: First Meeting, Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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The first session of the clinic was an All-Community Meeting conducted on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at Bailechesau in Melekeok. A total of 68 participants attended this first session of the governance clinic for citizens. The participants included traditional leaders, state government staff, legislators, citizens and workshop facilitators.

## Official Opening and Welcome

This first session included a formal opening and welcome by the Honorable Henaro Polloi, Governor of Melekeok State who thanked everyone for making time to participate and provided a brief update on the overall objectives of the governance clinic and key aspects that were to be covered. He encouraged strong participation in the upcoming sessions that were scheduled to be conducted throughout the rest of the month.

## Ground Rules and Suggestion Box

During this session, two of the Community Facilitators presented the ground rules for the governance clinic as well as the card box activity and the concept of a “parking lot.” They explained that if there is an issue that arises and it is important to discuss but there is not adequate time in this meeting to give it the attention it deserves, it will be put in a ‘parking lot’ to be revisited by Melekeok State Government and community at a later time. The ground rules included leaving “baggage” and “hats” at the door – i.e., recognizing that people in the community may have internal disputes and that people wear many hats however to participate today primarily as a citizen and as all part of one team. A powerful yet simple code of conduct called “The Four Agreements” ( 1-Be impeccable with your word; 2-Don’t take anything personally; 3-Don’t make assumptions; and, 4-

Always do your best) were also adopted as a ground rule for the governance clinic session. Palau Resources Institute advisor Ms. Julita Tellei this session.

## Presentation on Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project & Good Governance – Tarita Holm, UNDP-LGSP Project Officer

Following the official opening by the Governor, Ms Tarita Holm, LGSP Project Officer provided an overview of the UNDP-Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP) and good democratic governance principles (see Attachment 1 – Overview Presentation of the UNDP-Palau LGSP and Good Governance). The presentation gave a brief background on the project and went over the three main project outputs targeting the three main stakeholder groups (the five pilot state governments, the Bureau of Domestic Affairs and citizens from the five States and Palau in general).

- **Output 1:** Five States (Executive and Legislative branches) have **enhanced capacities to plan and manage** public resources to deliver basic services to their constituencies.
- **Output 2:** The Ministry of State (Bureau of Domestic Affairs) has **enhanced capacities to support State governments** and facilitates relations and operations between central administrations, the Senate, the House of Delegates and State governments.
- **Output 3:** Local residents from 5 States, including youth and women, have **increased understanding of central and local governments’ roles and responsibilities and participate more actively in local decision making and oversight.**

Additionally the presentation covered key findings from the UNDP Scoping Mission that are relevant to the governance clinic including some community perceptions around local governance (see attached presentation). The main objectives of the clinic were to:

- Improve citizens’ understanding of civic rights and duties as well as roles & responsibilities of government;
- Provide some basic civics education and highlight differences in the traditional vs. democratic systems;
- Encourage more citizen participation & determine culturally appropriate mechanisms for it
- Explore barriers to civic engagement & work to develop solutions; and,
- Work towards improved understanding of citizens’ priorities in order to inform decision-making

The presentation also covered relevant information from the local governance assessment conducted by UNDP in 2016 that emphasizes the importance of understanding concepts such as ‘downward accountability’ and highlighted some of the challenges and barriers in Palau for both citizens and governments with respect to downward accountability. The presentation also touched on the concept of governance as a social contract and went over various roles and responsibilities of governments and citizens in a democratic system of governance. It was noted that Palau has two parallel governance systems running at the same time – democratic and traditional systems and briefly articulated how aspects of these two systems work and the key differences in their respective rules which makes the transition to a democratic system even more challenging in Palau. The presentation also covered good democratic governance principles, the concepts of good governance and ‘effective citizenship.’ The reality that what citizens need from their governments is simply good governance and not politics which tend to be more about individuals than issues. The presentation also made the point that governments need strong participation from their citizens in order for the democratic system of governance to work well and for there to be ‘effective citizenship.’ The presentation touched on the most important qualities to look for when choosing a leader and the



importance of good ethical leadership, emphasizing that leadership is not a position or a title but more about influence and choosing to live and work by example.

Finally, the presentation talked about the importance of civic engagement and a tool that is used in the European Union was shared (see below). A study was done to determine what factors enable citizen participation most successfully and this is what they found. The tool below demonstrates areas where States could assess and improve their own citizen engagement and consultation efforts. This tool uses the acronym “CLEAR” and refers to “*Can Do, Like To, Enabled To, Asked To, Responded To*” as factors or conditions for enabling the most successful citizen participation.

Participation is most successful where citizens:

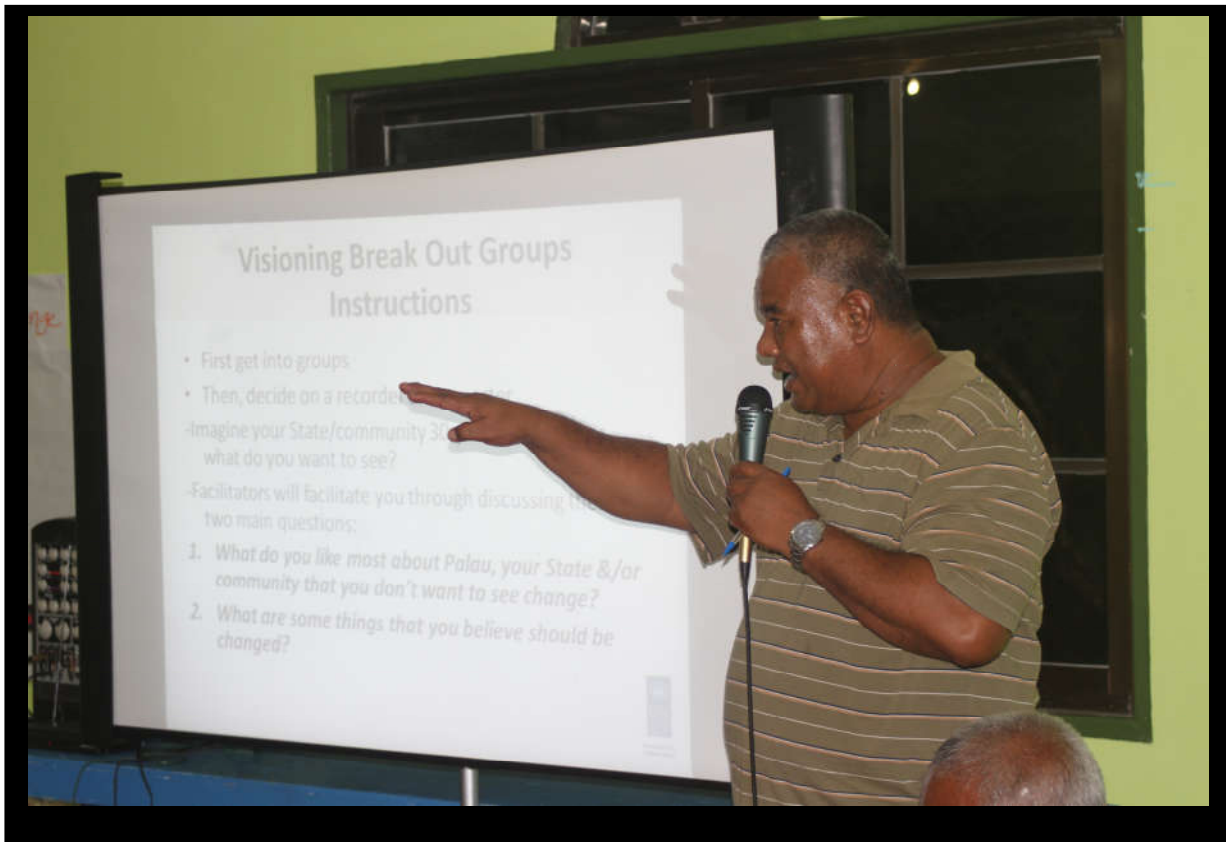
- C an do** – that is, have the resources and skills and knowledge to participate;
- L ike to** – that is, have a sense of attachment that reinforces participation;
- E nabled to** – that is, are provided with the opportunity for participation;
- A sked to** – that is, are involved by official bodies or voluntary groups;
- R esponded to** – that is, see evidence that their views have been considered.

## Palauan Civics: Our Two Governance Systems, Traditional & Democratic – Ms. Madelsar Ngiraingas, Palauan Civics Specialist



This session was instrumentally used to discuss and raise awareness on Palau’s historical context with governance. It also highlighted Palau’s traditional and democratic systems of governance and emphasized the need for citizens to understand how and when the various rules of the two systems apply. Her presentation also focused on the importance of citizens understanding their civic rights and duties in order to enable good governance and effective citizenship.

## Visioning Break-Out Groups



A visioning exercise was conducted with the participants of this first session of the governance clinic. They were divided into six break-out groups (purple, blue, green, yellow, orange and red) and asked to imagine their community thirty years from now. They were facilitated by the community facilitators to discuss two key questions:

- (1) What about their community do they want to keep; and,
- (2) What about their community do they want to see change in 30 years.

In summary, below are the direct responses from the six different groups:

For the first question: **“What do you like about Palau, your State, and/or your community that you don’t want to see change?”**

### Purple Group

1. Conservation areas remain
2. Undisturbed historical and cultural heritage:
  - Klobak, Klobak’IDil
3. Historical sites and cultural heritage remain
4. Reef remains

### Blue Group

1. Language
2. Culture
3. Environment
4. Historical Sites
5. Natural Resources abundance
6. Rights (Ilemelted)
7. Unity
8. Respect

### Green Group

1. Do not destroy historical sites
2. Preserve Palauan Language – people still speak, read and write
3. Protect and conserve environment
4. Maintain Palauan culture and practices and traditions
5. Kakull/respect/omengull/omelengmes/klaingeseu/kltareng/keep and nurture positive relationships
6. Responsible citizenship
7. Teach children to do their chores and responsibility (ties?)

### Yellow Group

1. Historical sites remain intact
2. Cultural preservation and maintenance
  - a. Language & culture,
  - b. Maintain cultural practices like “cheldebechel” – traditional community groups, etc.

### Red Group

1. Natural resources remain like today with forest and animals intact
2. People of Melekeok represent Palau
3. That there will still be sand and won't have flooding
4. Resources remain belonging to Melekeok and the people of Melekeok

### Orange Group

5. Our right to voice out and question our government
6. Roles and responsibilities of traditional leaders
7. Cultural values and practices remain intact and strong
8. Peace amongst Palauans is maintained.



For the second question: **“What are some of the things that you believe should be changed?”**

**Purple Group**

1. Housing program and Lease
2. Melekeok school – should be required to teach Melekeok history
3. Different government structure: separate tradition and democracy, majority –elected leaders
4. Limited investments enough to generate revenues to fund state government services
5. Clear, clean and healthy ocean
6. Educated Melekeok citizens
7. Better medical services for Melekeok citizens

**Blue Group**

1. Traditional leaders become advisors
2. Each family has a good standard living
3. All citizens become productive and contributing members of the community
4. Youth will be well-educated, happy and working for the future of Melekeok
5. All citizens will be prepared and resilient in time of climate change
6. MSG will be self-sustaining in support of social/economic well-being of the people
7. All citizens will be able to have access to clean water for drinking and cooking
8. All citizens will be environmentally conscious in the protection of the state natural resources – conservation
9. Efficient Government
10. Advance Technology

**Green Group**

1. Children/youth/citizens will be educated culturally/western wise and morally and ethically
2. Democratic (minshu shugi) and Palauan traditional government will have developed a leadership/government system that is for the good of the people that is transparent and accountable to the people.

**Yellow Group**

1. Melisiich ra klechibelau ma rubak a momeruul a ngerchelir loeak a traditional government (Strengthen Palauan culture and customs and chiefs to do their responsibilities under the traditional government)
2. Olbiil ra llach a mo full-time (State legislatures to be full time)
3. Mo erngii a housing opportunities el mora rokui el chad ra Melekeok (There will be housing opportunities for all of the people of Melekeok)
4. Separate traditional and elected leaders
5. Morngii a Melekeok High School (There will be a High School in Melekeok)
6. Delengchokl ra Melekeok a morbab (There will be more people living in Melekeok)
7. Morgnii a toktang ma nurse ra dispensary (There will be a doctor and nurse at the dispensary)
8. A rechad el doliltertir a mo accountable lkirel a ngerchelir ra beluu ma rechad (People that we vote in will be accountable to their responsibilities to the community and people)
9. Morngii a city ra Melekeok (Melekeok will have a city)
10. Morngii a llemeltir ar citizens (Citizens will have rights)

11. A rengelekel a Melekeok meiremei e orurt ra beluad (Melekeok children will come home and run the State)
12. Revisit constitution, morngii a ConCon, sisichii a klisichirar citizens (There will be a constitutional convention to strengthen the power of citizens)
13. Medalem a betook el kerrekar el sebechel lourodech e kall (Plant lots of trees so they can fruit and be food)
14. Mo medengei a llemeled ma ngercheled Irokui (That we will all know our rights and responsibilities)

### **Orange Group**

1. Diak a mengodech er a beluu – (no changes)
2. Melemolm el mesisiich a tekinged (keep our language strong)
3. Mo obtois a rechad, moklou a cherollrabeluu e betok a delengchokl (Increase population, more births and more households)
4. Iliakl a klobak ma rechad el de sengkioertir (separate the chiefs from the elected leaders)
5. Ar klobak a ngarngii a delengcheklir ra ikel belurir me leues ar belurir (Chiefs have their houses in their village so they can oversee their villages)
6. A development a atter ra klungel a beluu e atter rarechad ma environment (Development matches the size of the community and matches the people and environment)
7. Ke de mo sengkio rar mo omtechei a derstal hamlet rabeluu (We will vote who will represent each hamlet in the State)

### **Red Group**

1. We want more economic activity that benefits Melekeok people
2. Be able to prioritize interests of people of Melekeok or things in Melekeok (e.g. public lands) over citizens of other states
3. Melekeok will be a true Capitol of Palau
4. Separate traditional and democratic systems so both exist and function but not in the same government



## Session 2: Women Session – Thursday, April 12, 2018, 6pm – 9pm

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The session for women was conducted on Thursday, April 12, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at Bailechesau State Assembly Hall. A total of 29 participants attended this session. The session was opened with a prayer and welcoming remarks were given by Dirraingas Magaria Tellei. Julita Tellei went over the ground rules and card box before the LGSP Project Officer gave the brief overview presentation on the LGSP and Good Governance. Participants were divided into groups and two break-out group sessions were conducted covering two main questions: (1) How can we achieve successful citizen engagement with the citizens of Melekeok State in a way that is culturally appropriate; and (2) What are the main issues/challenges for Melekeok people from the women’s perspective? After the brainstorming sessions, the groups reported back to the plenary and voted on what issues/challenges they believe to be of highest priority. Below is a summary of the responses:

### **Question 1: HOW CAN WE IMPROVE MELEKEOK CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IN A WAY THAT IS CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE?**

- Mo kerekikl el loker aikel ngar ngii a rroureng er ngii el tekoi e ngmai a bleketakl el nger er ngii (Take care to ask about issues that are of concern to the community and get a clear answer);
- Citizens need to better understand their rights and responsibilities in governance;
- Ke de mo medengei a llemeltd (we will know our rights): Be responsible for: family, community/hamlet, state, church, organization, school, ;Strong participation in community including ureor el beluu (community work days) and government meetings, kemeldiil and omilil (funerals and fun activities) – for bonding purposes;
- Good regular meetings by the government to report to citizens on what’s going on.

## **Question 2: WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES/CHALLENGES FOR MELEKEOK PEOPLE FROM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE**

- Government and leadership to really understand what the people of Melekeok want and need;
- No lease program;
- Separate traditional and elected leaders so traditional is not in the State Government;
- Need to urgently address the leasing of public lands to people that are not from Melekeok. The current leasing program is dysfunctional;
- People need to know what their government is doing;
- Separate traditional and elected governments;
- State government and legislature do not do public hearing for bills;
- Elected leaders report to members every quarter on: Accomplishments, need improvements, problems.

## Session 3: Youth Session – Tuesday, April 17, 2018

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### **Youth Session – Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at Bailechesau 6pm – 9pm**

The Youth Session was held at Bailechesau, Melekeok from 6pm to 9pm on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 and had a total of 36 participants. The session began by screening a documentary film titled “Democracy in Palau - Doing it Right – Palauan Documentary” that covers part of the history of Palau’s road to independence. After this film, the meeting began with a prayer and a discussion about the film was conducted to convey the importance of citizen engagement in the context of Palau’s history. Community facilitator Noe Yalap facilitated the meeting and the Project Officer gave the overview presentation of the LGSP and Good Governance. Ms. Bernie Keldermans, technical

advisor also provided her perspective and experience during that tumultuous time and shared with the Youth that there were other countries in Europe who were willing to help Palau in addressing the injustice during the Compact negotiations. This led to a discussion on good democratic governance principles as well as what citizens need for successful participation and the tool using the acronym CLEAR. After this presentation, two break out group sessions were then held covering the same two questions posed during the women's session – (1) - How can we get more Youth of Melekeok State to participate in decision-making in a way that is culturally appropriate; and, (2) What are the main issues/challenges for Melekeok people from the youth's perspective. Although there was a prioritization exercise as part of the agenda, there was not enough time for the youth to vote on their top priorities and therefore it was agreed that all of the priorities for the youth would be presented at the final session of the governance clinic with the whole community. Below is a summary of the responses:

### **Question 1: HOW CAN WE GET MORE MELEKEOK YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING IN A WAY THAT IS CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE**

1. Consult elders in gathering information; Adults/elders to encourage youth; Adults/elders/leaders/parents consider/value/listen and act on opinions and suggestions of the youth
2. Education should start at home; Invite us to meetings and/or sessions; Have a feedback session/meeting with youth after meetings/sessions to reflect and provide their feedback. Suggestion boxes at meetings can help for youth to share their ideas/feedback; Have older "advisors" to help organize and communicate diplomatically and in a culturally appropriate way
3. We need to know what the issues are that decisions are being made about, so we can participate in the decision-making process; Issues have to have benefits for our community as a whole; Issues regarding youth have to cope with culture and tradition; Community leaders announcement/information to youth; Designate responsibility to youth; responsible youth most likely will stay away from drugs and alcohol
4. Youth Committee/program to be established with youth representative; Establish youth center; Have youth organization more active and functional; Have youth rep to speak on behalf of the youth; Create youth organization; More youth involvement in community activities; ureor el beluu; chelbuul; Cultural programs for youth i.e. traditional/cultural skills

### **Question 2: WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES/CHALLENGES FOR MELEKEOK PEOPLE FROM YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**

1. No public high school; High school closer to Melekeok; Need quality teachers; Lack of education regarding governance; Inadequate and limited understanding of youth of the current government structure; Youth today don't understand their rights and duties
2. Need safe/treated water; Food security; Sewer, solid waste management and water issues (too much sediment) not resolves; Need strict environment/conservation laws
3. Youth organization support; Need more cultural activities; Need more job opportunities; Need improvement of sports facilities; No place for youth; Recreational facilities (upgrade/improve); Need more programs for youth to have stronger relationships and to bond and build trust with each other; Lack of physical activities



4. Uproot residencies- Inadequate/lack of; Unawareness of existing poverty and everything that ties to it; Lack of state housing program to newly-weds; Higher minimum wage
5. Drug trafficking, crime, etc... Weak enforcement of laws and a general complacency re: following laws; Afraid to report crimes or violations because we get scolded for this. "Don't report because the person is our relative"; Bad influence from adult to youth (drugs and alcohol)
6. Lack of youth involvement; Lack of/inadequate representation of citizens in the leadership structure; Feel discouraged because we are "young" so not confident to ask questions and speak up at meetings; Leadership disagreement: traditional vs elected; Less respect for elders



## Session 4: Men's Session – Thursday, April 19, 2018, Bailechesau, Melekeok

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The men's session was held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at Bailechesau, Melekeok and had 20 participants. After the Opening Prayer, Buikiechad Jefferson Thomas welcomed participants and the Project Officer gave the brief overview presentation on the LGSP and Good Governance. The participants were then divided into groups and facilitated through discussion on the two main questions. The following is a summary of the men's responses:

### **Session 1: HOW CAN WE IMPROVE MELEKEOK CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IN A WAY THAT IS CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE?**

- Separate traditional and elected members;
- Change law-making process to have 3 readings instead of 1 reading especially budget that has only 2 reading;
- More elected leaders of Olbil and decrease number of traditional leaders, reduce number of Olbil members to 11: 6 hamlet representatives and 5 at large all elected;
- State support programs to help men establish private households: Strengthen traditional leadership a. (\$) has corrupted the system;
- Chiefs to serve as advisory council;
- Frequent State address to keep citizens well informed.

## Session 2: WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES/CHALLENGES FOR MELEKEOK PEOPLE FROM MEN'S PERSPECTIVE

- Need Constitutional convention;
- Housing and lease opportunities;
- Lease – When is this going to happen;
- Lease program;
- Traditional leaders to have separate houses – a. limited roles on traditional matters; b. may also run for elected office.

## Session 5: Final Meeting, Tuesday, May 1, 2018, Bailechesau, Melekeok

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***The Honorable Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, Minister of State Presenting at the final meeting of the Governance Clinic for Citizens, Bailechesau, Melekeok***

The Final Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Bailechesau, Melekeok and had 65 participants. Prior to the governance clinic commencing there was some concern expressed by the Paramount High Chief Reklai that the governance clinic for citizens may undermine traditional governance and traditional leaders by advocating for separating the traditional and democratic systems. This misunderstanding was cleared up in a joint meeting with the Honorable Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg at the house of the High Chief Reklai in the late afternoon prior to the final meeting starting on May 1, 2018. The joint meeting with the Minister and Reklai went very well and once again, Reklai gave his blessing for the meeting to be conducted. Deacon John Elechus gave the opening prayer and the welcoming remarks were given by the Honorable Henaro Polloi,

Governor of Melekeok State. Following the Governor's remarks, the Honorable Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, Minister of State spoke about the importance of the Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project and emphasized that it is a pilot project and a joint project between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Palau Government with the aim of working towards the strengthening of local governance. The Project Officer gave a brief overview presentation on the process used for conducting the governance clinic for citizens in Melekeok State and thanked the community for their hospitality and strong participation during the clinic sessions.

**Main Process Undertaken:**

1. Preparatory meeting held, April 5, 2018, 6pm at Palau Community College Assembly Hall for Melekeok Citizens living outside of Melekeok to inform people of the upcoming clinic for citizens.
2. First All Community Meeting at Bailechesau, April 10, 2018 at 6pm to provide an overview of the objective of the governance clinic for citizens and the upcoming sessions for women, youth and men.
3. Conduct three sessions with Women, Youth and Men mainly to discuss two things: (1) barriers and solutions for increasing participation (civic engagement) and achieving overall effective citizenship; and, (2) main issues/challenges from the perspective of each group (women, youth, men).
4. Final All Community to report back to the community as a whole the results/findings from the three group sessions and discuss/determine a way forward to improve and strengthen local governance.

The Project Officer reiterated the concept that governance is a social contract among people and the importance of both government and citizens in upholding their duties and responsibilities in that social contract. She pointed to the fact that checks and balances in a democratic governance system include the three main branches - Executive, Legislative and Judicial, but that sometimes we forget the fact that citizens' role of holding government accountable is one of the most critical aspects of the governance system. She restated some of the concepts discussed over the course of the clinic namely:

- The importance of good strong leadership and that leadership is not a position or title but more about influence and service and the spirit of taking care of those in your charge;
- That in a democracy the most important title is "citizen" and therefore it is extremely important for citizens to understand and acknowledge their civic rights and duties including overseeing government and calling for downward accountability;
- That effective citizenship requires citizens to demonstrate more leadership and this requires governments to create enabling environments for citizens to take up their civic duties;
- The two main things needed to improve local governance are: (1) effective citizenship, and (2) good governance; and,
- That more leadership by citizens in this regard will result in elected officials focusing on issues that are of high priority to citizens.

The Project Officer also pointed to the fact that the issues and ideas reported back during this final meeting would now be documented and known to the leaders within the government as well as the

community as a whole in order for everyone to work together to address the issues and that this is a positive step forward in strengthening governance.

Dirraingas Magaria Tellei presented the results from the women's session while Collin Joseph presented on the results from the men's session. Kalaiang Ongino and Kalistus Polloi were the Youth representatives that reported the results from the Youth. All results were presented and given as a handout to participants (see attachment 2 - Final Meeting Handouts).

The Governor of Melekeok State, the Honorable Henaro Polloi gave presented on the way forward and a question and answer session was then facilitated by Buikiechad Jefferson Thomas. Closing remarks were given by the Honorable Sylverius Tellei, Speaker of the Melekeok State Legislature and Kalistus Polloi gave the closing prayer before the meeting was adjourned.

## Parking Lot & Suggestion Box

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### Parking Lot

The parking lot was to be used as a facilitation tool whenever issues would arise that are important to discuss but would require a much longer discussion that would be more appropriate at another time, these issues/topics or comments were listed in the "parking lot" to be addressed at a later more appropriate time. The Parking Lot worked well as a facilitation tool to help curb the discussion getting off track and especially as a way to capture important points and topics that should be addressed by the community sometime in the future. There were not many parking lot items during the clinic with Melekeok as there were with the Hatohobei clinic. The only issue that was put on the parking lot was the hiring process of the State and what factors and criteria are used when hiring.

### Suggestion Box Responses

Having a suggestion box at each of the sessions was recommended by one of the community facilitators from Hatohobei and was used for Melekeok as well in order to maximize feedback from citizens. The responses of from the suggestion cards received are listed in Attachment 3 – Suggestion Box Responses.

### Lessons Learned

**Food Preparation** – Food was procured directly from the community through the traditional women's group NgaraOtellouch headed by Dirraingas Magaria Tellei. This practice of procuring food within the community is highly recommended for future activities of the LGSP as a way to also strengthen traditional governance within the democractic system and to assist with the maintenance of the cultural heritage of having strong traditional community groups ("cheldebechel").

**Ground Rules** – Ground rules are highly recommended because it sets the tone and provides a way to help people to know it is culturally acceptable for people to speak up and to remember to participate as citizens. The Four Agreements – were included with the ground rules as a way to help encourage professionalism and emotional maturity for the sometimes difficult discussions and for dealing with differences of opinions.

**Evaluation Forms** – Although PRE clinic evaluation forms were provided, they were not filled out. There were around 20 POST evaluation forms filled out and submitted. See Attachment 4 – POST clinic evaluation forms.