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Office of the President

### **Saipan Belau Bai Project Committee to Construct a new Community Cultural Hall in the CNMI**

On May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Aqua Resort in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. and Governor Ralph Torres signed an agreement authorizing Saipan Belau Bai Project Committee the rights to use a 7,000 square meter parcel of land in the Capitol Hill area to develop a new Community Cultural Hall.

“The CNMI Government and Governor Torres’ generosity is a great testament to the strong historical friendship, relationship and partnership Palau has shared with the CNMI”, remarked President Remengesau. The President further congratulated the Committee and the Association for their efforts to establish a space where Palauans can come together to foster our *klechibelau* while preserving our unique identity as Palauans.

The Saipan Belau Bai Project Committee in collaboration with the Saipan-Palau Association hopes to construct a new Bai and Consulate Office, including a conference room and a guestroom that would serve Palauans visiting Saipan for training and other opportunities.

The parcel of land handed over by the Government of the CNMI is approximately 7,000 square meters located in the Capitol Hill area. The Committee has a long way go, but expressed their eagerness to begin developing plans to break ground this summer and begin construction work before the end of 2018 with hopes of unveiling the new Community Cultural Hall by year 2020.

The Saipan Belau Bai Project Committee is a non-profit organization chartered in Saipan with the objective of bringing together the goals and desires of Palauans in the CNMI.