

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. Bio

President Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr., the eighth President of the Republic of Palau, is the first Palauan to be elected as President three times. He was first elected as President in 2000 and was re-elected in 2004. Constitutionally limited to two consecutive presidential terms, Remengesau was elected in 2008 as a Senator in the Palau National Congress (the Olbiil Era Kelulau) where he served until his election as President again in 2012.

His election as President again in 2012 is a mark of his vitality and his commitment to his promise to the People of Palau to work hard to “preserve the best, and improve the rest” for Palau, today and for generations to come. During his time in public office, Palau has been recognized for its financial stability and good governance. Remengesau also emphasized Palau’s international leadership and close relationship with the United States at the United Nations and on strategic matters. In 2007, Time magazine named him one of the heroes of the environment for initiatives such as the Micronesian Challenge. President Remengesau is now considering establishing a marine sanctuary covering all of Palau’s waters, further enhancing Palau’s tourism revenues.

Remengesau began his political career as the youngest Senator ever elected to the Olbiil Era Kelulau at the age of 28. During his Senate terms, he served as Chairman of the powerful Committee on Ways and Means and was instrumental in helping to erase Palau’s outstanding budget deficit and bring about financial stability and credibility.

In 1992 Remengesau was elected Vice President of Palau, the youngest Palauan ever to serve in national office. He was re-elected as Vice President in 1996. As Vice President, he concurrently held the position of Minister of Administration (Finance) helping the Republic gain membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. He also helped lead Palau’s transition to an independent country in 1994.

President Remengesau was born on February 28, 1956, in Koror, Palau. As the eldest of eight children born to Mr. Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr., and Ferista Esang Remengesau, “Tommy” has followed his father’s distinguished career which included serving 12 years as Palau’s first District Administrator, as the Minister of Justice, and as Vice President and President. President Remengesau and his wife Debbie have four children and two grandchildren.



TOMMY E. REMENGESAU, JR.

PERSONAL

- Born to Thomas Remengesau, Sr. and Ferista Esang Remengesau on February 28, 1956
- Married to the former Debbie Mineichi of Airai State
- Four children: TJ, Isechal, Lalii, and Mayumi
- Member, Catholic Church

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Maris Stella Elementary School
- High Schools: Xavier High School (2 years) & Mindzenty High School (Graduated)
- Grand Valley State University, Michigan, Graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Public Administration

PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER

- 1980 – Legal Researcher, Federal District Court, Saipan
- 1981 – District Health Planner, Palau Bureau of Public Health Services
- 1982 – Public Information Officer, 1st Olbiil Era Kelulau
- 1984 – Elected Senator, 2nd Olbiil Era Kelulau, Palau National Congress (at age 28, the youngest ever elected), representing the then First Senatorial District of Kayangel, Ngarchelong, Ngaraard, Ngiwal, Melekeok, Ngchesar, and Airai.
- 1988 – Re-elected Senator, 3rd Olbiil Era Kelulau, Palau National Congress.
- 1984 to 1992 – Senator Remengesau chair the Senate Ways and Means Committee, sponsored the Public Auditors Act, The Palau national Scholarship Act, The Executive Clemency Reform Act, The Palau Visitors Authority Independent Fund, The Government Reorganization Act of 1989, The Procurement Reform Act, and the Public Accountants Licensing and Certifying Act
- 1993 – Elected Vice President (once again, the youngest ever to assume this office) and appointed Minister of Administration
- 1993 to 2000 – Served as the ‘Acting President’ in the President’s absence on more than 75 occasions, equivalent to 1 year and 4 months
- 1994 – Served as Chairman of the Compact of Free Association Transition Committee
- 1996 to 2000 – Re-elected Vice-President and Minister of Administration
- 1996 to 1997 – Served as the Coordinator of the K-B Bridge Emergency Response as Chairman of the National Emergency Committee
- 1996 to 2000 – Served as the Chairman of the Palau Sports Commission
- 1998 to 2000 – Served as the Chairman of the National Emergency Committee
- 2001 to 2004 – Elected President of the Republic of Palau
- 2005 to 2008 – Re-elected President of the Republic of Palau
- 2009 to 2012 – Elected Senator, 8th Olbiil Era Kelulau, Palau National Congress
- 2013 to President – Elected as the President of the Republic of Palau and sworn into Office on January 17, 2013