

Island Times

MONDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2011 18:44

Palau Chamber of Commerce President Ken Uyehara is back in Palau Public Utilities Corporation as interim general manager.

On Saturday, President Toribiong appointed Uyehara as interim GM for PPUC effective immediately. He was directed to take over from Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce Min. Jackson Ngiraingas, who was given the responsibility over PPUC amidst emergency crisis.

{REG}

Following the appointment of Uyehara, Toribiong directed Ngiraingas to update Uyehara of all actions he has taken and thereafter coordinate and cooperate with the new GM.

Uyehara had been general manager for PPUC under Toribiong's administration. Earlier reports showed the president commending him for his leadership. Toribiong recognized the fact that when he assumed office in early 2009, one of the most critical challenges facing his administration was the much maligned and beleaguered PPUC. But he said that under Uyehara's leadership, procurement measures and maintenance programs he initiated have resulted in a more stable and reliable power supply for the country.

However, Uyehara resigned in the first quarter of this year expressing disappointment with the Board of Directors that was allegedly putting the corporation into financial crisis. Under Uyehara's leadership, new tariff was proposed but it was rejected by the board. Uyehara then believed in the need to implement new tariff for PPUC's budget to improve. Uyehara said at the time that without an appropriate maintenance budget, PPUC will not be able to keep up with the required maintenance nor pay for fuel.

Despite appointment of Uyehara, Toribiong said that Ngiraingas will continue to be responsible for all other matters relating to the crisis caused by the Aimeliik Power Plant catastrophe.

The president said Ngiraingas will continue to be responsible for restoring and maintaining adequate water and sewer operations and any other non-PPUC related infrastructure and equipment issues