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Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism and Development
Palau National Government
Webpage: <https://ministryofhrctd.pw/culture-homepage/>



McMichael Mutok Jr. is from the Republic of Palau located in the Micronesia region. He is originally from the state of Airai, which is located on the southernmost tip of Babeldaob. The state of Airai by its traditional name called “Belias” is blessed with rich cultural heritage which has the oldest *Bai* (meeting house for chiefs) in Palau built over 180 years ago, with many historic features and its irreplaceable tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

McMichael holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Guam in 2017 and currently employed as the Palau Registrar under the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation which is under the Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism, and Development. According to Title 19 of the Palau National Code, the Palau Register of Historic Places is intended to serve as the official inventory of all these historical sites and tangible cultural properties which are deemed of significance to the Palauan people and hence worth preserving. He has gain extensive knowledge in historic preservation and learn all the valuable significant historic sites and its comprehensive information within the Republic.

McMichael goal is to join the “Sensitive Provenances” Research Fellowship Project that will help him gain knowledge and understanding about his ancestors’ history, settlements, human remains

and all the artifacts that were collected from the German colonial period between 1899 to 1914 in Palau.

This Research Fellowship Project will be a stepping stone to building an important relationship between the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation in Palau and the Biological Anthropology Department at the University of Gottingen in Germany. The Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation/Palau Historic Preservation Office is one of the Bureaus of the Palau National Government under the Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism & Development responsible for identifying, documenting, protecting, preserving, and managing all cultural and historical resources within the Republic.

There will be major questions still remain in regard to the archeological study of Palau and the social wellbeing of our ancestors. Studying these bones and their origins are the important steps to return them to the gravesite to where it was originally buried. This might be a great opportunity to transport them home for reburial. A potential repatriation to their origin and a more comprehensive research of Palau's history. This could express our deep respect and solidarity for our ancestors, families, and the people of Palau.