

# Ngerusar Ngaraklasekl Men's Association

President  
Vince Blaiyok

## Main Activities

- Providing support for the community
- Building Diangel (Canoe house in Palauan)
- Maintaining the mangroves
- Restoring historical sites and making rock-island trails
- Cleaning up the coast

## Background of Establishment

This traditional organization has been in existence for more than a hundred years. "Ngaraklasekl" in Palauan roughly translates to "The Left-Handed". They represent the Men's Association in Ngerusar, one of the 6 villages left in Airai State.

## Purpose

This traditional organization overlooks the village and helps the community in any way possible. The members help the community by providing heavy work to restore the historical sites and building houses and others.



## Member's Voice Mr. Vince Blaiyok

On January 19th of 2022, we completed the Young Men's House, also known as the Diangel near the Airai Bai. It is a traditional canoe house where people bring the broken canoes to get them repaired. We also use the space to make fish traps and bamboo rafts. In the future, I would also like to start a handicraft section where a master carver can carve storyboards and make spears and shell jewelry.

Between 2019 and 2020, we had a project to clear the mangroves closing in towards the channel in Airai to make ways for the boats and currents. Palau made a law not to cut down the mangroves, so we were required to apply for a special permit to do so. By maintaining the mangroves we can also protect the sand bottom which exists as a home for many species. In Palauan, we say, "lukel a klengar", which roughly translates to "nest for life". The sand bottoms are precisely this to many living creatures that are native to this island, such as sea cucumbers, clams, fish, and sharks. Therefore, I believe maintaining the mangroves and keeping them under control has many benefits to maintaining the balance in the ocean. The removed mangroves will also not go to waste and can be used for their lumber, such as making "sumi" (charcoal) for cooking.

We also restored and built the bai and the pier on a rock island just off Ngerusar in Airai in 2005, and we have been going back to maintain them and keep the island clean. We built a trail that leads to the historical Yapese Stone Money open to the public. We have continued to keep the village of Ngerusar clean, and in the process of planning a project to clean the roadside trash in the village. We are also in the process of cleaning and collecting the surface and underwater trash from the ocean. We are hoping to speak with the other 5 villages in Airai and collaborate with the other Men's and Women's Associations to keep Airai State clean.

With many projects ongoing such as starting up the arts and crafts section for the community and cleaning the coast, we lack the funds to complete them sometimes, but we all love our village and we will do anything to protect it. We hope to make our organization stronger and more organized, and continue to help the community and anybody in need.

## Contact Information

 (680)-775-6829