



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 17-205

Declaring April 17-21, 2017 as National Disability Awareness Week

*“Families and Advocates:
Building an Inclusive and Equitable Community for All”*

WHEREAS, the 2015 Palau Census indicates that there are over 1,000 People with Disabilities in Palau who have partly and long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments; and

WHEREAS, many People with Disabilities and their Families have struggled to achieve their full potential as self-sufficient and contributing members of their communities for the well-being of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, the various Ministries and agencies of the government and non-government organizations provide programs to support and assist People with Disabilities while national laws by the Republic of Palau have been created to protect the rights of People with Disabilities and further strengthen and improve their inclusions in all aspects of our society; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all relevant non-government organizations to value their role in understanding the service priorities of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, taking into account the role of families and caregivers in enabling access to services by including them in conversations and creating support networks; and

WHEREAS, the service providers, in education, health and rehabilitation, employment, social protection, providers of assistive technologies, have an important role in meeting the priorities; and



WHEREAS, the Government has a mandate to regulate and resource the operations and quality of those services; and

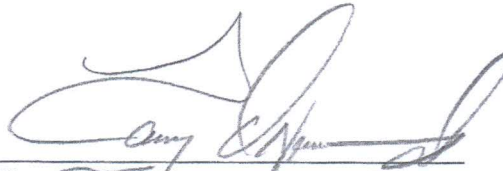
WHEREAS, the Disability Awareness Week aims to discuss effective, relevant and culturally appropriate strategies for building an inclusive and equitable community for all people with disabilities. It also provides the opportunities to consider a variety of international and regional frameworks and treaties that can be used to promote, guide and achieve our goals; and

WHEREAS, the observance of this year's National Disability Awareness Week provides an opportunity to further raise awareness of disability as human rights issue and development priority. The theme of this year's commemoration, "Families and Advocates: Building an Inclusive and Equitable Community for All" is timely, as it marks 2017 as Year of the Family and the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and

WHEREAS, Disability Awareness Week – 17-21 April 2017 – can be used for this purpose to further ensure the full and effective participation of People with Disabilities in all aspects of societal life and development; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr, President of the Republic of Palau, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, do hereby declare April 17-21, 2017 as National Disability Awareness Week. In doing so, I call on all of the People of Palau to observe April 17-21 as National Disability Awareness Week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities and to recognize all People with Disabilities to be full and effective members of our community.

SO PROCLAIMED this 11th day of April 2017 in Koror, Republic of Palau.



Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau