



**Republic of Palau**  
*Office of the President*

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*President*

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**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 17-211**

*Declaring May, June, July 2017 as Prevention Months to Prevent  
Substance Use and Promote Mental Health in the Republic of Palau*

*"Making Each Day Count"*

**WHEREAS**, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol are among the primary factors of the four leading causes of death within our young people ages 10-21; and

**WHEREAS**, young people begin consuming alcohol, the use of tobacco and using drugs on average, at 13.1 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, young people who begin alcohol consumption before the age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin at age 21; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco use is a leading cause of cancer and tobacco smoking is the single leading cause of preventable death; and

**WHEREAS**, data provided by the Ministry of Justice reveals that from 2011 to September 2016, 100% of the aggravated assaults in Palau were linked to the use of alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a serious public health problem that causes immeasurable pain, suffering and loss to individuals, families, and communities nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause of suicide are complex and determined by multiple combinations of factors, such as mental illness, substance abuse, painful losses, exposure to violence, and social isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, each individual and community play an important role in helping people lead healthy, productive lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and in the interest of increasing support for individuals and families coping with mental or substance use disorder in our community, hereby proclaim the months of May, June, and July of 2017 as Prevention Months.

**SOPROCLAIMED** this 26th day of May, 2017 at Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.

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