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President

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PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 17-215

Declaring the Month of September 2017 as National Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, cancer has remained a top-three leading cause of death in the Republic of Palau for the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, use of cigarettes and other tobacco products, consumption of alcoholic beverages, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity remain leading contributors to cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among our people; and

WHEREAS, 55% of adult cancers are tobacco-related, 19% of adult cancers are obesity-related, 29% of adult cancers (i.e., cervical and breast cancers) have an evidence-based screening test, and 15% of adult cancers can be diagnosed in the early stages; and

WHEREAS, our government and community leaders have united to establish a National Coordinating Mechanism to guide our efforts to implement a comprehensive approach to NCD prevention and control within Palau; and

WHEREAS, these government and civil society partners have made great progress by increasing awareness of the social, economic, and emotional impact of cancer and other NCDs on families and the Republic; and

WHEREAS, we must urgently develop and implement policy and environmental changes to increase access to screening, early detection, and treatment, while striving more broadly to make healthy choices easy choices; and

WHEREAS, we must create, enhance, and promote survivorship and palliative care programs designed to promote better outcomes for cancer survivors and reduce the social, economic, emotional, and spiritual burden of cancer on families affected thereby; and

WHEREAS, the month of September shall be observed as a cancer awareness month;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of power vested of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, I hereby proclaim the month of September 2017 as Cancer Awareness Month and call upon all Palauans to unite and join together in the fight against cancer in our society.

IN WITNESS WEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 6th day of September, 2017 at Koror, Republic of Palau.

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