



**Republic of Palau**  
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**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 17-222**

*Declaring December 3, 2017 as International Day of Persons with Disabilities*

*"Transformation Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Society for All"*

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

**WHEREAS**, many persons with disabilities and their families inspire us all by contributing as self-sufficient members of their communities for the well-being of the Republic; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3 in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, the observance of this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, themed – *Transformation Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Society for All*, aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life; and

**WHEREAS**, building on many decades of the UN's work in the field of disability, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, has further advanced the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the SAMOA Pathway; and



**WHEREAS**, the Convention calls upon States Parties, including Palau, to take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to all aspects of society, on an equal basis with others, as well as to identify and eliminate obstacles and barriers to accessibility; and

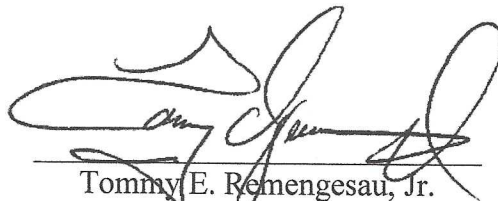
**WHEREAS**, persons with disabilities, as both beneficiaries and agents of change, are essential components to the process towards inclusive and sustainable development towards a resilient society for all; and

**WHEREAS**, governments, persons with disabilities, their representative Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) and families, non-government organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector need to work as a “team” to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and

**WHEREAS**, International Day of Persons with Disabilities can be used for this purpose to further ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of societal life and development;

**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 December 3, 2017 as International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and further call on the People of Palau to observe this Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

**SO PROCLAIMED**, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017 in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.



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