



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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President

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PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 18-236

*Declaring May 31, 2018 as World No Tobacco Day for the Republic of Palau
"Tobacco Breaks Hearts – Choose Health, Not Tobacco"*

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation 18-227 declared the year 2018 as the Year of Good Health and calling for a national effort to promote better health and well-being in the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases in the Pacific is among the highest in the world and is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) such as *heart attack and stroke*, kill more people than any other cause of death worldwide, and

WHEREAS, CVD is the number one cause of death in Palau; and

WHEREAS, smoking is a major cause of CVD; and

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke causes heart disease including heart attacks and strokes in non smokers; and

WHEREAS, chewing tobacco increases your heart rate and blood pressure and evidence suggests that long-term use of smokeless tobacco also increases your risk of dying of heart disease and stroke; and

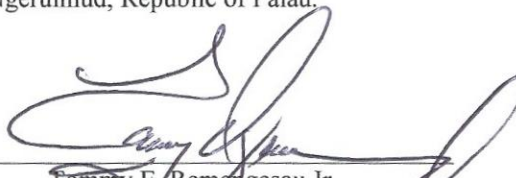
WHEREAS, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the huge impact of non-communicable diseases including CVD, on development worldwide; and

WHEREAS, target 3.a of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to strengthen implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, an evidence-based Treaty to combat the tobacco use pandemic to which Palau is a Party, and

WHEREAS, May 31st of each year has been established by the World Health Organization as World No Tobacco Day in order to focus the world's attention on the devastating costs of tobacco use in the modern world; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, do hereby declare May 31, 2018 as WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY (WNTD) in the Republic of Palau and urge everyone to take part in its observance and activities that amplify messages that remind us that *Tobacco breaks hearts and to choose health, not tobacco*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 25th day of May, 2018 at the Palau National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.


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