



Republic of Palau *Office of the President*

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President

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PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 18-243

Declaring the month of September 2018 as National Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, for the past decade, cancer has remained in the top three leading causes of death in the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse such as tobacco and alcohol use, poor eating habits and unhealthy diets, including physical inactivity, are major contributors of cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among the Palauan people; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007-2015 Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry, 56% of adult cancers are tobacco-related, 21% of adult cancers are obesity-related, 27% of adult cancers such as cervical and breast cancers have evidence-based screening tests, and 16% of adult cancers could have been diagnosed in the early stages; 65% of those diagnosed with cancer die within five years; and

WHEREAS, with alarming prevalence of cancer and other NCDs, the government, community leaders have joined in a united battle against non-communicable diseases, and with all partners have established a National Coordinating Mechanism to guide our efforts to implement a comprehensive approach to NCD prevention and control in the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, these government and civil society partners have made significant efforts to increase awareness on social, economic and emotional impact of cancer and other NCDs to families and the Republic; and

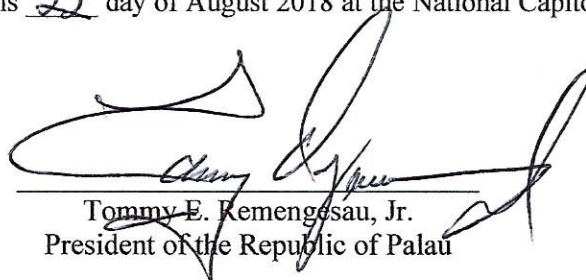
WHEREAS, with the current NCD statistics, it is urgent to develop and implement policy that encourage behavioral changes and environmental changes to allow for healthy options to be more affordable and accessible; increase access to cancer screening, early detection, and treatment; and

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 to families affected by cancer; and

WHEREAS, in this Year of Good Health, the month of September shall be observed as Cancer Awareness Month in efforts to make cancer prevention that is community driven – “Tekoi el Beluu”;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, by the virtue of power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2018 as Cancer Awareness Month and call upon all stakeholders to unite and join the effort in the fight against cancer in the Republic of Palau.

SO PROCLAIMED, this 22nd day of August 2018 at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.



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