



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940
Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828
Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662
Email: rop.president@palaunet.com

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 19-260

Declaring April 15-19, 2019 as National Disability Awareness Week

“Realization of Rights: Empowering persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusiveness and equality”

WHEREAS, around 15% of the world’s population, or one billion people, live with disabilities. People are often unaware of the great number of persons living with disabilities around the world and the challenges they face; and

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

WHEREAS, there are various government agencies, civil society organizations, private sectors, academia, persons with disabilities and their families, and communities providing programs and services 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, many commitments have been made by the international development community including the Republic of Palau to include Persons with disabilities in all aspects of development; and

WHEREAS, even with existing national laws, persons with disabilities and their families continue to face physical, social, economic and attitudinal barriers that prevent them from participating fully, equitably and effectively as equal members of society; and

WHEREAS, families are the center of social life ensuring the well-being of the community members, educating and socializing children and youth and caring for young and old; and

WHEREAS, taking families into account in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals has a potential to speed up the achievements of many targets relating to individuals’ well-being including Persons with Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, each year on the third week of April is marked as the National Disability Awareness Week; and



WHEREAS, the observance of this year's National Disability Awareness Week aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's NDAW is "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusiveness and equality". This theme focuses on empowering persons with disabilities for the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and

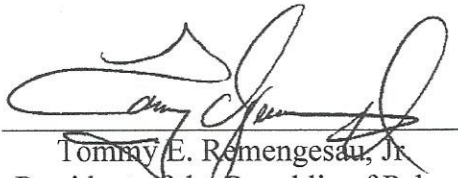
WHEREAS, the 2030 Agenda, pledging to "leave no one behind," is an ambitious plan of action of the international community towards a peaceful and prosperous world, where dignity of an individual person and equality among all is applied as the fundamental principle, cutting across the three pillars of the work of the United Nations: Development, Human Rights and Peace and Security. It is critical to ensure, in this regard, the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and create enabling environments by, for and with persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, governments, persons with disabilities, their representative Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) and families, civil society organizations, private sectors, academic institutions, and the community need to work as a "team" to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and

WHEREAS, Disability Awareness Week – 15-19 April 2019 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; and

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 hereby declare April 15-19, 2019 as National Disability Awareness Week. In doing so, I call on all of the People of Palau to observe April 15-19 as National Disability Awareness Week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to promote inclusion and equality of all Persons with Disabilities in our community.

SO PROCLAIMED this 14th day of April 2019 at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.


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