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. 19-266

Expressing Deep Sadness for the Passing of the Late President Maderngebuked Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr., Conveying the Appreciation of a Grateful Nation for his Contributions to the People of the Republic of Palau, and Ordering that all Flags be flown at Half Mast in his Honor

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2019, the Republic of Palau lost one of its greatest sons when former President Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. passed away at his home in Medalaii, Koror, at the age of 89 years; and

WHEREAS, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr.'s life story mirrors Palau's own, beginning on November 28, 1929, while the Republic was still under Japanese administration, when he was born to Antonio Sinsaku Remengesau Delkuu and Ongelibel Kedelaol Remengesau; and

WHEREAS, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr.'s early formative years, like Palau's, was heavily guided by the Japanese, attending *honka* (lower elementary school), in Ngaraard State, and then *hoshuka* (advanced elementary school) in Koror State; and

WHEREAS, just as Palau emerged from Japanese administration following World War II, so too did Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr., as he attended Ngaraard Elementary School and Palau Intermediate School from 1946 to 1949. As Palau began to look outwards to its neighbors in the Pacific and the United States, so too did Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr., as he continued his education at the Pacific Islands Teacher Training School in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, George Washington High School in Guam, and ultimately the University of Hawaii, from which he graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration; and

WHEREAS, in the Palauan tradition of serving one's community, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. began his life-long public service to his home nation at a young age, working as a Junior Clerk of the Trust Territory Government before he had even completed his education. His hard work was rewarded with a scholarship to the United Nations Fellowship program, enabling him to study Public Administration in Western Samoa. After completing his fellowship, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. returned home to continue his service with the TTPI Government. Through his hard work and dedication, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. worked his way up in the TTPI Government, serving as an interpreter, administrative advisor, economic and political advisor, the Acting Administrative Officer, an Economic and Political Program Assistant, and the Assistant District Administrator of the Palau District Administration for the TTPI Island Affairs Administration; and

WHEREAS, at the same time as serving in the TTPI Government, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. was as a participant in the 2nd Management Conference for Government Administrators in Hawai'i, a member of the Koror Municipal Council, Economic and Political Advisor for the Palau District Administrator, and President of the Ngaraard Young Men Association; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 1970, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. was promoted by the TTPI Administration to the position of District Administrator of Palau, the first and only Palauan to hold that position. As District Administrator, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. served as the voice of the people as they debated Palau's political future, seeking to transition from a trust territory to a republic; and

WHEREAS, during his term as District Administrator, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. continued his commitment to education and public service, attending the Micronesian Executive Seminar on Government Management in Washington, D.C., serving as a Representative to the PATA Conference, attending the Trust Territory Executive Seminar on Human Management in the Republic of Palau and Chuuk, attending the Sub-Regional Training Course on Project Analysis by the South Pacific Commission, participating in the inter-regional Working Group on Energy, and serving as the Deputy Director of Planning and Statistics at the TTPI Headquarters in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, as Palau emerged from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to become a new autonomous Republic, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. returned home to accept an appointment by the first President of the Republic of Palau, the late Haruo I. Remeliik, as Minister of Justice; and

WHEREAS, after a special election in 1985, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. ran for the Vice Presidency and was elected Vice President of the Republic of Palau and served as Minister of Justice under then President Lazarus E. Salii; and

WHEREAS, following the death of President Lazarus E. Salii, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. was sworn-in on August 20, 1988, as the fourth President of the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, in his service to the people of the Republic, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. was instrumental in the construction of the original Koror-Babeldaob Bridge, and the establishment of the first credit union in the Republic; and

WHEREAS, President Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. retired from government service in 1989 after more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. was then bestowed the highest ranking traditional chief title—Maderngebuked—of Ngaraard State. He performed his duties as High Chief Maderngebuked with compassion and a commitment to his community, serving as an active member of the Rubekul Belau (Council of Chiefs) with devotion and integrity on behalf of the people of the state of Ngaraard; and

WHEREAS, even after his retirement from formal public service, Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. remained involved with his community, serving as a member of OISCA, Taiwan Farmer's Association, and Ngaraard State Public Lands Authority, and numerous other civil society organizations, and was selected to be a bearer of the Olympic flame torch when it passed through Palau in 2000; and in recognition of his exemplary service to the community, he was bestowed the Presidential Award as an Outstanding Citizen of the Republic of Palau by then President Johnson Toribiong in 2010; and

Presidential Proclamation 19-266
Honoring the late Former President Maderngebuked Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr.
August 12, 2019

WHEREAS, the late Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr. will be forever remembered as being a true inspiration and example not only by his nine children—Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., Leon E. Remengesau, Mary Frances Ilolang R. Vogt, Victor E. Remengesau, Casmir E. Remengesau, Thelma R. Ngirameketii, Valerie N. R. Whipps, and Honora E. R. Rudimch—eighteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, but by all Palauans and those throughout the larger Pacific Island family;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and specifically 1 PNC § 503 (c) and Executive Order No. 292, I, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Palau, our deep sadness for the passing of this remarkable man, and pay tribute to his invaluable contributions to his family, community, and the people of the Republic of Palau; and hereby proclaim that as a display of the respect that his country and his fellow citizens have for the late President Maderngebuked Thomas O. Remengesau, Sr., all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau, and all flags of the Republic of Palau flown at the Embassies and Consulates of Palau in other countries, shall be hoisted at half-mast for a period of fifteen (15) days, commencing on August 13, 2019.

SO PROCLAIMED, this 12th day of August 2019 at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.

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