



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 Directive No. 20-39

Imposing a moratorium on government travel to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has yet to enter the Republic of Palau, which has not identified a single case to date; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, which was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China in December of 2019, has now spread to a majority of the world's countries; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of COVID-19 patients recover, but the total number of infections continues to grow and many of the Republic's closest neighbors and international travel hubs, including the Republic of the Philippines and Guam, have now identified multiple cases; and

WHEREAS, it is the highest priority of the national government to prevent the entry of COVID-19 to the Republic; and

WHEREAS, the government should always lead by example, especially on issues of public safety; and

WHEREAS, in these circumstances, international government travel presents an unacceptable risk of COVID-19 infection;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the President of the Republic of Palau pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby direct the appropriate subdivisions of the National Government as follows:

I. Moratorium on Official Government Travel:

No employee of the Executive Branch of the National Government shall undertake official international travel between March 18, 2020 and April 30, 2020. Management officials shall take prompt action to cancel any pending travel plans within their departments, and to seek the refund of any expended funds.

II. Self-Quarantine:

Any employee who has traveled overseas shall self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to the Republic. For the duration of the 14 day quarantine period the employee shall work



only from home, at the direction of his or her relevant management official. This requirement shall apply to any travel undertaken between March 4, 2020 and April 30, 2020.

III. Large Gatherings

Gatherings of more than 50 people are strongly discouraged between March 18, 2020 and May 30, 2020.

No government employee or office shall host, sponsor, or participate in a gathering of more than 50 people without the written approval of the President or a Minister. No government-hosted or government-sponsored gathering of more than 50 people will be approved without a written plan to protect the health of all participants.

This directive shall not be construed to require the closure of any school. The Ministry of Education is directed to establish its own policies regarding school gatherings, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and National Emergency Committee.


IV. Exemptions:

No exemption may be made to the requirements of Sections I, II, or III of this Directive, except by the President.

For employees of Executive Branch Ministries, any request for exemption from the requirements of Sections I or II of this Directive must be made in writing and signed by the responsible Minister.

For employees of independent agencies, any request for exemption from the requirements of Sections I or II of this Directive must be made in writing and signed by the Director.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 18th day of March 2020 in Koror, Republic of Palau.



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