Executive Order No. 441

Authorizing the Payment of a COVID-19 Stipend to Frontline Workers

WHEREAS, although Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has still not been identified in the Republic of Palau, it has been reported in almost every country on earth and Palau cannot avoid all contact with the rest of the world. Thus, it remains very likely that COVID-19 will eventually arrive on our shores; and

WHEREAS, testing and quarantine procedures, which are necessary for the safe entry of travelers including returning Palauan residents, entail an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 for our frontline workers; and

WHEREAS, these necessary measures are putting an increased strain on those in emergency response, law enforcement, immigration screening, and medical care roles; and

WHEREAS, it is important to show our support to these frontline workers, and to recognize the sacrifices they are making by continuing to do their jobs during this stressful and uncertain time; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that we maintain healthy morale on our COVID-19 frontlines, for the good of Palau and to ensure proper enforcement of testing and quarantine procedures.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Palau, a COVID-19 Stipend is hereby authorized for frontline workers, as follows:

COVID-19 Stipend: The Director of the Bureau of Public Service System shall establish a COVID-19 Stipend as additional compensation for frontline workers engaged in activities which present an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. This stipend shall be provided only to frontline workers and only for time actually spent on activities that entail an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. The rate of the stipend shall be set to ensure fair treatment of those frontline workers who are covered by the Public Service System, as compared to those who are exempt. The COVID-19 Stipend scheme shall take effect immediately and remain available until this order is amended or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 8th day of July, 2020, in the Republic of Palau.

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