

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 150

To Declare a State of Emergency Caused by the Collapse of the K-B Bridge

WHEREAS, on Thursday September 26, 1996 at approximately 5:45 p.m. a large portion of the K-B Bridge collapsed affecting public facilities such as roads, electrical power distribution, water supply and sewer systems, and

WHEREAS, the National Government is attempting to restore services to the State of Koror, to assess damage, and to provide assistance to injured persons, and

WHEREAS, the Council of Chiefs, the leadership of the Olbiil Era Kelulau and governors of the States of Koror and Airai have been consulted regarding the nature of the emergency, the National Government's efforts to restore services, assess damage and provide assistance to injured persons, and the necessity of declaring a state of emergency, and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 14 of the Constitution empowers the President to declare a state of emergency whenever a natural catastrophe threatens the lives or property of a significant number of people of Palau and to assume legislative powers as may be necessary to afford immediate and specific relief to those lives or property threatened, and

WHEREAS Article VIII, Section 14 of the Constitution further requires the President to call a meeting of the Olbiil Era Kelulau to confirm or disapprove the state of emergency,

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, hereby declare a state of emergency in the Republic of Palau in accordance with Article VIII, Section 14 of the Constitution, and other applicable provisions of law, during such emergency

1. The vice President as the chairman of the Disaster Plan Task Force is hereby charged with coordinating efforts among the ministries, public utilities and public communications to respond to this emergency;
2. The public is strongly encouraged to stay away from the site of the disaster. The National Government is undertaking an investigation of the site, and any disturbance of the site could impede the investigation. Under no circumstances is any person to remove any part of the bridge from the site of the disaster or in any way hinder the emergency efforts or the investigation;
3. The public is strongly encouraged not to travel by boat near the site except for essential travel purposes. Any person traveling by boat near the site should exercise extreme caution as there may be dangerous debris in a wide area near the site of the bridge;
4. Public and private schools in the State of Koror shall be canceled on September 27, 1996. The Minister of Education, in consultation with local school principals, shall

determine the date when classes may resume;

5. All National Government employees shall report to work on September 27, 1996;
6. The Director of the Bureau of Public Safety may, in consultation with the President and the Koror State government, determine if curfews are necessary for times and places other than those presently in effect and order such additional curfew hours;
7. Sales of alcoholic beverages in the State of Koror shall cease at 6:00 p.m. on September 27, 1996; no sales of alcoholic beverages after 6:00 p.m. shall be allowed on days after September 27, 1996 until electrical power has been restored to the entire State of Koror or until further notice of the President;
8. Officials of the Republic of Palau may commandeer or utilize private property necessary to cope with emergency conditions; provided, however, that each such order shall require the specific prior authorization of the President or the Vice President, and further provided that any such utilization of private property shall be subject to compensation in accordance with constitutional and applicable statutory provision;
9. The public's cooperation is requested to conserve water and electricity until further notice, when the water delivery lines from Airai have been reestablished and power is restored to all of Koror State; and
10. The Minister of Health is hereby directed to issue announcements regarding health and safety issues regarding the use of water and disposal of waste during this emergency.

NOTICE OF THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER shall be disseminated as rapidly as possible to the public, with public postings and radio announcements.

This Executive Order takes effect immediately and shall continue in effect until confirmed or disapproved by a meeting of the Olbiil Era Kelulau which is hereby called at a date and time to be announced. This Executive Order is signed in accordance with the Constitution 2 PNC Section 113 and other applicable statutory law.

September 26, 1996

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau