

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 213

Establishing Response, Quarantine and Preventive Measures to Minimize the Impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Palau

WHEREAS, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was identified last November and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have categorized the disease as a serious health hazard and have issued a world-wide alert in March of 2003; and

WHEREAS, SARS is known to have started in Guangdong, China and has spread to Hong Kong and then to other Asian and North American countries resulting in over 2,600 cases and over 100 deaths; and

WHEREAS, SARS has spread primarily from Hong Kong and Mainland China within the last 14 days; and

WHEREAS, there is no confirmed treatment for SARS except supportive care and isolation; and

WHEREAS, SARS is considered to be highly contagious with prolonged contact and, to date, all of the exact mode of transmission are unknown;

WHEREAS, healthcare providers are at risk of contracting SARS;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President, pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. Travel Restriction. The Minister of Health, or her designee, shall institute travel restrictions on travelers from Hong Kong, the Peoples Republic of China and other appropriate jurisdictions, as deemed appropriate and necessary to limit the introduction and spread of SARS in Palau.

2. Quarantine Policy. The Minister of Health shall institute, within five days, a quarantine policy, both at the hospital and at other appropriate locations, to limit the spread of SARS.

3. Reporting. The Minister of Health shall report to the Office of the President, and the National Emergency Management Office, on a weekly basis, or more frequently if necessary, the status of SARS treatment, quarantine and prevention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 10th day of April, 2003, at the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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