

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 264

Ordering a Postponement in the Scheduled Opening of Palau Schools for the 2009--2010 School Year.

WHEREAS, it is the Constitutional obligation of the national government of Palau to take positive action for the protection of the health, safety and security of persons in Palau; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2009, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health and the National Avian Influenza (H1N1) Advisory and Coordination Group, the President of Palau issued Executive Order No. 260 establishing response, quarantine and preventative measures to minimize the impact on Palau of the Swine Flu Influenza A (the "H1N1 Influenza"); and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health has strongly recommended to the President that as a precautionary measure to further limit and minimize the spread of the H1N1 Influenza and related influenza in Palau, the opening of the public and parochial schools in Palau for the 2009-2010 school year should be postponed for a minimum of two weeks; and

WHEREAS, the President has determined that it is in the best interests of the Republic for the government to be proactive and to take appropriate precautions to protect the health, safety and security of our students, it being less costly to postpone the start of school than to risk the further spread of the H1N1 Influenza and related influenza among our children, who are particularly susceptible and vulnerable to the ravages of the disease; and

WHEREAS, as required by law, each of the several public and parochial schools in the Republic, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, have established their respective beginning and ending dates of the 2009-2010 school year, the earliest such beginning date being August 10, 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, after consulting with the Minister of Education, pursuant to the authority vested in the President by Article VIII of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau, the President orders as follows:

1. No public or parochial schools in the Republic shall begin their 2009-2010 school year until at least August 24, 2009. To the extent the Ministry of Education has approved the opening of any public or parochial schools prior to August 24, 2009, such approval is hereby withdrawn and such prior date is hereby postponed until at least August 24, 2009.

2. So as to assure that their respective schools are in session for not less than 180 days, exclusive of holidays, as required by 41 PNC § 158 all public and parochial schools in the Republic shall immediately confer with and obtain the approval of the Ministry of Education for their new opening and closing dates for the 2009-2010 school year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 5th day of August, 2009.

/s/
Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau