

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 295

Declaring a State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases within the Ministry of Health and ordering the Minister of Health to immediately establish programs to stop, reduce and eliminate the incidences of Non Communicable Diseases

WHEREAS, the State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) has been declared by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA by its Resolution No. 48-1) and endorsed by the Micronesian Chief Executives, Micronesian Presidents, Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures, Micronesian Traditional Leaders Council and Micronesian Chief Justices; and

WHEREAS, the Nadi Statement, on the Crisis of Non Communicable Diseases in the Pacific Island Countries, is being adopted as a pan Pacific statement on NCDs and will be addressed at the High Level Meeting in the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) has reached an epidemic proportion in Palau resulting in the Ministry of Health spending a minimum of 55% of its appropriated budget for its management; and

WHEREAS, the Non Communicable Diseases are the leading causes of death, off-island medical referrals, hospital admissions and hemodialysis and indicators shows that the youth in Palau will develop a much bigger burden in the future due to high tobacco use, increasing alcohol consumption, and obesity rates at 33% of all schools children, and is worsening; and

WHEREAS, the current health care system in Palau, including the health account, human resource capacities, ancillary and support services, model of health care delivery and over all policy designs are inadequate in addressing the burden of NCDS efficiently; and

WHEREAS, strengthening care systems, reinvigorating primary health care and revitalizing health setting that will improve other programs in the Ministry of Health is urgently needed at this time in order to stop, reduce and eliminate the incidences of Non Communicable Diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in the President by Article VIII of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau, and by Title 13 of the Palau National Code, the President orders as follows.

1. The Minister of Health is to utilize the MOH Incidence Command System to coordinate activities to manage the crisis brought about by Non Communicable Diseases.
2. The Minister of Health will align all policies, programs, services and activities of the Ministry of Health in order to stop, reduce and eliminate the incidences of Non Communicable Diseases.
3. All Ministers and heads of national government agencies, when called upon, are to assist the Minister of Health in his effort at tackling this national crisis.

4. The Minister of Health shall keep all records of requests for assistance from Ministers and heads of national government agencies, to include any form of assistance provided and to report to the President every six months.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 4th day of May 2011, at the State of Melekeok, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau