

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 313

*Declaring the National Election Day as a National Holiday to be known as the
“National Day of Democracy”*

WHEREAS, the Supreme Law of our nation is our Constitution which became effective on January 1, 1981 ushering in a system of government based upon democratic principles; and

WHEREAS, the most fundamental attribute of a true democracy is the right of the people to choose their leaders through open and free elections by secret ballot; and

WHEREAS, even though the right to vote is recognized by the United Nations in its *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as being fundamental to participatory government and yet today billions of people around the world do not enjoy this right; and

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Palau Constitution, entitled *Suffrage*, grants all citizens of the Republic of Palau over the age of 18 years the precious right to vote in all national and state elections making us among the free peoples in the world and ensuring that our government derives its powers from the people; and

WHEREAS, November 6, 2012 will mark the 9th time that the citizens of Palau have exercised their right of suffrage to vote for their national representatives and leaders; and

WHEREAS, it is proper and fitting that a date be set aside for us to honor and celebrate this underlying principle of democracy, that is the precious right of suffrage, and no date is more appropriate for this purpose than the National Election Day as designated by our Constitution..

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President by 1 PNC § 701, I hereby declare and designate November 6, 2012 and each subsequent National Election Day, a legal holiday of the Republic of Palau to be known as the *National Day of Democracy*, on which to devote our time to recognize, honor, celebrate, and commemorate democracy in general and in particular our fundamental right to vote that our citizens cherish and enjoy.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 31st day of October, 2012.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau