

Executive Order No. 372

To develop an educational curriculum to combat Non Communicable Diseases in the Republic.

WHEREAS, Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have reached epidemic proportions in Palau, resulting in the Ministry of Health spending a minimum of 55% of its appropriated budget to manage NCDs; and

WHEREAS, NCDs are the leading causes of death, off-island medical referrals, hospital admissions, and hemodialysis; and

WHEREAS, indicators show that the incidences of NCDs are increasing amongst our youth and that the youth in Palau will become a much bigger health burden on our society in the future due to high tobacco use, increasing alcohol consumption, and high incidences of obesity rates approaching 33% of all school aged children; 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 overall policy designs are inadequate to address the burden of NCDs efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has noted that in order to lessen the impact of NCDs on individuals and society, a comprehensive approach is needed that requires all sectors, including health, finance, foreign affairs, education, agriculture, planning, and others, to work together to reduce the risks associated with NCDs, as well as promote the interventions to prevent and control them; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has also noted that low-cost solutions exist to reduce the common risk factors, such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, and the harmful use of alcohol, through a comprehensive action across the continuum including education and promotion of healthy lifestyles, policy and environmental changes, as well as health systems strengthening for effective service delivery; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health engaged community stakeholders to develop the National Non Communicable Disease Strategic Plan in March 2014, recognizing the need to engage all sectors of the community to combat NCDs among our general population especially the youths, and calling for a strong partnership between the ministries of health and education to implement appropriate strategies in the schools to prevent and control NCDs among students; and

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in the President under the Constitution of the Republic as the Chief Executive of the Republic, I hereby order the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to work together and engage relevant community stakeholders to:

- (1) Form a Task Force comprised of a steering committee or a working group to mobilize resources and execute orders 2-5 below;
- (2) Enhance health and physical education curriculum to promote healthy lifestyles and to prevent and control NCDs among our youth, which shall include education regarding appropriate lifestyle choices, such as eliminating or reducing tobacco and alcohol use, eating healthy, and obtaining the appropriate amount of physical activity and exercise;
- (3) Ensure that more physical activities are incorporated into the school curriculum for K-12 in order to fulfill the physical activity requirements for school aged children;
- (4) Promote healthy eating amongst students by eliminating the availability of unhealthy foods (i.e. foods with excessive amounts of salt, sugar, and saturated fats) on campuses, and introducing more local foods to the menu of school lunches (i.e., school gardening); and
- (5) Develop and implement appropriate and comprehensive tobacco control policies for all school cam uses.

It is so Ordered this 25th day of August, 2014:

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President
Republic of Palau