

**Super Typhoon Bopha  
Declaration of a State of Emergency  
December 4, 2012**

**WHEREAS**, commencing on Sunday evening, December 2, through the early morning hours of Monday, December 3, 2012, Palau was struck by Super Typhoon Bopha, which inflicted significant damage to all areas of Palau, but particularly to all the States of the Despedal of Babeldaob, and to the States of Angaur and Peleliu. While thankfully there was no reported loss of life, the winds and storm surge accompanying Super Typhoon Bopha completely destroyed several residences and significantly damaged many others, causing scores of people to be rendered homeless for the foreseeable future. Schools and other public buildings and infrastructure throughout Palau were similarly destroyed or damaged by Super Typhoon Bopha. In some areas the storm surge pushed ocean water several hundred feet inland cutting and destroying some roads and covering others with several feet of coral rock and sand. Crops were damaged destroyed, having been blown down or as a result of their being inundated by ocean water. Power lines throughout Palau were cut or knocked down. Electrical power to all of Babeldaob and most of Koror remains off and will continue to be off for the foreseeable future. Similarly, water and sewer service has been knocked out or disrupted and will remain so for the foreseeable future. All of the foregoing damage and destruction threatens Palau's food supply and poses significant public health issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 14 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau provides that:

Whenever war, external aggression, civil rebellion or natural catastrophe threatens the lives or property of a significant number of people in Palau, the President may declare a state of emergency and temporarily assume such legislative powers as may be necessary to afford immediate and specific relief to those lives or property so threatened. At the time of the declaration of a state of emergency, the President shall call a meeting of the Olbiil Era Kelulau to confirm or disapprove the state of emergency. The President shall not exercise emergency powers for a period of more than ten (10) days without the express and continuing consent of the Olbiil Era Kelulau; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the catastrophic destruction inflicted on the Republic of Palau by Super Typhoon Bopha, in the exercise of his constitutional authority, the President has determined that the welfare and well-being and the lives and property of a significant number of the people of Palau is threatened and will, for the foreseeable future, continued to be threatened;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the President's constitutional authority under Section 14 of Article VIII of the Palau Constitution, the President hereby declares that a State of

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Emergency exists and determines that the President must immediately and temporarily assume such legislative powers as may be necessary to afford immediate and specific relief to those lives or property so threatened; and

**PROVIDED FURTHER**, pursuant to the President's constitutional authority under Section 14 of Article VIII of the Palau Constitution, the President hereby calls a meeting of the Senate and the House of Delegates of the Eight Olbiil Era Kelulau to convene at 3:00 o'clock p.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2012, in special session to confirm or disapprove the foregoing Declaration of a State of Emergency.

**SO DECLARED** at 12:00 o'clock p.m., this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

/s/

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Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau