

## PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 01-03

### World Health Day

WHEREAS, persons defined, treated or hospitalized as mentally ill or suffering from emotional distress share, as stated in both the 1948 Founding Document of the World Federation for Mental Health and in the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, and the common humanity of persons everywhere; and

TAKING NOTE, that the World Health Organization has selected mental health as the theme of the WORLD HEALTH DAY to be observed across the globe on 7 April, 2001; and

#### MINDFUL

Of the need to recognize that mental illness affects the lives of many of our citizens and residents of all ages and sectors;

Of the fact that mental illness reduces the quality of life and functioning in society;

Of the need to improve the services and make them available to all; and

Of the fact that persons with mental illness and their families face exclusion from the benefits enjoyed by other members of society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2001 to be WORLD HEALTH DAY in the Republic of Palau, this day to be devoted to MENTAL HEALTH. In so doing, I call on all sectors of society to work towards dispelling myths regarding mental health that have an adverse effect on the long overdue care of the persons with mental illness and on their full rights of citizenship too often denied.

SO PROCLAIMED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2001 at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau