

Presidential Proclamation No. 02-29

Declaring December 1-7, 2002 as Hospital Week for the Republic of Palau
(in Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Belau National Hospital)

WHEREAS, the Hospital as an Institution is one of the oldest service institutions in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital in Palau is one of the oldest service Institutions serving the people in Palau in health and medical care since the German era in Palau; and

WHEREAS, through the existence of the Hospital, came the first modern trained medical and health professional men and women in Palau beginning right before and right after World War II; and

WHEREAS, through the Hospital, Doctors, Nurses, Public Health professionals and many support personnel have since the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s worked in teams tirelessly to get rid successfully of many environmentally induced and communicable diseases and have continued to do so until today; and

WHEREAS, McDonald Memorial Hospital was built to replace the old Japanese hospital structure in Ngerbeched In Koror; and

WHEREAS, in due course in the late 1970s, it became imperative that plans for a new hospital for Palau be initiated; and

WHEREAS, because Palau at the time was part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific islands (TTPI), such plans were included in the entire TTPI plan for new hospitals in the TTPI districts. Hence, policy decision toward construction of the Palau Hospital was Initiated; and

WHEREAS, this challenge was subsequently taken by all the policymakers in Palau, including the Ministers of Health, Directors of Health and Health Administrators and members of executive and legislative branches of the Palau Government, from that time on who worked tirelessly to ensure a new hospital would be built for Palau; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau officials negotiated and received support and funding for the construction of the new hospital from the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Belau National Hospital was finally built and opened for business on 4th December 1992 in Meyuns, Ngerkebesang island, Koror; and

WHEREAS, since that time, Belau National Hospital has substantially improved its services to the public by working though stronger and innovative collaboration and cooperative efforts with the Bureau of Public Health Services to expand hours of services for urgent care in

the Out Patient Department and the Emergency Room, by upgrading the training of personnel In all hospital departments, by providing specialist physician staff as well as generalist physicians for direct patient care, by Initiating continuing medical and nursing education for its staff, by procuring state of the art medical equipment, by improving services in the hemodialysis unit and making patient care more convenient, by renovating the patient wards to make them more comfortable, by providing consultation to island health dispensaries, by stabilizing and transporting critically ill patients within Palau and to off-island hospitals, by developing and implementing telemedicine protocols and processes to promote distance medical consulting with offisland medical centers, and by providing the best medical care within its resources:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested In me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, I, Tommy Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, ask all residents of this Republic to join me in honoring the Tenth Anniversary of Belau National Hospital, our hospital, to celebrate the accomplishments that have been made through the hospital. More importantly, let us show our appreciation and gratitude to the men and women who make these accomplishments possible through tireless, round-the-clock services to our people of Palau. Let the Hospital Week only bring to focus what we need to do each day of the year.

SO PROCLAIMED. this 27th day of November 2002 at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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