

Presidential Proclamation No. 02-33

Regarding Death of Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J.

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, 17 December 2002, after a lifetime of both religious and public services to the people of the Republic of Palau, Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. was called to eternal rest by the Almighty God; and

WHEREAS, the late Father Felix K, Yaoch, S.J. was born on 26 June 1932; and

WHEREAS, the late Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. attended Japanese school during the Japanese administration of Palau, Koror Elementary School from 1946 to 1948, Pacific Island Central School in Chuuk from 1948 to 1949, and graduated from Duanas High School in Guam in 1969; and

WHEREAS, from 30 June 1954 to 8 June 1967, the late Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. entered the Society of Jesus and studied at the Novaliches College in Quezon City, Philippines; took his first vow as a Jesuit: studied Latin, Greek and English classics; received his A.B. and M.A. degrees in philosophy from Berchmans College in Cebu, Philippines; taught in Xavier High School in Chuuk, FSM; studied theology at Woodstock College, Woodstock, Maryland, USA, earning Bachelor and Tiresiate (Masters) degrees In Sacred Theology; and finally ordained to the priesthood in Buffalo, New York, USA; and

WHEREAS, from 1914 to 1976, the late Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. did his Tertianship, a year of study and practice of Ignatius Spirituality at Novaliches; and at Loyola House of Studies, Quezon City, Philippines, received his final vows of Solemn Profession as a Jesuit; and

WHEREAS, from 1967 to 2002, the late Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. served on various church and public organizations including organizing committee to form PCAA, Chairman of Palau Board of Education, Palau First Political Status Commission, Micronesian Bible Society, Koror State representative to the Constitutional Convention, Chairman of Palau National Communications Corporation, Director of Micronesian Novices, Koror Manresa Jesuit Novitiate, Local Superior of Palau and Yap Jesuits, Episcopal Vicar for Palau and Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Church Consultor to the Superiors of Micronesian Jesuits, and finally Regional Superior of the Jesuits of Micronesia, a position he held until his untimely death; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, the late Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. was also a father, a son and a friend to all regardless of his or her citizenship and religious belief. He was often called upon to offer comments on various national issues and private lives of the people;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and by the provision of 1 PNC 503(c) and of Executive Order No. 24, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that a national mourning shall be observed throughout the Republic as a tribute to the late Father Felix K. Yaoch, S.J. and that to properly observe the occasion of the death of this distinguished public

and religious servant, all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau, and national flags of the Republic of Palau flown at Embassies and Consulate offices of Palau in other countries, shall be flown at half-mast for a period of five (5) consecutive days, commencing on 24 December 2002 and ending on 25 December 2002.

SO PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of December 2002. at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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