

Presidential Proclamation No. 02-99

Declaring “No Tobacco Day” for the Republic of Palau

WHEREAS, the health of all people is a true measure of a nation’s vitality; and

WHEREAS, the health of Palauans is inseparably linked with the health of people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS all the nations of the world, acting through the World Health Organization (WHO), which Palau fully supports, are pledged to the renewal of the goal “Health for All” by the year 2000 and into the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, May 31st of each year has been established by WHO as *World No Tobacco Day*, an occasion to educate, to encourage increased community involvement, and to focus on the unity of our health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 World No Tobacco Day theme is “Leave the Pack Behind”; and

WHEREAS, the health, personal and financial benefits of quitting tobacco use are well documented; and

WHEREAS, nicotine is powerfully addictive and there are real health gains to be made from stopping at any age; and

WHEREAS, tobacco has shown to cause about twenty-five life threatening diseases, or groups of diseases, many of which can be prevented, delayed, or mitigated by tobacco use cessation; and

WHEREAS, the creation of an environment that will help more people decide to quit, succeed at quitting and stay away from tobacco for good will benefit each and every one of us in the Republic and the generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby declare May 31, 1999 as “No Tobacco Day” and urge all citizens to observe and take part in activities designed to advance the cause of tobacco-related disease prevention by promoting awareness and by encouraging participation in the worldwide efforts to attain “Health for All.” I also urge all citizens who use tobacco to “leave the pack behind.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my seal this 20th day of May, 1999, in Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau