

Presidential Proclamation No. 03-43

Proclaiming 10 October 2003 as World Mental Health Day

WHEREAS, the World Federation for Mental Health has designated “*Emotional and Behavioral Disorders for Children and Adolescents*” as the primary focus of the World Mental Health Day 2003; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has reported that worldwide up to 20% of children and adolescents suffer from an impairing illness, yet only one in five receives the treatment they need; and

WHEREAS, the current worldwide situation in both developed and developing countries reflects a virtual absence of policies for caring of children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the pressing need to increase public awareness of the importance of the emotional well-being of our nation's young people, the need to reduce stigma and discrimination that prevent many parents from seeking help for their children who experience emotional and behavioral problems, and the need to improve the availability and quality of children and adolescent mental health services;

I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim 10 October 2003 as the World Mental Health Day in Palau and urge all people of Palau to take part in activities designed for observance of this day. I urge all to

Participate in efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health needs of all children and adolescents;

Advocate for improved quality of access to mental health services for children and adolescents and for the increased availability of effective mental health services that are culturally, age and gender appropriate, and that meet local needs; and

Support advocacy efforts to encourage governmental leaders to adopt and implement a national children and adolescent mental health policy to provide guidelines for developing an appropriate, responsive and economically sound continuum of mental health care for children and adolescents.

SO PROCLAIMED this 8th day of October , 2003, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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