

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 04-53

Declaring December 2004 as Drunk Driving Prevention Month

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau's most at-risk group for driving impaired are young adult males, aged 21-35; and

WHEREAS, death and serious injuries associated with alcohol use continue to plague our nation; and

WHEREAS, many of the victims of drunk driver-caused accidents are innocent passengers and family members of those injured; and

WHEREAS, Palauans cannot tolerate this senseless cause of death and injury on our roads; and

WHEREAS, if this problem is not curbed immediately, many more Palauans will suffer, particularly in light of the improved roads in Babeldaob, which make driving at higher speeds more attractive; and

WHEREAS, the holiday season is in full swing, and we must make a renewed effort reduce the number of intoxicated drivers on our roads.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim December 2004, as National Drunk Driving Prevention Month. In making this Proclamation, I also:

- call upon citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, schools and medical facilities in Palau to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies;
- urge establishments licensed to sell alcohol to comply with laws aimed at protecting the people through the prohibition of the sale of alcohol to intoxicated customers;
- remind friends, family and concerned citizens to do their part by not allowing persons to drive after they have been consuming alcoholic beverages;
- and call upon everyone in the nation to assist in the effort to eliminate drunk driving by alerting police officers of such activities and by fully cooperating at sobriety checkpoints.

SO PROCLAIMED *this 7th day of December 2004, at Koror, Republic of Palau.*

/s/

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