

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 06-73

Proclaiming October 10, 2006 as Mental Health Day

WHEREAS, the World Federation for Mental Health has designated “*Building Awareness - Reducing Risk; Mental Illness and Suicide*” as the focus of World Mental Health Day 2006; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,000,000 people die by suicide yearly - one death every 40 seconds; and

WHEREAS, 450 million people worldwide are affected by mental, neurological or behavioral problems at any time; and

WHEREAS, mental disorders are associated with more than 90% of all cases of suicide; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidal behavior works against early intervention and prevention by keeping persons at risk of suicide from seeking life saving help; and

WHEREAS, reducing the risk of suicide and the incidence of mental illnesses should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby Proclaim October 10, 2006 *Mental Health Day* in Palau and urge all people in Palau to take part in the following activities:

- Increase awareness that mental illnesses and suicide are major local, national and worldwide health problems, impacting the well-being of individuals, families, communities and nations;
- Support efforts to raise awareness and disseminate information about the risk factors and warning signs associated with mental illness and suicide;
- Encourage the implementation of strategies to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention services;
- Promote the adoption of policies and funding needed to implement prevention, intervention and treatment activities that are effective in reducing the risk of suicide and suicide attempts;
- Promote increase availability of and access to mental health and substance abuse diagnosis, intervention, and treatment services; and
- Promote and support research and education programs to reduce the risk of suicide in the general population and among people with a mental illness.

SO PROCLAIMED this 4th Day of October, 2006 at Koror State, Republic of Palau

/s/

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