

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 06-99

World Mental Health Day in ROP -10 October 1999

WHEREAS, the United Nations has designated 1999 as “International Year of Older Persons - Towards a Society For All Ages” and the Principles of Older Persons was adopted by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 46191) on 16 December 1991, clearly recognizing the special needs and protection of rights for older persons; and

WHEREAS, the World Federation for Mental Health has designated “Mental Health and Ageing” as the primary focus of World Mental Health Day 1999, therefore we pledge to:

Take action to increase public awareness and understanding of the mental and emotional needs of the elderly; thus enhancing the ability of individuals and communities to reduce the fear and misunderstanding of mental health problems;

Acknowledge the emotional effect of security issues upon the older persons, including health, housing, family, economic concerns and social welfare;

Improve the quality of access of mental health care for older people throughout the world by providing effective mental health services that are integrated with all forms of health care, are culturally appropriate, and that meet local needs;

Develop strategies that target the special issues of older persons, their continuing participation within the community and the disorders to which they are vulnerable;

Provide families with special support systems for coping with the burdens of tending to the special needs of older persons with mental disabilities; and

Bring about the recognition and enforcement of the rights of people with mental disabilities as established by international human rights treaties and as detailed in human rights resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, including the rights to: independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, do hereby proclaim October 10, 1999 to be World Mental Health Day in the Republic of Palau and pledge to support the accomplishment of the above-mentioned objectives. In so doing, I urge all of our citizens to take part in activities designed for the observance of the Mental Health Day.

SO PROCLAIMED, this 5th day of October 1999, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau