

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 07-97

Regarding the Death of the Late Simer Eriich

WHEREAS, the late Simer Eriich, was born on March 28, 1932 at the State of Koror, Republic of Palau, to Idolodaol Eriich and Dirraimeduu Umengal, his natural father and mother respectively; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, December 22, 1997 at about 1: 00 p. m. , Palau time, the late Simer Eriich was called to eternal rest; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Eriich has established, with distinction, himself as a devoted public servant having worked in numerous posts at different branches of the Government; and

WHEREAS, in early years of his public service, the late Mr. Eriich worked as a Mechanic stationed at Public Work at the Airai Airfield construction project; and later worked as an auto mechanic for a period from 1966-83 at the Nekken Agriculture and Forestry; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Eriich was appointed in 1967 by then District Administrator J. B. MacKenzie to be a Community Court Judge at the Aimeliik Municipality where he proved his judicious capabilities; and

WHEREAS, having established, gained and earned the confidence and trust of the people of Aimeliik State, the late Mr. Eriich was elected as the First Governor of the first Aimeliik State Constitutional Government in 1983 and was again, blessed with renewed trust and confidence, he was re-elected to continue his second term as a Governor in 1987 until 1991; and

WHEREAS, the late Governor Eriich championed the infrastructure development of the State of Aimeliik by paving and connecting all the State's secondary roads to the main unpaved highway leading to other States of the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the late Governor Eriich also worked hard with the National Government to connect all houses with electrical power, built multi-youth playground, which is now named after him as "Eriich Playground", and constructed water systems for the State; and

WHEREAS, the late Governor Eriich spent much of his time as operator of various heavy equipments in the clearing, paving and aligning the State's secondary roads and the road leading to the IPSECO Power Plant, thereby earned the respect and became known by many as the "Action Man"; and

WHEREAS, the first eight years of the Aimeliik State Constitutional Government was crucial in that proper direction was necessary to guide the State's growth from infancy to maturity and the late Governor Eriich was the right man at the right time to set the tone and direction of the State's development endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the late Governor Eriich so impressed the national leaders in his development skills and determination that late President Ngiratkel Etpison awarded him Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding services to the Government of the Republic of Palau by continually repairing and maintaining the road between the State of Aimeliik and the States of Airai and Koror; and

WHEREAS, the late Governor Eriich is not only a reliable public servant but a good family man; and

WHEREAS, the late Governor Eriich is survived by his wife of many years, Mrs. Omecheroll Eriich; children: sons - Brownny, Brien and Burton; daughters - Mercy, Cynthia and Maylani; sisters - Dirrachong Dingilius and Remusei Tabelual; brother - Kebekol Mariur; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau and by the provisions of 1 PNC 503(c) and of Executive Order No. 24, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that a state of national mourning shall be observed throughout the Republic as a tribute to the late Governor Simer Eriich and that to properly observe the occasion of the death of this distinguished public servant, all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau, and national flags of the Republic flown at liaison offices of Palau in other countries, shall be flown at half-mast for a period commencing on 24 December 1997, and ending one day after his burial.

SO PROCLAIMED this 24th day of December 1997, at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau