

## PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 08-00

Declaring May 23, 2000, a Holiday in Honor of the Passing of the Olympic Torch Through the Republic of Palau and in Support and Celebration of Olympian Ideals MAY 17, 2000

WHEREAS, the first Olympic Flame was introduced to the modern Olympics at the Opening Ceremony of the Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Amsterdam 1928 as a symbol of the eternal principles of life based on joy through effort, living by example, and respect for universal ethics; and

WHEREAS the Olympic Games Torch Relay has become a tradition of the Olympic Games and a way to spread and share the respect for and celebration of Olympian ideals throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the International Olympic Committee granted full National Olympic Committee status to the Republic of Palau on June 19, 1999, and, in doing so, acknowledged the Republic of Palau as a participating country; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Olympic Games Torch Relay will visit 13 Oceania Countries and the Republic of Palau on May 23, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Olympic Games Torch Relay will include 100 Torchbearers from Palau to pass the Olympic Flame throughout Palau, representing a unique opportunity for Palauans to demonstrate the Republic's growing participation in international endeavors of all types, including cultural and sporting events, and to showcase our unique culture; and

WHEREAS, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay will bring the Olympic Games to the doorstep of the people and children of Palau;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Article 1, Section 701, of the Palau National Code, as President of the Republic of Palau, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, do hereby proclaim May 23, 2000 to be "Palau Olympic Torch Relay Celebration Day" to be observed as a National Holiday for the Republic of Palau. All national and state government employees, students, and members of the various communities of our island nation, irrespective of race, religion, sex and age, are urged to observe and participate in the Olympic Torch Relay Celebration and activities on May 23, 2000.

SO DECLARED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2000, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Kuniwo Nakamura  
President of the Republic of Palau