

## **PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 08-98**

Regarding the Death of the Late Ngirkebai Sadang Ngiraecherang Silmai

WHEREAS, on Saturday, September 5, 1998 at approximately 5:05 a.m., Palau time, after a lifetime of public service and commitment to the people of Palau, Ngirkebai Sadang Ngiraecherang Silmai was called to his eternal rest; and

WHEREAS, the late Ngirkebai Sadang Ngiraecherang Silmai was born on March 20, 1925 in the State of Ngardmau and attended five (5) years of Japanese school in Palau and later completed training under the U.S. Naval administration and the Pacific Island Teachers Training School; and

WHEREAS, during the Japanese administration, the late Ngirkebai Silmai worked for the Ngardmau Bauxite Company, represented his State of Ngardmau to the South Pacific to attend Japanese Seamen Training School at Macasar, Celebes Island, Indonesia, and performed numerous work for South Seas Aluminum Company including a supervisory capacity for mining of bauxite; and

WHEREAS, the late Ngirkebai Silmai worked within the Palau school system and held numerous important positions including Vice Principal of Palau Intermediate School (1951-52) and later became its Principal (1953-56), Superintendent of Palau Elementary Schools (1958), Adult Education Supervisor (1959), Vice Principal of Palau High School (1964-1971), Curriculum Supervisor (1972-73), and School Curriculum Superintendent (1974-77); and

WHEREAS, the late Ngirkebai Silmai was elected member of Koror Municipal Council (1969-72), member of the First Congress of Micronesia (1965-66), served ten (10) years in Palau District Legislature (1970-80), served as Magistrate of Ngardmau (1983-84), one of the framers of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau (1979), member of Ngardmau Constitutional Convention (1984), became Governor Ngardmau State (1989-92), and member of Ngardmau State Legislature (1985-98); and

WHEREAS, the late Ngirkebai Silmai also served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Palau Community Action Agency (1969-70), chairman of the Palau Olympic Team to Saipan (1969), member of the Palau Political Status Commission, and Coordinator for the Palau National Emergency Management Office (1985), member of Commission on Future Palau-US Relations (1989-90); and

WHEREAS, the late Ngirkebai Silmai held the title Ngirkebai, the second highest ranking Chief of Ngardmau State (1982-1998); and

WHEREAS, the late Ngirkebai Silmai is survived by his wife, Maria Gibbons Silmai, his children- Richard, Frank, Verna J. Narizelski, Hayato, Victor, Grace and Clayton- and two grandchildren- Btuuch and Keriik;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau and by the provisions of 1 PNC 503(c) and 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 Ngirkebai Sadang Ngiraecherang Silmai 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 Embassy and Consular offices of Palau in other countries, shall be flown at half-mast for a period of four (4) days, commencing on September 8, 1998 and ending on September 11, 1998.

SO PROCLAIMED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1998 at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Kuniwo Nakamura  
President of the Republic of Palau