

**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 09-92**  
***Declaring April 2009 as Alcohol Awareness Month***

**WHEREAS**, alcohol affects your brain; drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses, and even blackouts,

**WHEREAS**, alcohol affects your body; alcohol can damage every organ in your body. It is absorbed directly into your bloodstream and can increase your risk for a variety of life-threatening diseases, including cancer,

**WHEREAS**, alcohol affects your self-control; alcohol depresses your central nervous system, lowers your inhibitions, and impairs your judgment. Drinking can lead to risky behaviors, including having unprotected sex. This may expose you to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases or cause unwanted pregnancy.

**WHEREAS**, underage alcohol use is more likely to have damaging effects on the developing brain; and

**WHEREAS**, binge drinking (five or more drinks in a short time) is a dangerous drinking pattern common in Palau; and

**WHEREAS**, driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol is dangerous and carries stiff penalties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of Chiefs and the Council on Substance Abuse Prevention (COSAP) invite all citizens of the Republic of Palau to get involved in the prevention of alcohol use and abuse in their communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I JOHNSON TORIBIONG**, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby declare April 2009 as Alcohol Awareness Month in Palau and urge everyone this month and throughout the year to take part in observance and activities designed to advance the cause of prevention and control of alcohol use and abuse.

**SO PROCLAIMED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2009 at Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau