

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 09-06

Declaring the Month of September as Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, cancer has become the number one cause of death in the Republic of Palau, and its incidence among Palauans is steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, such increase in cancer cases in Palau may be directly linked to the changing lifestyles and diets of the people of Palau, including the change from a simple diet of local fish, fruit and vegetables to a more complex diet of imported, processed food; and

WHEREAS, use of cigarettes and other tobacco products, and consumption of alcoholic beverages also contribute to the higher incidence of cancer among our people; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Ministry of Health and the Cancer Coalition (O.M.U.B.) have formed a partnership to raise awareness on the social, economic and emotional impact of cancer to families and the Republic; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to implement comprehensive cancer prevention and control services within Palau to focus on all aspects of cancer care; and

WHEREAS, to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality, it is necessary to conduct a large scale public education campaign regarding cancer prevention, particularly encouraging screening and early detection programs, designed to catch cancer at its earliest stage when it is treatable; and

WHEREAS, we must create, enhance and promote Survivorship/Palliative care programs, designed to reduce the social, economic, emotional and spiritual burden of cancer care to families affected thereby; and

WHEREAS, the month of September shall be observed as cancer awareness month;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, I hereby proclaim the month of September as Cancer Awareness Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 28th day of August, 2009, at the Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President of the Republic of Palau