

## **Presidential Proclamation No. 09-10**

*Recognizing October 10, 2009*

*As*

### ***WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY***

**WHEREAS**, stress, anxiety disorders, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia are leading causes of poor work performance, family disruption, and even suicide, and contribute greatly to the national burden of disease in Palau; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many who will benefit from early interventions and diagnosis, with appropriate and adequate treatment and support;

**WHEREAS**, mental health disorders and the toll they take upon the affected families, friends, and society as a whole, merit greater attention and concern by all of our people, particularly public and private sector leaders, so that additional priority will be afforded to mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Palau Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council has designated the theme for World Mental Health Day 2009 as “***Mental Health in Primary Care: Enhancing Treatment and Promoting Mental Health,***” and urges increased availability of appropriate and equitable mental health services through primary healthcare services;

**THEREFORE, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau DO HEREBY PROCLAIM 10 OCTOBER 2009 AS WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY** in Palau and urge all governmental and non-governmental mental health organizations and agencies to work in concert with elected and appointed public officials to increase public awareness about and acceptance of, mental illnesses and the people living with these disorders; promote improved public policies and improve services for the diagnosis, treatment and support for those in need of them through the primary healthcare system; and to reduce the persistent stigma and discrimination that too often serve as barriers for people seeking services and supports available to them.

I FURTHER URGE ALL CITIZENS TO join and support the local, state, and national nongovernmental organizations that are working to make mental health a priority in our communities across Palau.

Together, we will make a difference and promote mentally healthy communities and citizens!

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 06<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

/s/

---

Johnson Toribiong  
President of the Republic of Palau