

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 09-98

Declaring October 10, 1998 as World Mental Health Day

WHEREAS, the Vienna Declaration, adopted at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, reaffirmed the universality of international human rights as established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and established that people with physical and mental disabilities have the same rights as all other people; and

WHEREAS, on this fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the World Federation for Mental Health has designated “Human Rights and Mental Health” as the primary focus of World Mental Health Day 1998; therefore

We pledge to take action to bring about recognition and enforcement of the rights of people with mental disabilities, as established by international human rights treaties and as detailed in human rights resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the “Standard Minimum Rules: on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities” and the “Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and the Improvement of Mental Health Care” (the “MI Principles”). We commit ourselves to key provisions of these resolutions:

Protection from Discrimination - Discrimination on the basis of mental disability shall be banned; no distinction, exclusion, or preference in law or in any health or social service program shall have the effect of nullifying or impairing the equal enjoyment of any right by a person with a mental disability that is protected for all other people under domestic or international law. MI Principles, Principle 1;

National Planning - There shall be a national planning process to reform laws and mental health service systems to ensure full enforcement of the rights of people with mental disabilities. Standard Minimum Rules, Rules 2, 4 and 15;

Inclusion of People with Mental Disabilities - Organizations of people with mental disabilities shall be included in all decision-making relating to plans and programs concerning people with disabilities or affecting their economic and social status. Standard Minimum Rules, Rule 14.2; and

Community Integration - Community-based, mental health service and support systems shall be established and existing services reformed to permit people with mental disabilities the opportunity to exercise their right to live, work and receive treatment in the community to the extent possible. MI Principles, Principles 3, 7, 9;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, do hereby proclaim October 10, 1998 as World Mental Health Day in the Republic of Palau and pledge, and urge the citizens of the Republic, to support the accomplishment of the abovementioned objectives. I also urge all of our citizens to take part in

activities designed for the observance of Mental Health Day 1998.

SO PROCLAIMED this 6th day of October, 1998, at Koror State,
Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau