

Presidential Proclamation No. 10-25

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, deigned 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 19th day of August, 2010, at the National Capitol, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President of the Republic of Palau