

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 10-28

*Declaring this October 10, 2010
As the 18th Annual World Mental Health Day*

“Mental Health and Chronic Physical Illnesses: The Need for Continued and Integrated Care”

Whereas, the 2010 theme extends and elaborates the notion of integration of care by focusing on the connection and relationship of mental disorders and chronic physical illnesses; and

Whereas, the major chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory illness are responsible for 60% of the world’s deaths and 80% of those occur in the poorest population of the world; and

Whereas, chronic illness can complicate anyone’s life and a person’s emotional wellbeing and resilience are among the most important factors in helping to find quality of life while coping with the challenge of ongoing illness; and

Whereas, addressing depression, anxiety, and other mental disorders associated with chronic conditions can contribute to a better quality of life, improve medical outcomes, reduce mortality, and reduce medical costs; and

Whereas, we envision an integrated health system where all doctors and specialists work together to give the best in patient-centered care; and

And Whereas, the World Federation for Mental Health has designated the theme for World Mental Health Day, October 10, 2010 as “**Mental Health and Chronic Physical Illnesses: The Need for Continual and Integrated Care,**” and urges increased availability of appropriate and equitable treatment through primary healthcare services and facilities for those experiencing mental health problems and chronic illness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Palau, do hereby acknowledge the 18th anniversary of World Mental Health Day and proclaim October 10, 2010 as “**World Mental Health Day**” in the Republic of Palau and call upon the people of the Republic of Palau to observe this day, October 10, 2010 with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year’s theme, “**Mental Health and Chronic Physical Illnesses: The Need for Continued and Integrated Care.**”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand the 4th day of October, 2010 in the Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau