

**Presidential Proclamation No. 11-36**

***Declaring February 17<sup>th</sup> as National Head Start Day***

**WHEREAS**, the Belau Head Start Program is now in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year of success in striving and meeting the needs of low-income children age 3-5 and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Belau Head Start program has established itself as the foremost early childhood development program in Palau; and

**WHEREAS**, Belau Head Start is not only responsible for providing a rich preschool learning environment, but is also responsible for providing school readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, to promote literacy, Head Start recognizes the value of reading to children and encourages reading activities, and provides literacy training for parents; and

**WHEREAS**, Belau Head Start provides and supports related services to assist children with disabilities and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, ongoing health care for Head Start children is promoted through family involvement in health screening, dental care, up-dating immunization and follow-up treatments in Public Health Maternal Child Care services and its outreach activities; and by providing a comprehensive health and nutrition program and trainings; and

**WHEREAS**, with the complex and shifts in family structures, rapid cultural changes, increase family violence, substance abuse, and mental illness, Head Start has a challenge for strengthening the families of children enrolled in the program; and

**WHEREAS**, Belau Head Start has come to realize that there is no role more challenging, more time consuming and more rewarding than our role as parent and community in raising our children.

**WHEREAS**, Head Start recognizes the foundation of all interest parties for their continuous effort in delivering high quality services to all children and promoting full and effective partnership, not only with families but also with community services providers, programs, States and National government agencies;

**WHEREAS**, Belau Head Start recognizes all active partner agencies including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Palau Community College, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries & Commerce, Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs, Both Houses of Congress, All States in Republic of Palau, Non-Profit Organizations, Private Sectors, Governor's Association and all Belau Head Start families and children for raising our vulnerable children.

**WHEREAS**, "Healthy Children, Healthy Future" as a theme of National Head Start Day is a step to ensure that our children have every chance to be healthy, caring, and become productive adults.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim **February 17, 2011** to be **NATIONAL HEAD START DAY** in the Republic of Palau.

SO PROCLAIM this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2011, at Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

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Honorable Johnson Toribiong  
President of the Republic of Palau