

## **Presidential Proclamation No. 11-40**

### ***Declaring March 22, 2011 as Palau National Water Day and March 22 – April 22, 2011 as Blue Ribbon Water Awareness Month***

**WHEREAS**, a commitment was made by the international community to fully achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals regarding the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation; and

**WHEREAS**, an agreement was reached amongst Pacific Island Leaders attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water summit convened in Beppu, Japan in 2007 to: ensure achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation; to accord the highest priority to water and sanitation in national economic and development planning; to increase substantially the allocation of resources to the water and sanitation sectors; to empower a high-level coordinating mechanism in Cabinets; and where possible, to appoint a Minister in charge of water to ensure that all issues related to water and sanitation would be dealt with in a holistic manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010 declared the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the 5<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Traditional Leaders conference called for Micronesian governments to ensure access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation; and

**WHEREAS**, the 14<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Chief Executive Summit endorsed the establishment of a “Blue Ribbon Day” in support of “Water for Life” awareness campaign to be celebrated during World Water Day on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Babeldaob Watershed Alliance Action Plan calls for protecting water quality from ridge to reef through promotion of watershed management initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism and the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industry and Commerce with the support of the IWRM Steering Committee would like to raise awareness about water resources and related issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau as an island nation needs to protect, preserve and conserve its water resources for current and future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM March 22 as Palau Water Day and March 22 to April 22 as Blue Ribbon Water Awareness Month, and urge all government and nongovernment organizations to work in concert with elected and appointed public officials to increase public awareness about water and develop and implement a National Water Policy.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of March, 2011.

/s/

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Johnson Toribiong  
President of the Republic of Palau