

Presidential Proclamation No. 12-64

Proclaiming a Moratorium Under the Palau Lagoon Act

A previously unidentified World War II era airplane has been discovered underwater in the Palau Lagoon. The aircraft has been identified as a Corsair, a fighter aircraft used by the United States. Pursuant to law, 19 PNC § 302, this aircraft, and any and all parts and contents thereof, is considered as an object of significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the Republic of Palau and as such is part of the “Palau Lagoon Monument.”

Pursuant to law, 19 PNC § 303, the administration, protection and development of the Palau Lagoon Monument is at the direction of the President of the Republic of Palau. As has happened with previously undocumented underwater sites, I have determined that there exists a present threat to the aircraft and to the site where the aircraft is located from looters and souvenir hunters who might damage the aircraft before any type of research or inventory has been conducted by appropriate authorities.

Moreover, pursuant to law, 19 PNC §304, no person may dive to or by any other means seek and obtain access to this aircraft, or any and all parts and contents thereof, unless the person first obtains a permit to do so from the President or his duly authorized representatives. Only the President is authorized to issue such permits to those persons deemed qualified. I have not issued any permits to dive to this aircraft or to the site where it is located nor do I intend to do so until such time that the aircraft and the site have been thoroughly researched and documented.

In light of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, in order to protect and develop the Palau Lagoon Monument, do hereby declare and proclaim a complete moratorium on diving within 100 feet of the aforesaid aircraft or of the site where the aircraft is located. This moratorium is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice.

Any person desiring to dive to the aircraft or to the site where it is located must first obtain a permit from the Office of the President, and must comply with any prescribed conditions. Pursuant to 19 PNC § 306, any person who, without the permission of the President, dives within 100 feet of the aircraft or of the site where the aircraft is located or who removes, appropriates, damages, or destroys the aircraft, or any or all parts and contents thereof, shall be arrested and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00, or imprisoned for a period of not more than six months, or both.

SO PROCLAIMED this 27th day of March, 2012, at the Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau