

## **PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 12-66**

**DRUG & ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTHS 2012 (APRIL-JUNE)  
HEALTHY CHOICES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:  
PREVENT UNDERAGE DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE  
ALCOHOL & DRUG AWARENESS - THE KEY TO COMMUNITY CHANGE AND PERSONAL  
RECOVERY**

**WHEREAS**, alcohol & drugs are among the primary factors in the four leading causes of death for young persons ages 10-21; and

**WHEREAS**, adolescents use alcohol more than tobacco or illicit drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, young people begin drinking and using drugs, on average, at 13.1 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

**WHEREAS**, drug & alcohol abuse are linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes; and

**WHEREAS**, drug & alcohol abuse is a major factor in unprotected sex, increasing risk of contracting HIV or other transmitted diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, the typical youth in Palau will see 100,000 beer commercials before he or she turns 18 (that is more than for sneakers, gum and jeans combined); and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, President Johnson Toribiong, do hereby proclaim that April-June 2012 is Drug & Alcohol Awareness Months in The Republic of Palau. As the President of this Nation I also call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in April to the end of June 2012 to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase community awareness and increase support for individuals and families coping with alcoholism drug abuse in our community and join us in “HEALTHY CHOICES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: PREVENT UNDERAGE DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE”.

**SO PROCLAIMED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012 at April[sic], Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau