

## **Presidential Proclamation No. 14-117**

To proclaim the months of May, June, and July as National Alcohol and Drug Prevention Months

“Our Lives. Our Health. Our Future.”

**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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau do hereby proclaim that May, June, and July of 2014 is Drug & Alcohol Prevention Months in The Republic of Palau. As the President of this Nation I call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase community awareness and increase support for individuals and families coping with alcoholism and 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> of April, 2014:

/s/

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Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President  
Republic of Palau