

OBIS RA RUBEKUL BELAU

Office of the Council of Chiefs

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DECLARATION

NO. 12-001

TO DECLARE TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS AS ILLEGAL DRUGS; TO CALL UPON ALL PARENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO JOIN ALL FORCES, EFFORTS, CAMPAIGNS, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AGAINST TOBACCO; TO APPEAL TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE MERCHANDISE TO REPLACE TOBACCO AS A SOURCE OF REVENUES; AND TO APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OF PALAU TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSES TO SELL TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco is not a part of our cultures and traditions as it was introduced by foreign occupying nations and their nationals to our islands and, therefore, it should not receive any protection and respect to be preserved or maintained as a part of our cultures and traditions; and

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco throughout the years among our people has caused and continues to cause many health problems, financial loss; deaths; and many other problems and complications; and

WHEREAS, the recent survey on the use of tobacco in our nation shows that 50.7% of our children use tobacco, either by smoking or chewing or both, an alarming statistic; and

WHEREAS, our children are the most prized and important assets of our nation as they are the future caretakers and leaders of our society and nation and they must have good health to look after our society and run our nation; and

WHEREAS, as parents, we owe it to our children to maintain their good health and provide a healthful environment for them to live and grow up in; and

WHEREAS, having witnessed the harmful effects that tobacco has had on our nation and our youth we can no longer remain idle while tobacco is taking wreaking havoc on the lives of our children; and

WHEREAS, Article VI of our Constitution requires our national government to take positive action to attain certain national objectives and implement these national policies which include the promotion of the health and social welfare of the citizens and the protection of the safety and security of persons and property; and

WHEREAS, through the Article VI constitutional mandate and our inherent traditional authority, we feel a deep sense of duty to call upon all the parents and general public to take affirmative and positive actions to help our children to maintain good health by preventing the use of tobacco among them, and to this end, we ask all the parents and the general public to endorse, support join all campaigns, activities, programs and efforts to prevent, stop, and eliminate the use of tobacco and tobacco products in our community; and

WHEREAS, the world through the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, FCTC, conducted in May, 2003 committed to work to eliminate the scourge and devastation of tobacco to ensure a better and healthy world; and

WHEREAS, our Republic has ratified Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, FCTC, we should join all the nations around the world to work together to eliminate the scourge and devastation of tobacco; and

WHEREAS, we appeal to the business community and all merchants who import and/or sell tobacco to immediately look for alternative sources of revenues within four years from 2012 to replace tobacco as a source of revenues; and

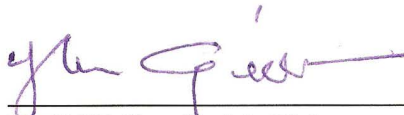
WHEREAS, given the serious effect of the use of tobacco on our community, especially its effect on our children, the future caretakers of our society and leaders of our nation, we hereby appeal to the President and Government of the Republic of Palau and the respective state governments to take immediate action to impose a moratorium on business licenses to sell tobacco and tobacco products in the Republic of Palau.

NOW, THEREFORE,

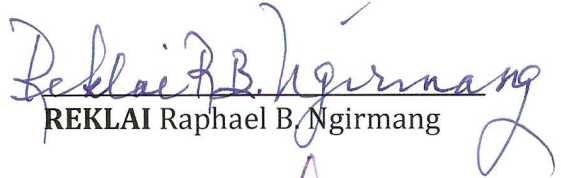
BE IT RESOLVED that by the virtue of our authority as traditional leaders of the Republic of Palau, We, the Rubekul Belau (Palau Council of Chiefs), hereby DECLARE our position that tobacco and tobacco products should be declared and made illegal and banned and eradicated from our society, just as other illegal drugs and poisons have been made illegal under our laws.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Declaration be sent to His Excellency President Johnson Toribiong, the presiding officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau, all state governors, and all the business establishments in the Republic of Palau.

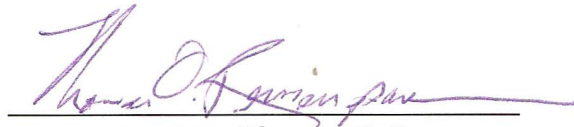
DECLARED on this 14th day of March 2012, at the PALAU COUNCIL OF CHIEFS OFFICE at Malakal, Koror State.



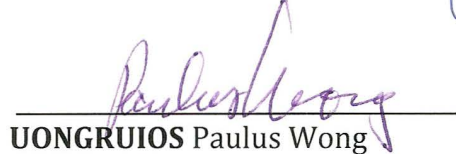
IBEDUL Yutaka M. Gibbons



REKLAI Raphael B. Ngirmang



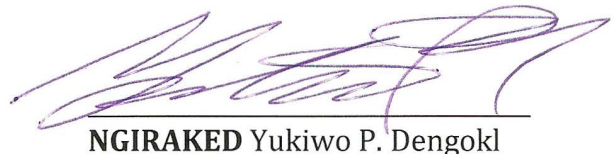
MADERNGEBUKED Thomas O. Remengesau



UONGRUIOS Paulus Wong



NGIRAKEBOU Roman Bedor



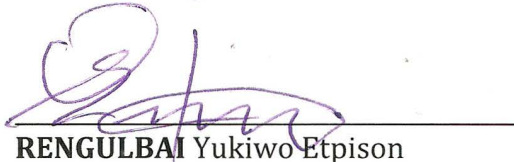
NGIRAKED Yukiwo P. Dengokl



NGIRTURONG Yamazaki Rengil



UONGERCHETEI Victor Joseph



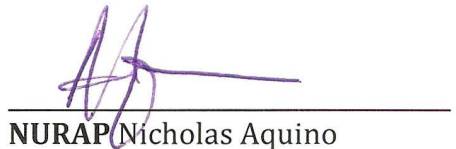
RENGULBAI Yukiwo Etpison



UCHERBELAU Lorenzo Edward



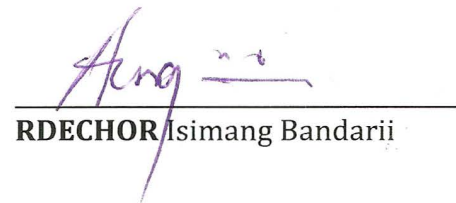
OBAK Isao Singeo



NURAP Nicholas Aquino



HEIMONG Sebastian Marino



RDECHOR Isimang Bandarii



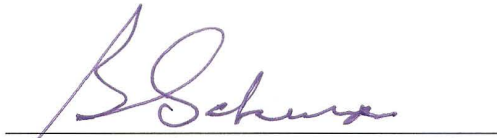
REKEMESIK Surangel Whipps, Sr.

BEOUCH (VACANT)

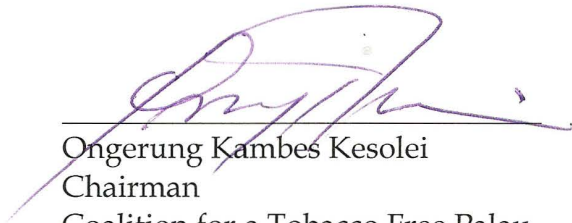
Witnessed By:



Stevenson J. Kuartei, MD
Minister
Ministry of Health



Belhaim Sakuma
Chairman
Ulekerreuil a Klengar



Ongerung Kambes Kesolei
Chairman
Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau