

**NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
38TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2017**

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**RESOLUTION 32ND1**

**A RESOLUTION** requesting the Nitijela to confirm a Proclamation Declaring State of Health Emergency issued by the President on behalf of the Cabinet on January 20, 2017, to expire six (6) months from the date of certification of this Resolution or unless revoked earlier by the Cabinet.

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**WHEREAS** the President , on January 20, 2017, has issued a Proclamation on behalf of the Cabinet, declaring a State of Health Emergency in relation to Hepatitis A (HAV) and ZIKA virus (ZIKV) outbreaks in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI); and

**WHEREAS**, the Hepatitis A is a very contagious liver infection caused by a virus and is increasing almost daily in the RMI, particularly Majuro Atoll; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis B infection is also endemic in the RMI, patients with Hepatitis B are at high risk of developing liver complications like cirrhosis (failure) and death when exposed to the HAV virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the RMI has the highest Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) prevalence rate in the Pacific Region. Those with an NCD, such as Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Cardiac Disease and Cancer are also at high risk when exposed to the HAV virus; this infection may exacerbate their condition and lead to liver cirrhosis (failure); and

**WHEREAS**, pregnant women who are infected with the ZIKA virus are at high risk of developing congenital malformations in their unborn child, and those pregnant are advised against receiving a local blood transfusion as the RMI laboratory

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capacity and infrastructure does not support a blood bank nor does it screen all blood donations for HAV or ZIKV; and

**WHEREAS**, the HAV virus has a long incubation period, and the asymptomatic are just as infectious as the symptomatic cases; and

**WHEREAS**, to prevent further spread of HAV and ZIKV to the general population, especially to high risk groups such as the NCD patients, pregnant ladies and the unborn child, the use of all local blood transfusions are NOT recommended; and

**WHEREAS**, the outer atolls/islands health centers are limited in their health interventions and do not have sufficient capacity to cope with these infections when compared to the urban hospitals of Majuro and Ebeye, it is imperative to take decisive and comprehensive measures to halt the spread of HAV and ZIKV to the outer islands; and

**WHEREAS**, the RMI is home to more than 53,000 people living on only 70 square miles of land spanning an area of just over 750,000 square miles. Due to this density of population, there exists the real probability that the sharing of bodily fluids can become rampant; and

**WHEREAS**, to mitigate the spread of disease and mount an immediate effective and efficient response against the HAV and ZIKV Outbreaks, it is urgent that the whole of government and the society as a whole must act together to ensure that the Outbreaks are halted immediately; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cabinet has been briefed, at its meeting on 18 January 2017, and had approved the Proclamation Declaring a State of Health Emergency, which was executed and issued on 20 January 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cabinet is seeking confirmation from the Nitijela pursuant to Section 1102(2)(b) of the Emergencies Act 1979, to allow the Proclamation Declaring a State of Health Emergency to remain in effect for a period of six (6) months pursuant to the provisions of the Emergencies Act 1979 (7 MIRC Ch 11); and

**WHEREAS**, for the sake of clarity, the six (6) months shall commence on 30 January 2017 during the time of which procurement of goods and services, and any other rules and policies pertaining to emergency purposes may be suspended; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their Nitijela at its 38th Constitutional Regular Session further to the Emergencies Act 1979, hereby confirm that the Proclamation Declaring a State of Health Emergency issued by the President on behalf of the Cabinet on January 20, 2017, expires six (6) months as set out above, unless revoked earlier by the Cabinet; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President and the Cabinet shall execute the functions pursuant to the Emergencies Act 1979, relevant laws of the Republic and in line with the Nitijela's confirmation, with any modifications, if any, to further the aims of the Proclamation Declaring a State of Health Emergency.

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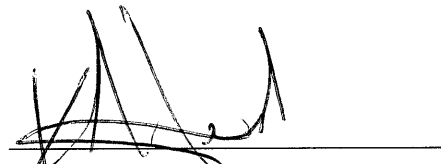
**CERTIFICATE**

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**I hereby certify:**

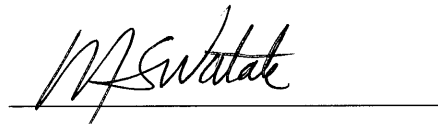
1. That Nitijela Resolution No: 32ND1 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017; and
2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Resolution No: 32ND1 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017.



**Hon. Kenneth A. Kedi**  
Speaker  
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

**Attest:**



**Morean Watak**  
Clerk  
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands