

# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## 2021 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT (PL 20-83)



### OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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#### About Us

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is an elected office vested within the Executive Branch and established through both Article III of the CNMI Constitution and CNMI Public Law 1-8. As Lt. Governor, he oversees the Office of Planning and Development, the Office of Grants Management, and the CNMI's permitting agencies and leads policy initiatives on government efficiency, business permitting processes, and regulatory functions. The office also plays an active role in the CNMI's relationship with the Federal Government with discussions on labor viability and proposed military projects

#### OUR MISSION

To provide, support, and improve upon key public services necessary for the community to thrive and prosper.

Ensure that key infrastructures such as roads, water, and waste water systems are improved and accessible to all persons who call the CNMI Home.

Support program and departmental functions of the Executive Branch to successfully attain and expend funding provided through key sources such as the U.S. Federal Government.

Engage with Federal Counterparts to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations throughout the CNMI are being addressed in a manner aligned with building independence and sustainability.

#### STAFFING PATTERN

**Brien S. Nicholas Jr. (BJ)**  
Special Assistant to the Lt. Governor

**Frank R. Rabauliman**  
Senior Advisor on Programs and Policy

**Rosalia R. Inos**  
Administrative Assistant

**Joaquin T. Quitugua**  
Community Supervisor

**Jean Paul B. Reyes**  
Special Projects Coordinator

**Norman C. Torres**  
Fiscal Analyst

**John Paul Lizama**  
Community Worker



# Highlights and Demographics 2021



## Addressing Community Initiatives

Over the past year, the Lt. Governor has maintained his commitment to various programs and offices through the attendance and signing of Proclamations that provide community awareness, recognition, and support for the initiatives that are critical in providing the public with necessary services and assistance. The hand off of a Special Needs accessible Bus to the Municipality of Rota & Tinian by COTA is one of several initiatives that the Lt. Governor has had the privilege of overseeing.



The Lt. Governor continues to meet with off-island partners and private business to hear their ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Given the difficulties associated with acquiring new funding streams of government revenue, it is critical that we work with existing businesses to ensure they remain viable in this tough economic climate. One such meeting was with the Korean Consulate Office based on Guam to discuss various topics including Tourism, Business, and Community Concerns of those who call the CNMI Home.

## Support of Non-Profit Organizations

Keeping in line with the initiative to support those who assist the less fortunate, the Lt. Governor has remained committed to providing funds to organizations such as Empty Vessel and Karidat, whose mission aligns with that of the Office. Through these tough times, many people have been unable to provide the basic elements of support for their families and loved ones. Through small contributions such as the ones made to NGO's it is with hope that we may continue to help those who have been unable to support themselves.



## Economic Diversification

As the saying goes "our oceans don't divide us, they unite us". It is in this same spirit that the Lt. Governor continues to maintain close bonds with other regional leaders in the Pacific. In this chance meeting with President Panuelo of the FSM, the Lt. Governor and Presidents Panuelo had a brief opportunity to engage one another and discuss areas of mutual concern and benefit to the people they serve. Maintaining and strengthening these bonds are vital, ensuring that the concerns of various cross sections of our community are heard and addressed.



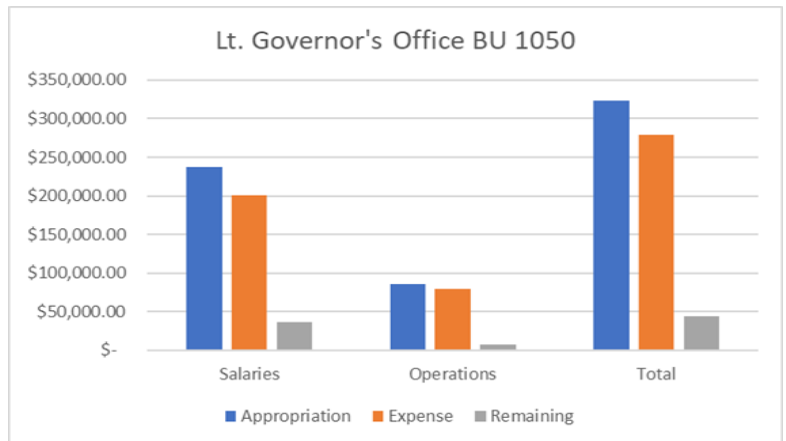
# Our Finances

## Revenue and Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2021

### Local Appropriation (Acct #1050)

| Lt. Governor's Office (Local BU # 1050) |               |              |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| FY 2021                                 |               |              |              |
|   | Salaries      | Operations   | Total        |
| Appropriation                           | \$ 236,858.00 | \$ 85,883.00 | \$322,741.00 |
| Expense                                 | \$ 200,420.00 | \$ 78,778.00 | \$279,198.00 |
| Remaining                               | \$ 36,438.00  | \$ 7,105.00  | \$ 43,543.00 |

### Expenditures Summary (Acct #1050)

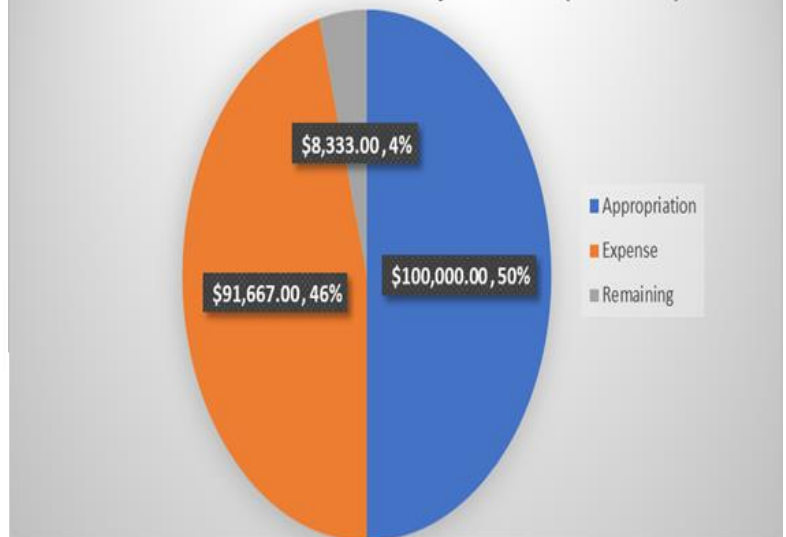


### Local Appropriation (Acct #1051)

| Lt. Governor's Office (Local BU # 1050) |               |
|---|---------------|
| FY 2021                                 |               |
|   | Operations    |
| Appropriation                           | \$ 100,000.00 |
| Expense                                 | \$ 91,667.00  |
| Remaining                               | \$ 8,333.00   |

**NOTE:** The local accounts identified under the Office of the Lt. Governor are funds that have been appropriated through the Legislature. These accounts identified are specific to his Office Operations (Local 1050) and Discretionary Funds (Local 1051).

### Lt. Governor's Discretionary Account (BU 1051)



### Expenditure Highlights

In FY 2021, the Lt. Governor's Office committed funds to several public initiatives to include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Empty Vessel and Karidat, as well as, community projects aimed at improving the different villages through the rehabilitation of Basketball Courts and other Public-Use Facilities and island beautification projects in conjunction with various lawmakers of respective villages.

In FY 2022, it is the intent of the Lt. Governor to maintain these various endeavours and continue to support agencies, offices, and organizations through both financial and human resources. Through additional funding streams such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the Lt. Governor's Office is in line with adding additional personnel who will support programs and agencies in most need while committing other funds to long time beneficiaries such as the Youth Centres throughout the CNMI.



# What's Next...

## Priorities & Challenges FOR 2021



The past year has presented many challenges for our Commonwealth. With recovery efforts continuing amid a Pandemic that has limited our fiscal and economic viability, there is no doubt that addressing these issues will pose a great challenge for the Administration in the next several months. Some key challenges include:

- The support required to bring individual businesses back into operation amid the low tourism figures and travel hesitancy of our biggest markets.
- The continued disaster response associated with protecting our community from COVID-19 and its variants.
- The need to provide equitable housing for current and returning residents and support stability within homes of these families.
- The replacement and upgrade of existing infrastructure such as roads, that have plagued our communities throughout the CNMI given wear & tear in addition to natural erosion.

Although our Commonwealth has been plagued with many issues that have only been exacerbated by the lingering threat of COVID-19 and other fiscal restraints, there is light at the end of the tunnel. This light comes in the form of efforts undertaken by the Lt. Governor's Office to help and support the offices and programs that provide key public services, such as:

- The establishment of the CNMI Highway Taskforce, aimed at improving existing roadways that have suffered greatly through its continued use.
- Continued engagements with Autonomous Agencies such as PSS, CUC, NMHC, and CPA to ensure that planned projects and activities are executed in a timely and efficient manner.
- Briefings and meetings with on-island Federal Counterparts such as FEMA and other organizations directly involved in the rebuilding efforts post-Typhoon Yutu.



### Contact Us

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