

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT 2025



About The Office

The Office of the Governor is the chief executive office of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and manages the executive branch of the Commonwealth Government. The Office of Administrative Services, operating under the Office of the Governor, plays a key role in supporting the administration's operations and initiatives.

Following the passing of the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola look to lead with resilience, dedication, and a renewed vision for the CNMI's future.

Strategic Goals

The goals of this administration are to restore transparency, effectiveness, and accountability in government.

In doing so, the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor will continue to advance strategic goals that emphasize maintaining fiscal responsibility through prudent management of public resources, accelerating infrastructure development with a focus on sustainability and resilience, and strengthening partnerships with federal agencies to enhance coordination, secure critical funding, and advance the Commonwealth's priorities. These efforts underscore the administration's commitment to fostering economic growth, improving quality of life, and building a more sustainable and self-reliant CNMI.

Operational Structure

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor continue to lead their offices with a strong and capable team, driving the administration's priorities forward. Highly qualified division secretaries, board members, directors, and special assistants now serve in key roles, actively advancing initiatives and delivering results that benefit the people of the CNMI.

Cabinet Members

Jean Paul Reyes

Special Assistant -
Administrative Services

Elizabeth S. Balajadia

Acting Director - Office of Planning
and Development

Ray N. Yumil

Secretary - Department of Public Works

Alfreda Camacho Maratita

Special Assistant - Public Transportation

George J. Cruz

Administrator - Commonwealth
Medicaid Agency

Tracy B. Norita

Secretary - Department of Finance

Floyd R. Masga

Administrator - Bureau of Environmental
and Coastal Quality

Sylvan O. Igisomar

Secretary - Department of Lands and
Natural Resources

Barbara Sablan

Special Assistant - Women's Affairs

Leila F. Staffler

Secretary - Department of Labor

Remedio C. Mafnas

Secretary - Department of Commerce

Patrick C. Guerrero

Officer - Public Assistance Office

Jamika Taijeron

Managing Director - Marianas Visitors
Authority

Glen Hunter

Special Assistant - Broadband Policy
& Development

Clement Bermudes

Special Assistant - Homeland Security
& Emergency Management

Edward C. Camacho

Special Assistant - Commonwealth
Bureau of Military Affairs

Virginia Villagomez

Special Assistant - Office of Management
and Budget

Paul Tenorio

Executive Director - Criminal Justice
Planning Agency

Joseph M. Pangelinan

Personnel Director - Office of Personnel
Management

Elvira Seman

Acting Director - Office of Vocational
Rehabilitation

Mildred S. Camacho

Administrator - Scholarship Office

Felix Nogis

Executive Assistant - Carolinian Affairs

Juan A. Pua

Commissioner - Department of Fire and
Emergency Medical Services

Epiphanio Cabrera Jr.

Grants Administrator - Office of Grant
Management & State Clearinghouses

Robert Magofna

Special Assistant - Youth Affairs

Sixto K. Igisomar

Secretary - Department of Public
Lands

Anthony I. Macaranas

Commissioner - Department of Public
Safety

Jose DLG. Crisostomo

Executive Officer - Veterans Affairs

Luella I. Marciano

Resident Executive - Indigenous Affairs

Douglas Hartig

Public Defender - Public Defender
Office

Anthony C. Torres

Commissioner - Department of
Corrections

Francisco M. Rabauliman

Secretary - Department of Community
and Cultural Affairs

Pamela C. Sablan

Executive Director - CNMI Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Yubert Alepuyo

Acting Administrator- Commonwealth
Zoning Board

Diego M. Sablan

Special Assistant - Substance
Abuse, Addition and Rehabilitation
Program

Demographics:

The Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, including Administrative Services, employs a total of 41 individuals. Of this number, 18 employees, representing approximately 44 percent, are female, while the remaining 56 percent are male.



Vision

Provide high-quality and efficient public services in a manner that promotes accountability, transparency, and trust.



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As the Administration concludes its third year of leadership, it has advanced the Commonwealth's progress while demonstrating resilience and adaptability in the face of ongoing challenges. Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola, carrying forward the legacy of the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios, have remained steadfast in their commitment to meaningful development, focusing on initiatives that have strengthened our communities, improved public services, and economic stability.

Maintaining *Fiscal Responsibility*

In Fiscal Year 2025, the CNMI Government continued to demonstrate fiscal responsibility through prudent financial management and strengthened oversight. Revenue collections outperformed projections reflecting improved tax compliance and effective fiscal planning. Governor David M. Apatang reinforced accountability by signing an executive order to expedite government audits and enhance financial transparency. The Administration also maintained timely contributions to the NMI Settlement Fund and upheld responsible use of federal recovery funds under the 2025 Recovery Plan. Together, these efforts highlight the government's commitment to transparency, efficiency, and long-term fiscal sustainability for the Commonwealth.



Dialing in on *Infrastructure Development & Sustainability*

Continuing the priorities set in previous years, Governor David M. Apatang and Lt. Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola have maintained a strong focus on advancing infrastructure and sustainability initiatives across the CNMI. Efforts toward cleaner energy include the conversion of government buildings to operate on solar power and the coordination of key stakeholders to advance plans for a large-scale solar farm. The administration has also prioritized improving public infrastructure, marked by the completion of several road improvement projects, the groundbreaking of the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Building at Marianas High School, and the kickoff demolition of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School to make way for its new campus. These initiatives reflect the Commonwealth's ongoing commitment to modernizing infrastructure, promoting renewable energy, and fostering sustainable growth for future generations.



Strengthening *Relationships with Federal Partners*

The administrations of the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios and current Governor David M. Apatang, together with Lt. Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola, have continued to strengthen federal partnerships supporting the CNMI's infrastructure, environment, and economic resilience. Working closely with U.S. Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds, they engaged in multiple U.S. Senate staff delegation visits, met with U.S. Department of the Interior officials, and collaborated with Federal agencies such as the EPA, Department of Transportation, and Government Accountability Office. Their participation in the National Governors Association further advanced the CNMI's visibility and priorities on the national stage, underscoring a unified commitment to the Commonwealth's growth, stability, and long-term resilience.



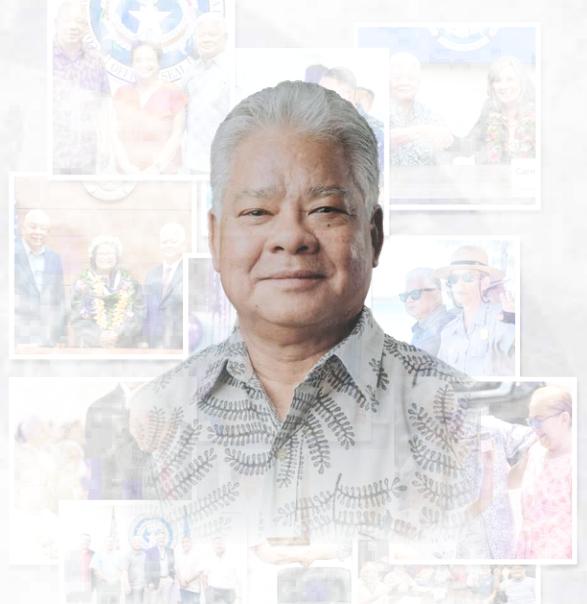
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Honoring a Legacy & Leading Forward

The passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios midway through the year has posed a profound challenge for the Commonwealth. His leadership and vision set a strong foundation for progress, making his loss deeply felt across the CNMI. Stepping into this role, Governor David M. Apatang and Lt. Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola have taken on the responsibility of carrying forward Governor Palacios' legacy while navigating the complexities of governance and development during a period of transition. Despite these challenges, the administration remains steadfast in its commitment to steer the CNMI toward a safer, more sustainable, and resilient future—honoring the values and priorities that Governor Palacios championed throughout his service.



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FINANCES



The revenues for the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lt. Governor were determined by P.L. 24-01. The following itemizes the expenditures of the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lt. Governor and the Administrative Services Office

Office of the Governor	
Wages & Salary	\$467,328.50
Operations	\$269,279.90
Fringe	\$129,622.78
Public Auditor	\$6,929.05
Contribution	-
Utilities	-
TOTAL:	\$873,160.23

Office of the Lt. Governor	
Wages & Salary	\$388,288.56
Operations	\$73,445.70
Fringe	\$89,342.72
Public Auditor	\$5,925.34
Contribution	\$1,100.00
Utilities	\$6,875.00
TOTAL:	\$564,977.32

Administrative Services	
Wages & Salary	\$455,339.53
Operations	\$27,710.88
Fringe	\$119,401.79
Public Auditor	\$7,347.86
Contribution	\$3,562.00
Utilities	\$83,944.82
TOTAL:	\$697,306.88

WHAT'S NEXT?



Continuing the 902 Consultations

In September 2025, our Administration traveled to Washington, D.C. for 902 consultations, a key Covenant mechanism that ensures direct collaboration between the CNMI and the federal government. These talks reaffirm the shared responsibility to safeguard our islands' future and advance a stable, resilient, and prosperous Commonwealth.

During this session, we focused on charting a long-term financial and economic path for the CNMI. We called for the return of multi-year planning tools that have historically helped guide responsible budgeting and development, and we renewed our request to resolve the longstanding federal tax cover-over provisions – a potential source of critical recurring revenue for our community. We emphasized that restoring these tools is essential to rebuilding fiscal strength and securing steady investment in core services such as healthcare, education, and public safety.



We also stressed the CNMI's strategic role in the Indo-Pacific region and the importance of integrating local needs into ongoing federal defense planning. This includes exploring opportunities like a new hospital facility on Tinian and ensuring military-related development supports both national security and community well-being.

Federal partners acknowledged the seriousness of the CNMI's current fiscal challenges and agreed that completing outstanding financial audits is a foundational step toward restoring fiscal credibility and expanding access to federal support and capital markets. They committed to collaborating with us to secure immediate relief to protect essential programs, while working jointly on long-term reforms that strengthen financial management, encourage private-sector growth, and modernize critical infrastructure.

To move this work forward, a joint CNMI-federal working group has been established to review financial options, develop a framework for emergency support, and define a pathway for structural recovery. This effort will also evaluate federal policy tools – including tourism authorities, immigration flexibility, and cabotage reform – to help drive sustainable economic activity.

Our Administration remains dedicated to responsible governance, restoring financial health, and delivering stability and opportunity for our people. The 902 consultations continue to reinforce that the CNMI is not facing these challenges alone – and together with our federal partners, we are building the foundation for a stronger and more secure future for our islands.

