



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

22 MAY 2018

The Honorable Steven K. Mesngon
Chairman, Rota Legislative Delegation
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Local Bill No. 20-54, S1, D1, entitled, "To appropriate \$165,880.00 from the funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56, inclusive of the funds line-item vetoed under Rota Local Law 20-08, to fund the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation extension office in Rota; operations of the Rota Legislative Delegation; Rota Flame Tree program, Rota Little League program, Office of the Mayor of Rota; and the Rota Municipal Council; and for other purposes", which was passed by the Rota Delegation, Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Rota Local Law No. 20-09**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph DLG. Torres".

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Mayor of Rota; Chairman, Rota Municipal Council; Department of Community and Culture Affairs; Micronesian Legal Services; Secretary of Finance; Commonwealth Law Revision; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs & Legislative Review



ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

First Senatorial District

Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

P. O. Box 500129

Saipan, MP 96950

Senator Steve K. Mesngon, Chairman
Senator Teresita A. Santos, Vice Chair

Representative Glenn L. Maratita, Floor Leader
Senator Paul A. Manglona, Member

May 4, 2018

Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I am honored to transmit for your action *House Local Bill No. 20-54, S1, D1*, entitled,

***“A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT*”**

“To appropriate \$165,880.00 from the funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56, inclusive of the funds line-item vetoed under Rota Local Law 20-08, to fund the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation extension office in Rota; operations of the Rota Legislative Delegation; Rota Flame Tree program, Rota Little League program, Office of the Mayor of Rota; and the Rota Municipal Council; and for other purposes.”

The bill was passed unanimously by the Rota Legislative Delegation of the Twentieth Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature on First and Final Reading, a quorum duly present, during its First Day, Second Special Session, 2018 held on April 17, 2018.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alicia DLG. Leon Guerrero".

Alicia DLG. Leon Guerrero
Delegation Clerk

Enclosures



ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2018

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 20-54, S1, D1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
 FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To appropriate \$165,880.00 from the funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56, inclusive of the funds line-item vetoed under Rota Local Law 20-08, to fund the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation extension office in Rota; operations of the Rota Legislative Delegation; Rota Flame Tree program, Rota Little League program, Office of the Mayor of Rota; and the Rota Municipal Council; and for other purposes.

Offered by Representative Glenn L. Maratita

Introduced on January 16, 2018

HOUSE ACTION

Transmitted to the Rota Legislative Delegation on January 29, 2018

DELEGATION ACTION

Committee Referral	:	None
Standing Committee Report	:	None
Comments Solicited	:	1/29/18 - [Mayor of Rota & Chairman, Rota Municipal Council; <i>Ref. DM 20-44 & 20-45</i>]
Comments Received	:	2/6 & 2/12/18 [Mayor of Rota; <i>Ref. Mayor's Comm. 20-17 & 20-18</i>]
Passed First & Final Reading:		4/17/18 [as HLB 20-54, S1, D1]



Alicia D.G. Leon Guerrero
Delegation Clerk



ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
First Senatorial District

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2018

HOUSE LOCAL BILL 20-54, S1, D1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
 FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To appropriate \$165,880.00 from the funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56, inclusive of the funds line-item vetoed under Rota Local Law 20-08, to fund the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation extension office in Rota; operations of the Rota Legislative Delegation; Rota Flame Tree program, Rota Little League program, Office of the Mayor of Rota; and the Rota Municipal Council; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION
 PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1
 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

2 The Rota Legislative Delegation acknowledges that the Micronesian Legal Services
 3 Corporation (MLSC) is a non-profit corporation that provides low income persons free legal
 4 assistance in civil matters. MLSC's mission is to promote equal access to justice and to provide
 5 quality civil matter assistance to indigents.

6 The Rota Legislative Delegation also acknowledges that the MLSC's central
 7 administrative office is located in Saipan and only a couple visits are made annually to Rota.
 8 The Delegation finds that it is necessary to have an extension office in Rota so that indigents can
 9 have better access to the services provided by MLSC rather than flying to Saipan or wait for the
 10 MLSC's scheduled annual visit. The Delegation finds it necessary to fund an MLSC extension
 11 office in Rota.

12

1 Additionally, HLB 20-55, S1 was signed into law as Rota Local Law 20-08 but two items
2 were line-item vetoed. The Governor vetoed Section 2(j) because it failed “to delineate the
3 particular purpose for this operational funding.” And Section 2(r) was vetoed because it failed
4 to describe a specific purpose for the funds and thus violates the “Public Purpose statute.”

5 The Rota Legislative Delegation Chairperson sent a letter dated March 13, 2018
6 requesting a specific explanation of the vetoed items, but has not received a response. The
7 Delegation finds that operational funds for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative
8 Delegation (SNILD) and the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation (TALD) had been
9 approved without delineating the particular purpose for the operational funding. In fact, the
10 SNILD \$139,000.00 appropriation under Saipan Local Law 20-18 did not state the purpose of
11 the appropriation and it was approved. Similarly, the appropriation of \$20,000.00 for the
12 operations of the TALD was also approved under Tinian Local Law 20-9.

13 The Delegation finds that, based on prior approved appropriations with identical or
14 similar language and at least one appropriation without any stated purpose at all were approved,
15 the appropriations with stated public purposes in this Act should be approved.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate \$165,880.00 of the funds specifically allotted
17 to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56 to fund the Micronesian Legal
18 Services Corporation extension office in Rota, Rota Legislative Delegation operations, Rota
19 Flame Tree program, Rota Little League program, Office of the Mayor of Rota, and the Rota
20 Municipal Council.

21 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 The amount of \$165,880.00 of the funds allotted to the First Senatorial District under
23 Public Law No. 18-56, inclusive of the funds line-item vetoed under Rota Local Law 20-8, is
24 appropriated for the following:

- 25 a) \$30,000.00 for the Micronesian Legal Services for its extension program on Rota
26 and the funds shall be used for office space rental, salary of an office
27 administrator, office operations and related costs. The expenditure authority is
28 the Director of the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.

- 1 b) \$70,880.00 for any lawful public purpose operation activities of the Rota
- 2 Legislative Delegation under the expenditure authority of the Chairman of the
- 3 Rota Legislative Delegation;
- 4 c) \$20,000.00 for the operations of the Office of the Mayor of Rota under the
- 5 expenditure authority of the Mayor of Rota;
- 6 d) \$10,000.00 for the Rota Flame Tree program under the expenditure authority of
- 7 the Resident Director of the Department of Community and Culture Affairs;
- 8 e) \$10,000.00 for the Rota Little League program under the expenditure of the
- 9 President of the Rota Little League Association; and
- 10 f) \$25,000.00 for the operations of the Rota Municipal Council under the
- 11 expenditure authority of the Chairman of the Rota Municipal Council.

SECTION 3. NO REPROGRAMMING AND FUNDS AVAILABLE UNTIL EXPENDED.

- 14 a) The appropriations under this Act are not subject to fiscal year limitation and shall
- 15 be available until fully expended.
- 16 b) The funds shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.


1 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or its becoming law without
3 such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:




STEVE K. MESNGON
Chairman
Rota Legislative Delegation



RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
Speaker
House of Representatives

Approved on this *22nd* day of *May*, 2018.



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands