



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

16 AUG 2017

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

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 20-103, HS1, entitled, "To appropriate payment for the outstanding judgment and interest in land compensation cases," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-04**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Presiding Judge; Attorney General; Secretary of Finance; Special Assistant for Management and Budget; Public Auditor; Department of Public Lands; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



# *House of Representatives*

20<sup>th</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

August 8, 2017

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

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 20-103, HS1**, entitled: "To appropriate payment for the outstanding judgment and interest in land compensation cases.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Muña".

Linda B. Muña  
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twentieth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Sixth Special Session**

**July 28, 2017**

REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for, himself*) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 20-103, HS1**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE PAYMENT FOR THE OUTSTANDING  
JUDGMENT AND INTEREST IN LAND COMPENSATION CASES.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 28, 2017;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-103, HS1 and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 3, 2017;**  
*without amendments and was returned to*  
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON JULY 28, 2017.**

  
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**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



*Twentieth Legislature*  
*of the*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

First Day, Sixth Special Session

July 28, 2017

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**H. B. No. 20-103, HS1**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE PAYMENT FOR THE OUTSTANDING  
JUDGMENT AND INTEREST IN LAND COMPENSATION CASES.**

**Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
Legislature:**

1           **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth presently has five  
2           outstanding land compensation judgments accruing substantial interest. The largest one is  
3           the judgment and interest of over \$16 million owed to the Estate of Maria Mangabao in  
4           Commonwealth v. Lot No. 353 New G, Civil Action No. 97-0266 (“Lot 353 case”).  
5           The Commonwealth also owes over \$3 million to the Heirs of Rita Rogolofoi; over \$500,000  
6           to the Estate of Vicente S. Muna; over \$900,000 to the Estate of Cresencio I. Manglona; and  
7           over \$80,000.00 to Luisa B. Quitugua.

8           The Legislature further finds that 4 CMC § 2308 earmarks the business gross revenue  
9           tax generated from the exclusive casino licensee holder’s operations to several public  
10          purposes including the payment of land compensation, the increase of CUC’s fuel adjustment

## HOUSE BILL 20-103, HS1

1 clause, and the funding of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Medical Referral  
2 Program, and the Public School System.

3 On March 15, 2017, the Secretary of Finance stated that the Commonwealth had a  
4 balance of \$28,067,951 of funds reserved pursuant to 4 CMC § 2308 that was unobligated  
5 and has not been appropriated since that date. Thus, the Legislature further finds that there is  
6 a sufficient balance of § 2803 funding to pay all of the outstanding land compensation  
7 judgments.

8 The Legislature further finds the Commonwealth, having considered the unobligated  
9 funds pursuant to § 2803, and due compliance with the Court Order requiring full payment or  
10 filing of a payment plan, agreed to a stipulation filed in the *Lot 353* case on July 21, 2017; in  
11 the stipulation, the Commonwealth agreed to pay the remaining judgment and outstanding  
12 interest in full by August 18, 2017, thereby avoiding the annual accrual of interest of nearly  
13 \$1 million. It is also in the public interest to pay the outstanding land compensation  
14 judgments in the other cases to satisfy longstanding judgments and avoid continued  
15 Commonwealth liability for accrued interest.

16 **Section 2. Appropriation.** The unobligated and unappropriated funds in  
17 4 CMC § 2308 are hereby appropriated as follows:

18 “(a) The amount of no more than \$16,291,763.36 is appropriated for the  
19 payment and full satisfaction of the judgment including accrued interest in  
20 *Commonwealth v. Lot No. 353 New G*, Superior Court No. 97-0266;

HOUSE BILL 20-103, HS1

1 (b) The amount of no more than \$2,970,534.57 is appropriated for the  
2 payment and full satisfaction of the judgment including accrued interest in  
3 *Mar. Pub. Lands Auth. v. Heirs of Rita Rogolifoi*, Civil Case No. 05-0197A;

4 (c) The amount of no more than \$858,533.21 is appropriated for the payment  
5 and full satisfaction of the judgment including accrued interest in *Lizama v. Dep't of*  
6 *Pub. Lands*, Civil Case No 08-0149;

7 (d) The amount of no more than \$509,234.81 is appropriated for the payment  
8 and full satisfaction of the judgment including accrued interest in *Estate of Muna v.*  
9 *Commonwealth*, Civil Case No. 96-0769; and

10 (e) The amount of \$83,553.08 for the payment of the outstanding post  
11 judgment interest in *Commonwealth v. Lot No. 218-5 R/W*, Civil Case No. 96-1158.”

12 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such  
13 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
14 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
15 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

16 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
17 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
18 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
19 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
20 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
21 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
22 becomes effective.

HOUSE BILL 20-103, HS1

1           **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
2 Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.


Attested to by:

  
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**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:

  
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**SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN**  
*House of Representatives*  
*20<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature*

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017

  
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**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
*Governor*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*