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. 20-145, entitled, "To appropriate $22,000,000.00 set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and payment of a Bonus for all retirees.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.  

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-35**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

**VICTOR B. HOCOG**  
Acting Governor  

cc: Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Secretary, Department of Finance; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review
December 15, 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. 20-145**, entitled: “To appropriate $22,000,000.00 set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and payment of a Bonus for all retirees.”, which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Mariana Commonswealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment
Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Second Regular Session
December 11, 2017

Representative Rafael S. Demapan of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself; Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-145

AN ACT

TO APPROPRIATE $22,000,000.00 SET ASIDE IN THE CASINO GRT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE 25% OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS FULL BENEFITS AND PAYMENT OF A BONUS FOR ALL RETIREES.

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives on First and Final Reading, December 11, 2017; without amendments and transmitted to the Senate.

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee. The Bill was passed by the Senate on First and Final Reading, December 14, 2017; without amendments and was returned to the House of Representatives.

The Bill was finally passed on December 11, 2017.

[Signature]

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk
H. B. NO. 20-145
AN ACT
TO APPROPRIATE $22,000,000.00 SET ASIDE IN THE CASINO GRT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE 25% OF THE SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS FULL BENEFITS AND PAYMENT OF A BONUS FOR ALL RETIREES.

Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

Section 1. Findings. The Governor has advised both houses of the Legislature by letter dated November 29, 2017, identified as House Governors Communication 20-132, that the $22,000,000.00 has been set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and a Bonus. The Governor has requested the Legislature to appropriate $3,500,000.00 to be equally distributed to pay a bonus to all retirees and beneficiaries. The purpose of this appropriation is to authorize the Secretary of Finance, pursuant to 4 CMC §2308(a), to expend $22,000,000.00 of the funds in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full
benefits and a Bonus to all Settlement Class Members and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity.

Section 2. Appropriation. Pursuant to 4 CMC §2308, $22,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and a $3,500,000.00 Bonus to be distributed equally to all Settlement Class Members and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity. The appropriated funds shall not lapse and shall be available for expenditure without fiscal year limitation. The Secretary of Finance shall be the Expenditure Authority.

Section 3. Severability. If any provisions 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 4. 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.
Section 5. **Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:  
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:  
SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN  
House of Representatives  
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 15th day of December, 2017

VICTOR B. HOLOG  
ACTING GOVERNOR  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands