

20-77



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

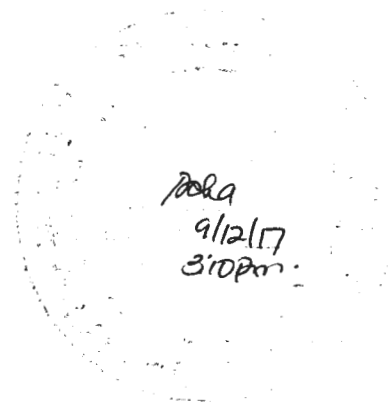
Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor

Victor B. Hocog  
Lieutenant Governor

12 SEP 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. 20-116, SD2, entitled, "To appropriate the amount of \$7,129,041.76 to pay the balance of the annual payments due to the Settlement Fund for FY 2014 and FY 2015.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

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

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General; Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED BY  
DATE 9/14/17 TIME 9:25am



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

**Second Regular Session**

**August 30, 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. 20-116, SD2**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE THE AMOUNT OF \$7,129,041.76 TO PAY  
THE BALANCE OF THE ANNUAL PAYMENTS DUE TO THE  
SETTLEMENT FUND FOR FY 2014 AND FY 2015.**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

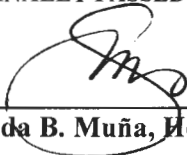
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 30, 2017;**  
*without amendments* and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 31, 2017;**  
*with amendments* in the form of H. B. No. 20-116, SD2.

**H. B. NO. 20-116, SD2, WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON AUGUST 31, 2017.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 20-116, SD2, during its 4th Day, Second Regular Session on September 5, 2017.

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 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**

FOURTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

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**H. B. NO. 20-116, SD2**

**AN ACT**

**TO APPROPRIATE THE AMOUNT OF \$7,129,041.76 TO PAY THE BALANCE OF THE ANNUAL PAYMENTS DUE TO THE SETTLEMENT FUND FOR FY 2014 AND FY 2015.**

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

1           **Section 1. Findings.** The Commonwealth Government entered into a Stipulation and  
2 Agreement of Settlement in Federal District Court Case No. 09-000023. The Settlement  
3 Agreement provided that the Commonwealth would make minimum annual payments to the  
4 Settlement Fund. The Settlement Agreement further provided that if 17% of the Total  
5 Annual Revenue of the Commonwealth as defined by the Settlement Agreement exceeded  
6 the minimum annual payment, the Commonwealth would pay the difference to the  
7 Settlement Fund.

8           Based on the Governments annual audited financial statements, 17% of the Total  
9 Annual Revenue was for FY 2014 \$30,919,797.89, and for FY 2015 \$28,209,243.87. The

HOUSE BILL 20-116, SD2

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1 minimum payments for FY 2014 and FY 2015 were \$25,000,000.00 and \$27,000,000.00,  
2 leaving a balance of \$7,129,041.76 owed by the Government to the Settlement Fund.

3 The Legislature has been informed by the Governor's Office that the amount of  
4 \$7,129,041.76 from the Saipan casino operator's business gross revenue tax as identified in  
5 House Gov. Comm. 20-52 and 20-71 is available to pay the Settlement Fund for the annual  
6 payments due for FY 2014 and FY 2015. Accordingly, we hereby appropriate said funds to  
7 make these funds available as soon as possible to avoid any interruption in the payment of  
8 retirement benefits to retirees and their beneficiaries.

9 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding 4 CMC §2308 and 1 CMC §7201(d), the  
10 amount of \$7,129,041.76 from the Saipan casino operator's business gross revenue tax as  
11 identified in House Gov. Comm. 20-52 and 20-71 is appropriated to pay the Settlement Fund  
12 for the balance of the annual payments due for FY 2014 and FY 2015. The expenditure  
13 authority shall be the Secretary of Finance.

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


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


**HOUSE BILL 20-116, SD2**

1 any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes  
2 effective.

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

Attested to by:   
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

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

Approval this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017  
  
RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands