

# COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## FY 2022 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

### OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is an elected office vested within the Executive Branch and established through both Article III of the CNMI Constitution and CNMI Public Law 1-8. As Lt. Governor, he oversees the Office of Planning and Development, the Office of Grants Management, and the CNMI's permitting agencies and leads policy initiatives on government efficiency, business permitting processes, and regulatory functions. The office also plays an active role in the CNMI's relationship with the Federal Government with discussions on labor viability and proposed military projects

### OUR MISSION

To provide, support, and improve upon key public services necessary for the community to thrive and prosper.

Ensure that key infrastructures such as roads, water, and waste water systems are improved and accessible to all persons who call the CNMI Home.

Support program and departmental functions of the Executive Branch to successfully attain and expend funding provided through key sources such as the U.S. Federal Government.

Engage with Federal Counterparts to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations throughout the CNMI are being addressed in a manner aligned with building independence and sustainability.

#### STAFFING PATTERN

**Brien S. Nicholas Jr. (BJ)**  
Special Assistant to the Lt. Governor

**Frank R. Rabauliman**  
Senior Advisor on Programs and Policy

**Rosalia R. Inos**  
Administrative Assistant

**Geri P. Mafnas**  
Administrative Assistant

**Joaquin T. Quitugua**  
Community Supervisor

**Jean Paul B. Reyes**  
Special Projects Coordinator

**Norman C. Torres**  
Fiscal Analyst

**John Paul Lizama**  
Community Worker

**Vicenta Villagomez**  
Tinian Representative

**Agnes Quitugua**  
Rota Representative



# Highlights and Demographics FY 2022



## Addressing Community Initiatives

Over the past year, the Lt. Governor has maintained his commitment to various programs and non-governmental organizations by providing monetary donations for events and activities held by the respective organizations. One such group consists of local fishermen associations whose purpose is to provide awareness and training to community members in hope of reviving traditional practices and promoting sustainable food practices.



The Lt. Governor continues to meet with off-island partners and private business to hear their ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Given the difficulties associated with acquiring new funding streams of government revenue, it is critical that we work with existing businesses to ensure they remain viable in this tough economic climate. One such meeting was with the Korean Consulate Office based on Guam to discuss various topics including Tourism, Business, and Community Concerns of those who call the CNMI Home.

## Support of Non-Profit Organizations

Keeping in line with the initiative to support those who assist the less fortunate, the Lt. Governor has remained committed to providing funds to organizations such as Empty Vessel and Karidat, whose mission aligns with that of the Office. In 2022, this list was expanded to include Center for Living Independently, and the little league SCOUTZ Organization. The Lt. Governor's Office has also supported other community-based organizations and events including the United Carolinians Association- Liffang Project, the Island Summer Auto Fest, Young Gunz Marianas and the Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association.



## Infrastructure is the Priority

In early FY 2022, the Lt. Governor conducted a follow-up meeting with the Infrastructure Task Force to receive status report on on-going major road projects including the 12mill Route 36 project and the Route 33 project. The Task Force comprised of representatives from the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Department of Public Works (DPW – Technical Services Division), Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC – Disaster Relief Section). There are many other infrastructure projects that the Lt. Governor's Office had been monitoring including those surrounding solid waste management having been the initial author for the establishment of the Beautification Tax to fund the Marpi Landfill maintenance. Projects such as the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the CNMI which proposes to incorporate the Zero Waste Program to be piloted in Tinian, the Tinian Transfer Station, progressive waste management plan beyond a sanitary operation of Rota dump, CNMI Recycling and Composting Programs Universal Waste Collection and expansion of the EPA RCRA C permitted landfill in Marpi.



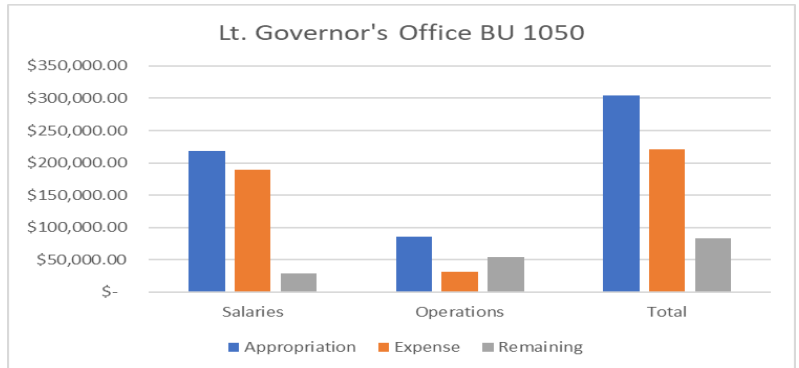
# Our Finances

## Revenue and Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2022

### Local Appropriation (General Fund Appr.)

Lt. Governor's Office (11262000)			
FY 2022			
	Salaries	Operations	Total
Appropriation	\$ 218,639.00	\$ 85,883.00	\$304,522.00
Expense	\$ 189,703.00	\$ 31,534.00	\$221,237.00
Remaining	\$ 28,936.00	\$ 54,349.00	\$ 83,285.00

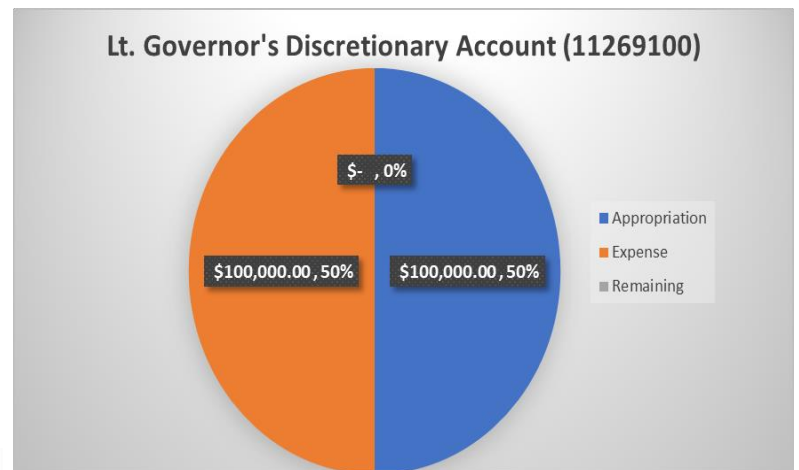
### Expenditures Summary (11262000)



### Local Appropriation (Discretionary Funds)

Lt. Governor's Office (11269100)	
FY 2022	
	Operations
Appropriation	\$ 100,000.00
Expense	\$ 100,000.00
Remaining	\$ -

### Expenditures Summary (11269100)



**NOTE:** The local accounts identified under the Office of the Lt. Governor are funds that have been appropriated through the Legislature. These accounts identified are specific to his Office Operations (Local 1050) and Discretionary Funds (Local 1051).

### Expenditure Highlights

In FY 2022, the Lt. Governor continued his commitment to the community by donating funds to several public initiatives to include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Empty Vessel and Karidat, as well as, community projects aimed at improving the overall health and well-being of our community such as the Arts.

In FY 2023, it is the intent of the Lt. Governor to maintain these various endeavours and continue to support agencies, offices, and organizations through both financial and human resources. As this year currently serves as an election year, the Lt. Governor has expressed his intentions to remain fiscally conservative and support our people through foreign and domestic engagements aimed and providing more fiscal opportunities for our people of the Commonwealth.



# What's Next...

## Priorities & Challenges for FY 2022



Many challenges continue to plague our Commonwealth. As the Commonwealth slowly inches its way towards recovery, many unknowns exist within our community. Although the CNMI has seen an influx of money from Federal Sources that would have otherwise led to demise of our central government, local revenues remain low and key sources of revenue have not generated the needs growth to sustain our economy. Some of these key challenges include:

- The on-going transition and updates for the existing Financial Software System currently in use by the CNMI Government.
- The continued disaster response associated with protecting our community from COVID-19 and its variants.
- The unmet needs of many citizens who require assistance in some way, shape, or form.
- The replacement and upgrade of existing infrastructure such as roads, that have plagued our communities throughout the CNMI given wear & tear in addition to natural erosion.



While our Commonwealth continues to recover from fiscal restraints, there is light at the end of the tunnel. This light comes in the form of efforts undertaken by the Lt. Governor's Office to help and support the offices and programs that provide key public services, such as:

- The continued efforts of the CNMI Highway Taskforce, aimed at improving existing roadways, have held true to their intentions with several roads currently completed and several more under construction.
- Strong working relationship with the Legislature.
- Continued engagements with on and off island dignitaries to ensure we maintain a strong relationship with neighboring jurisdictions.
- Support provided to constituents who reach out for assistance with existing government programs or aids.



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