



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS 2024 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT



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About DPL

In 2006, Public Law 15-2 was signed into law thereby creating the Department of Public Lands (DPL) under the Executive Branch. The enactment of DPL absorbed the obligations and responsibilities of the former Marianas Public Land Corporation (MPLC) which was established in 1979 under Article XI of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

The overall responsibilities of the Department include the creation and implementation of a homesteading program, the commercial leasing and permitting of idle public lands, the settling of land claims (e.g., through the Land Compensation Program), and designating public land parcels to other government agencies for the fulfillment of the public purpose.

Our Mission

The mission of the Department of Public Lands, as trustees for public lands in the Commonwealth, is to provide for the efficient and effective services in the management, use, disposition and development of public lands for the economic and social betterment of individuals of Northern Marianas Descent and to implement the strategic Land Use Plan to promote cultural and economic growth for the benefit of our present and future generations.



STAFF

Saipan – 66
34
32

Tinian – 4
0
4

Rota – 5
2
3

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Tinian District Office
Bernadita San Nicolas, Resident Director

Advisory Board

Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong
Chair

Priscilla Iakopo
Vice Chair

Melanie Cruz
Secretary

Henry Hofschneider
Member

James Manglona
Member



HOMESTEAD

Homestead Permits issued:

Village	Saipan – 24; Tinian – 4; Rota – 7
Agricultural	Rota - 6

Quitclaim Deed Issued:

Village	Saipan – 4; Tinian – 14; Rota – 3
Agricultural	Rota - 4

Pending Homestead Applications:

Village	Saipan – 2030; Tinian – 608; Rota – 734
Agricultural	Tinian – 575; Rota - 778

PLANNING

The Planning Division is responsible for the planning, homestead development, surveys and maintenance of land information functions. Land use reviews are performed for either government, commercial, or private land use request.

Survey & Mapping	42
As-Built	18
Stake Out	31
Retracement	73
Topographic	4
Designations	21
TOA	22
LUR	52
Reconveyance	2

Leases and Temporary Occupancy Agreement

DPL currently has a total of **74** active leases. Leased properties include the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Former Hyatt Regency Saipan, portions of the Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort Hotel, Kanoa Resort Hotel, Coral Ocean Resort, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golf, Grace Christian Academy School and Brilliant Star Montessori School.

Over **108** active Temporary Occupancy Agreements (TOA) have been issued for beach concession, roadside vendors, quarry, parking, encroachment, maintenance, telecommunication and subsistence agriculture and grazing.



The Managaha Pier Rehabilitation Project has commenced and is expected to be completed by January 2025.

DPL conducted a sale of inventory and assets at the former Mariana Resort & Spa from September, 2023 to June, 2024.

DPL amended Brilliant Star Montessori School's lease term from 25 years to 40 years pursuant to PL 20-84.

DPL and Grace Christian Academy executed a new lease for another 40 years.

The Managaha Pier Rehabilitation Project which will revitalize and restore the pier is expected to be completed by January, 2025. The project is in collaboration with OIA, DPW, BECQ and DLNR.

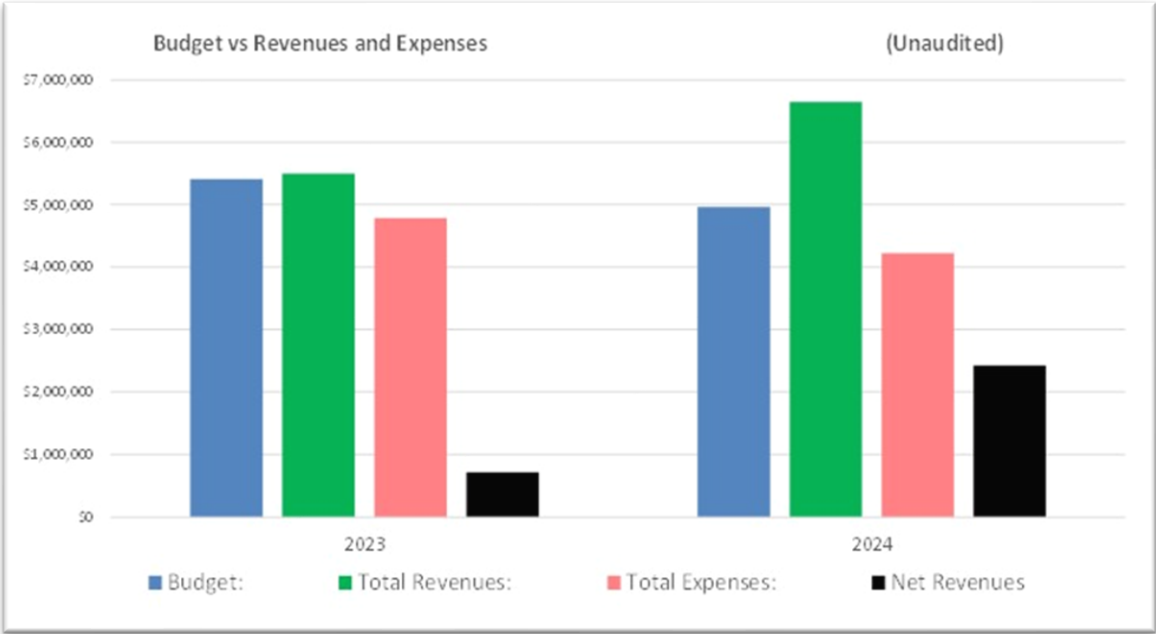
DPL issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the former Rota Resort and Country Club.

Submission of proposals closes on November 10, 2024.

FINANCES

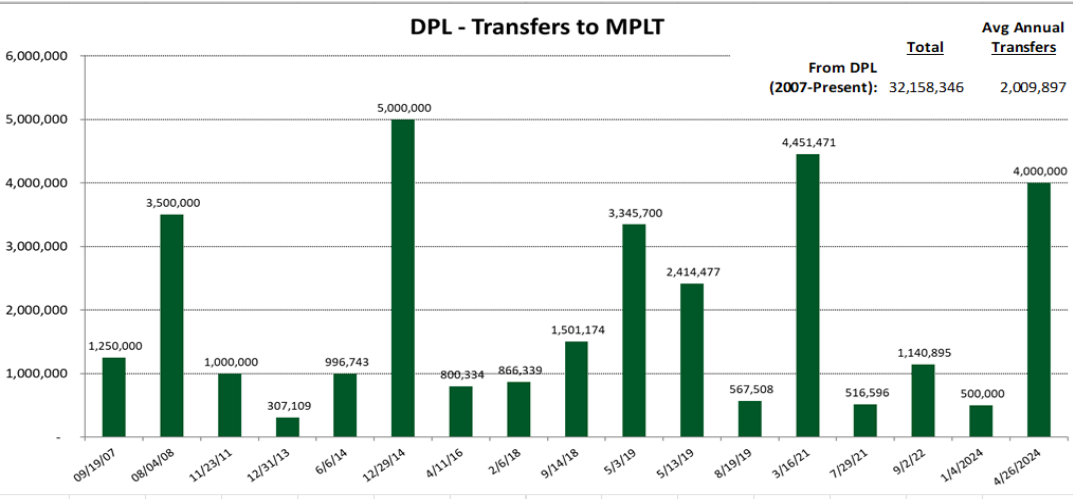
- DPL’s approved budget was decreased by 8.27% compared to FY ’23 due to a decline in projected revenues.
- Expenses decreased by 11.78% realized through cost-cutting measures.
- Revenue increased by 20.81% through collection efforts such as active monitoring of accounts, sending out delinquent notices and follow-up communication with clients. These efforts resulted in a 239.15% increase in revenue from 2023.

(Unaudited)	2023	2024
Budget	\$5,407,896	\$4,960,881
Total Revenue	\$5,500,219	\$6,644,574
Total Expense	\$4,785,890	\$4,221,894
Net Revenue	\$714,329	\$2,422,680



REMITTANCE TO MPLT

DPL AND MPLT have a longstanding “co-fiduciary” relationship of receiving and managing funds from public land leases and permits as mandated under Article XI of the CNMI Constitution. MPLT receives and invests the revenues as a trustee for the people of Northern Marianas Descent.



6th ✓

consecutive year of unqualified audit of its financial statements.

DPL commissions an audit after the end of every fiscal year which is a testament to DPL’s hard work and fiscal responsibility to our stakeholders.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of Legislation appropriation funding results in payments being on hold for land compensation.
- Lack of appropriation funding for homestead infrastructure; subdivision projects on hold for Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
- Decrease in revenue collections due to the dwindling economy.
- New system for recording leases, permits, deeds and other documents is complicated and time consuming.
- Lack of a full time, in-house System Administrator/IT to tackle DPL's problems with network and computer systems.

GOALS

- ✓ Lobby for Legislation to appropriate funding for homestead infrastructure and land compensation
- ✓ Be proactive in collections of current and delinquent accounts
- ✓ Exemption from Executive Order No. 2021-09 and to get approval to fill vacant positions.
- ✓ Urge the Office of the Governor to allow DPL to hire its own full time, in-house System Administrator/IT.

