



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor's Council of Economic Advisers
October 1st, 2025

New GCEA Launches to Chart Path Toward Economic Resilience

SAIPAN, MP, OCTOBER 1, 2025 — Last month, Governor David M. Apatang re-established the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers (GCEA), charting the path toward economic resilience in the Commonwealth. The new Council will convene its organizational meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025. A press conference will immediately follow at 11:20 a.m in the Office of the Governor's first-floor conference room.

Given the current economic conditions facing the Commonwealth, the Council will seek to provide the Governor and central government with timely and relevant advice as our islands navigate this challenging environment together. GCEA is co-chaired by Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola and business sector representative Joseph C. Guerrero.

“As the economy experiences a downturn marked by reduced tourism, rising unemployment, and declining revenues, this Council will coordinate strategic responses, offer informed policy recommendations, and foster public-private collaboration” said Co-chair Lt. Gov. Dennis Mendiola. “By identifying key areas for investment, aligning government efforts, and supporting sustainable growth, this GCEA will ensure the CNMI stays on a path toward resilience and economic diversification. As Co-chair, my role is simply to bridge the gap, connect stakeholders, align resources, and ensure every voice is heard as we move forward together with unity and purpose” he added.

Building on this vision, the Council also benefits from the experience of past members and those from the business sector, carrying forward vital institutional memory.

"As a member of the previous GCEA from 2020 to 2022, I have seen firsthand the many ideas and strategies that were carefully considered and deliberated — many of which remain highly relevant today” said Co-chair Joe Guerrero. “Participating in the recent Economic Roadmap report for Governor Palacios deepened my understanding of how crucial close collaboration between government and the private sector is in addressing our economic challenges. I am

grateful for the trust that Governor Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Mendiola have placed in me by appointing me to co-chair this important council. Moving forward, I am committed to leveraging this experience and the valuable insights from our past efforts to help guide effective, innovative solutions that foster sustainable growth and economic resilience for the CNMI" he added.

The latest composition of the Council was formed by Governor Apatang's September 2025 Directive No. 2025-005 and includes representatives from across the private and public sector.

For media inquiries related to GCEA, contact Clement "CJ" Bermudes Jr., the Council's Executive Director, at cj.bermudes@cnmi.gov.

About the GCEA

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers was created by Executive Order 2020-11 in May 2020. The Council advises on the formulation of policy initiatives to encourage economic growth, among other responsibilities. Members and secretariat staff of the Council serve the Governor at no expense to the CNMI Government or taxpayer.