

David M. Apatang
Governor



Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-005

SUBJECT: Declaration of Price Freeze.

AUTHORITY: NMI Const. art. III, § 10 provides that the “governor may declare a state of emergency in the case of invasion, civil disturbance, natural disaster, or other calamity as provided by law, and may mobilize available resources to respond to that emergency”; and 4 CMC § 5142 provides that “[u]pon the Governor’s declaring that the Commonwealth is in typhoon condition two, or tropical storm condition one, or in case of the Governor’s declaration of a state of significant emergency or a state of major disaster, pursuant to his or her constitutional power to do so, the Governor may declare a price freeze, which shall last until the Governor rescinds the price freeze, or the declaration of emergency or disaster is terminated.”

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Sinlaku (04W) is forecasted to intensify into a Category 3 or Category 4 typhoon prior to landfall. Based on its current track, all populated islands within the CNMI, including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, are under threat; and

WHEREAS, As of 10:59 AM ChST on Saturday, April 11, 2026, a Typhoon Watch is in effect for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, indicating that typhoon conditions, including sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater, are possible within the next 48 hours; and

WHEREAS, The storm is expected to produce heavy rainfall totals of 15 to 20 inches for Rota and 8 to 15 inches for Tinian and Saipan between Sunday night and Wednesday, significantly increasing the risk of flash flooding. Additional anticipated impacts include coastal inundation, storm surge, and dangerous surf conditions across all islands; and

WHEREAS, There is also a high probability of widespread power outages, wind damage to homes and critical facilities, and significant disruptions to transportation and communications systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID M. APATANG, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Price Freeze.

All prices of items for sale, and housing rentals including apartments and condos, shall be frozen until this price freeze is rescinded or the declaration of emergency or disaster is terminated. While this price freeze is in effect, it shall be illegal to raise the price of any of items for sale or housing rentals including apartments and condos.

Section 2. Penalties.

Pursuant to 4 CMC § 5143:

- (a) **Criminal Penalties.** Any person who sells, or presents for sale, an item whose price has been raised or increases housing rentals including apartments and condos while this price freeze is in effect, shall be guilty of a felony, and shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$10,000 or one year of imprisonment, or both.
- (b) **Civil Penalties.** Any person who sells, or presents for sale, an item whose price has been raised or increases housing rentals including apartments and condos while this price freeze is in effect shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for each violation.

Section 3. General Provisions.

- (a) This executive order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law.
- (b) This executive order is not intended to and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
- (c) This executive order shall be effective immediately upon its promulgation.
- (d) If any provision of this executive order 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 executive order or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

It is so Ordered,

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED on this 11th day of April 2026.



David M. Apatang
Governor