

David M. Apatang
Governor



Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-004

SUBJECT: Declaration of State of Significant Emergency.

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 1 CMC § 20144 provides that “[t]he Governor upon the occurrence of a major disaster or a state significant emergency shall declare a state of major disaster or a state [of] significant emergency.”

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:

Declaration of State of Significant Emergency.

In consultation with CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, I hereby declare a State of Significant Emergency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and I am ordering the activation of the State Emergency Operations Plan throughout the Commonwealth.

This emergency declaration is necessary for the Commonwealth Government to identify and mobilize available resources in response to the anticipated impact and potential damages of Tropical Storm Sinlaku (04W) approaching the Mariana Islands.

The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is the agency tasked with primary authority for addressing this emergency, in collaboration with federal and local partners.

By this declaration, I hereby authorize the deployment and use of any forces and the use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, materials, facilities and personnel to be made available pursuant to the CNMI Emergency Operations Plan.

It is so Ordered,

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



David M. Apatang
Governor