



David M. Apatang
Governor

Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-010

SUBJECT: Transfer of Roads and Grounds Division from Department of Public Works to Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

AUTHORITY: NMI Const. art. III, § 1 provides that “[t]he executive power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a governor who shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws;” and NMI Const. art. III, § 15 permits the governor to “make changes in the allocation of offices, agencies and instrumentalities and in their functions and duties that are necessary for efficient administration.”

WHEREAS; the Commonwealth government’s fragile fiscal situation requires consolidation of government agencies with duplicative functions; and

WHEREAS; reconstruction of essential infrastructure post-Super Typhoon Sinlaku requires clear chain of command in agencies responsible for roads and grounds maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, and in order to achieve effective and efficient government administration so as to better serve the interests of the Commonwealth and its people, hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Enactment.

- (a) All staff of the Roads and Grounds Division of the Department of Public Works, except the Director thereof, are hereby transferred to the Division of Parks and Recreation within the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Such staff shall be under the supervision of the Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources or designee.
- (b) Duties and responsibilities of the Department of Public Works enumerated in Chapter 155-20 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code, and such statutory duties pursuant to 1 CMC § 2403 as correlate to NMIAC Chapter 155-20, are hereby transferred to the Division of Parks and Recreation within the Department of Natural Resources.

Section 2. General Provisions.

- (a) This executive order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law.

- (b) Except as specifically provided in Section 1 of this executive order, the statutory provisions of Title 1, Division 2, Chapter 8 of the Commonwealth Code shall remain in force in full.
- (c) Except as specifically provided in Section 1 of this executive order, the statutory provisions of Chapter 155-20 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code shall remain in force in full, except that references to the Department of Public Works shall instead mean the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and references to the Secretary of Public Works shall instead mean the Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources or designee.
- (d) 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.
- (e) In accordance with NMI Const. art. III, § 15, this executive order shall be submitted to the legislature and shall become effective sixty days after submission, unless specifically modified or disapproved by a majority of the members of each house of the legislature.
- (f) 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 26th day of June 2026.



DAVID M. APATANG
Governor