



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Eloy S. Inos
Lieutenant Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2012-15

DECLARATION OF HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (“CHC”) provides the bulk of necessary healthcare in the Commonwealth, as well as providing all emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the disruption of the provision of medical services by the CHC poses a direct threat to the health and safety of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, the CHC is currently in arrears to payments to vendors providing vital services and equipment and is in arrears in regards to salary payments to necessary employees; and

WHEREAS, CHC deteriorating financial condition affects its ability to maintain adequate infrastructure, equipment and personnel such that it is jeopardizing CHC’s federal funding; and

WHEREAS, CHC, has been notified by federal authorities that, due to deficiencies in CHC operations and infrastructure, CHC will cease to be eligible for Medicare/Medicaid payments along with other penalties if the deficiencies are not promptly remediated.

WHEREAS, Article III §10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth and section 5101 *et seq.* of Title Three of the Commonwealth Code provide that the Governor has the authority and duty to take the necessary steps to respond to impending disasters;


NOW THEREFORE, a State of Emergency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is declared due to the imminent threat of the disruption of critical medical services in the Commonwealth and the danger that such a condition poses to the public because of the great increase in otherwise preventable deaths that would result.

In order to meet this imminent threat, the Constitutional authority provided under Article III §10 is invoked, including, but not limited to, the authority to:

1. Suspend all statutory or regulatory provisions as required; and
2. The reprogramming of funds necessary to meet this emergency.

To ensure that the suspension of regulatory provisions does not lead to financial abuse, this emergency declaration incorporates the March 19, 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CHC and the Department of Finance, Office Management and Budget, and Office of the Attorney General. In addition, any financial reports submitted by the CHC pursuant to the MOU must be submitted with a certification of the person submitting them stating that the reports are a full and accurate under penalty of perjury.

Done this 19th day of November, 2012



Benigno R. Fitial
Governor