



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-21

SUBJECT: ORDER CREATING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) UNIVERSAL GARBAGE COLLECTION TASKFORCE

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 § 14 grants the Governor the power to “at any time require information in writing or otherwise from the head of any administrative department, office or agency of the Commonwealth;”

WHEREAS, since the inception of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), solid waste disposal and management has been at the forefront of policy discussions and development planning efforts, and through these efforts, it has been the vision that a unified and coordinated system for the management of the Commonwealth’s solid waste be established; and

WHEREAS, today, the enhancement of the Commonwealth’s solid waste management system is critical to the CNMI’s development and will rely on coordination amongst a wide spectrum of stakeholders in order to achieve substantial transformation to overcome the years of unanticipated use caused by natural disasters, the continuing scourge of littering, development increases, and lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Department of Public Works published a Solid Waste Management Feasibility Study that found that the present structure of solid waste management in the CNMI lacks centralized control and planning for the development of an integrated solid waste management system, and in this study, a set of recommendations and best practices were provided for enhancing the effectiveness of the CNMI’s solid waste management system; and

WHEREAS, this study, along with recommendations from the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors and the Office of Planning and Development have highlighted the need for a long-term coordinated effort to support growth of our solid waste management system and to ameliorate the negative repercussions of littering and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, while the Office of Planning and Development, with the support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, has established the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce, more immediate actions can be taken to increase coordination, integration, and inter-agency collaboration; and

WHEREAS, poor accessibility to solid waste disposal services and the overall inefficiency of the solid waste management system plays a significant role in the proliferation of illegal dumping and littering resulting in the degradation of the CNMI’s environment and a poor image for our tourist-based economy; and

WHEREAS, Universal Garbage Collection is the expansion of community universal access basic to municipal solid waste disposal through the provision of curbside waste pickup and the management of community solid waste receptacles; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this administration that greater efforts be made to modernize access of solid waste management resources to the CNMI population and to act upon recommendations offered by a public-private collaborative system in order to provide for a Universal Garbage Collection service in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a system for Universal Garbage Collection for the collection of solid waste throughout the CNMI will establish greater efficiencies and ameliorate the harmful practice of littering and illegal dumping once developed and implemented;

NOW THEREFORE, I, RALPH DLG. TORRES, hereby **ORDER** that:

1. The CNMI Universal Garbage Collection Taskforce is established and shall convene and work toward the creation of a collection system that will provide for greater efficiencies in the collection of solid waste among the villages and businesses in the Commonwealth, reduce the incentives for littering, provide for community receptacles, and establish greater efficiencies among private operators in the solid waste collection services.
2. The Taskforce shall be composed of professional individuals and government officials from both the public and private sectors. All Departments, Divisions, Offices, Government Corporations, Boards and Commissions of the CNMI Government appointed to this Taskforce shall assign a representative from their respective offices to participate in meetings and activities carried out by the CNMI Universal Garbage Collection Taskforce necessary to achieve its critical missions.

The Taskforce shall consist of the following agencies:

The Department of Public Works
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Planning and Development

Additional government agencies may be added from time to time and as deemed necessary by the Chairman of the Taskforce.

The following organizations are invited and requested to be members of the Taskforce:

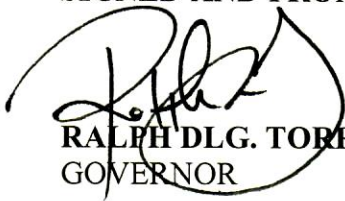
Governor's Council of Economic Advisors
Saipan Chamber of Commerce
Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Attorney General

3. The Taskforce shall designate a Chairperson from the participating members to coordinate the efforts of the Taskforce. The Taskforce shall meet periodically as need or as called by the Chairman in order to fulfill its responsibilities.
4. The Taskforce is responsible for reviewing existing plans, studies, and recommendations for the establishment of a Universal Garbage Collection system for the CNMI, reviewing best practices in the region and the United States for the implementation of Universal Garbage Collection, and providing written plans and recommendations to the Office of the Governor regarding the establishment of a Universal Garbage Collection system which shall include any changes necessary to CNMI laws, regulations, or policies.

Any plan shall consider the establishment of a functioning and beneficial public-private partnership in the collection of solid waste and methods for funding such a system. Further, any plan shall contain the creation of community waste receptacles in the villages and on recreational sites as a component of the Universal Garbage Collection system.

5. The Taskforce is hereby granted the full authority to research and develop plans and recommendations and is empowered to hold meetings and request information from public and private sources. All government agencies and departments shall be responsive to requests of the Taskforce and support its efforts. Any delays or challenges experienced by the Taskforce in the conduct of its duties shall be reported to the Office of the Governor.
6. All reports and recommendations of the Taskforce will be provided to the Office of the Governor ninety (90) days after the issuance of this Order. At such time that reports and recommendations are submitted to the Office of the Governor, the Taskforce shall dissolve.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED ON THIS 28 day of September, 2021


RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR