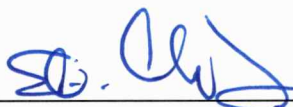




EDMUND SABLAN VILLAGOMEZ
SPEAKER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
P. O. BOX 500586
Saipan, MP 96950

MEMORANDUM

DATE : 17 July 2026
TO : ALL HOUSE MEMBERS
FROM : Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez 
SUBJECT : Emergency Session, 1st Day, 4th Special Session

Pursuant to the Open Government Act and Rule III, Section 7 of the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure, I hereby call for an **Emergency Session** of the **1st Day, 4th Special Session for Saturday, 18 July 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** in the House Chamber.

The reason for finding that an emergency exists is based on the urgent need to take action on **HB 24-107**, "To authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to obtain emergency financing for utility restoration, stabilization, and fuel procurement in response to Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi and related fuel supply disruptions; and for other purposes."

cc: Senate President
House Clerk
LB Director
SAPLR
Media



NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
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7/17/2026

Pursuant to the House Rules of Procedure and the authority under the NMI Constitution, the Speaker of the House of Representatives announces that the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene the following open and public meeting:

Meeting: House of Representatives Emergency Session, 1st Day, Fourth Special Session
Date and Time: Saturday, July 18, 2026, at 4:00 PM
Location: House Chamber, Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill

Copies of this notice, the official Session call, and the agenda have been filed in the Office of the House Clerk, released to the media, and posted at the following locations:

Administration Building Entrance Hall
House of Representatives Entrance Hall
Senate Entrance Hall
Commonwealth Legislature website (www.cnmileg.net)

Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting on Saturday, July 18, 2026.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
EMERGENCY SESSION 2026

SESSION DAY	CALENDAR DAY	TIME
1ST DAY, FOURTH SPECIAL	SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026	4:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A Moment of Silence

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. ADOPTION OF JOURNALS – (None)

4. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

A. House Bills:

H. B. NO. 24-107: To authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to obtain emergency financing for utility restoration, stabilization, and fuel procurement in response to Super Typhoon Sinlaku, and Bavi and related fuel supply disruptions; and for other purposes.

Prefiled by: REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Marissa R. Flores, and Edmund S. Villagomez*)

B. House Local Bills:

C. House Legislative Initiatives:

5. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. House Resolutions:

B. House Joint Resolutions:

C. House Commemorative Resolutions:

D. House Concurrent Resolutions:

6. **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR** – (None)
7. **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS** – (None)
8. **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS** – (None)
9. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH** – (None)
10. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES** – (None)
11. **MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**– (None)
12. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES** – (None)
13. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES** – (None)
14. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – (None)

15. RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Resolution	Subject	Action

16. BILL CALENDAR

Bill/Initiative	Subject	Action

17. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(ADJOURNMENT)

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. No. 24-54: To amend 10 CMC § 12143 to lower the local gambling taxes, including online gaming. Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself). Introduced on May 22, 2026.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on June 18, 2026:

H. L. B. No. 24-59: To re-appropriate Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Fifty-Four Cents (\$8,483.54) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-27 Section 2(B)(5)(ii); Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-23 Section 2(e); Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$17,995.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 24-14 Section 2(a); Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 22-10 Section 2(B)(20)(B)(i); Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Forty-Seven Cents (\$27,166.47) allotted under Saipan Local Law 18-17 Section 2(d); and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 23-10 Section 2(a); and for other purposes. REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*). Introduced on June 18, 2026 and transmitted to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

[ADDED-6/18/2026] H. L. B. No. 24-60: To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59. REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*). Introduced on June 18, 2026 and transmitted to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

*LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE TRACKER (Informational)***Veto Override / Reconsideration Deadlines**

Gov. Comm. 24-146: (5/20/2026) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 24-49, entitled, To establish the CNMI Next/Gen 911 Telephone Communications System within the CNMI; and for other purposes. [Deadline: 7/19/2026] Read on May 22, 2026 and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Executive Appointments Requiring Legislative Confirmation

None pending.

Judicial Rule Review Period

None pending.

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24- 107

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to obtain emergency financing for utility restoration, stabilization, and fuel procurement in response to Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi and related fuel supply disruptions; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Section
2 8123(e) of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code authorizes the Commonwealth
3 Utilities Corporation (CUC) to borrow money and give security therefor, and
4 requires legislative approval by law for borrowing in excess of five hundred
5 thousand dollars.

6 The Legislature further finds that Super Typhoon Sinlaku and Super
7 Typhoon Bavi caused widespread damage to electric generation facilities,
8 transmission and distribution lines, transformers and poles, as well as water wells,
9 pumps, booster stations, tanks, treatment systems, wastewater lift stations,
10 collection systems, and related utility infrastructure throughout the
11 Commonwealth.

1 The resulting outages and infrastructure damage have threatened public
2 health and safety, disrupted emergency services and communications, halted most
3 economic activity, closed schools and childcare facilities, and compromised
4 potable water and wastewater treatment to the point that boil-water notices and
5 emergency water stations are necessary.

6 After taking into account expected insurance proceeds, Federal Emergency
7 Management Agency (FEMA) assistance, federal grants, and other recovery
8 resources, CUC requires access to emergency financing not to exceed forty million
9 dollars (\$40,000,000) to finance urgent restoration, stabilization, repair,
10 replacement, and fuel procurement necessary to maintain reliable electric, water,
11 and wastewater services.

12 It is the purpose of this Act to authorize such borrowing on a temporary,
13 targeted basis; to establish safeguards, reporting, and oversight to protect ratepayers
14 and the public; to require that reimbursements from FEMA, insurance, federal
15 grants, or other recovery sources be applied to reduce outstanding principal where
16 permitted; and to allow recovery of reasonable financing costs through rates, fees,
17 charges, or surcharges, subject to regulatory review and limited to the period
18 necessary to repay the borrowing.

19 **Section 2. Amendment.** Notwithstanding any law, statute, rules, or
20 regulations, Title 4, Division 8, Chapter 1, is hereby amended by adding a new
21 Article 12 to read as follows:

1 **“Article 12. Financing Authority.**

2 **§ 82103. Definitions.**

3 For purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

4 (a) “Financing authority” means a loan or line of credit or other
5 short-term financing arrangement (including multiple facilities in the
6 aggregate) providing ready access to funds, and does not by itself create a
7 permanent rate base obligation.

8 (b) “Authorized uses” means the purposes listed in Section 82104(a).

9 **§ 82104. Financing Authority Authorization.**

10 (a) Pursuant to this Act and 4 CMC § 8123(e), the Commonwealth
11 Utilities Corporation may obtain one or more financing options from
12 public or private lenders within the Commonwealth or the United States,
13 and, upon legislative notice as provided in Section 82106(c), from other
14 jurisdictions, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed forty million
15 dollars (\$40,000,000).

16 (b) CUC shall draw on any financing options authorized by this Act
17 only to the extent reasonably necessary to fund the authorized uses set forth
18 in Section 82105(a), taking into account available insurance proceeds,
19 FEMA assistance, federal grants, disaster relief, mutual aid
20 reimbursements, and other recovery funds.

21 **§ 82105. Authorized Uses; Prohibited Uses.**

1 (a) Authorized Uses. Funds borrowed pursuant to this Act shall be used
2 only for costs directly related to the restoration, stabilization, repair,
3 replacement, or continued operation of electric, water, and wastewater
4 utility services affected by Super Typhoon Sinlaku and Super Typhoon
5 Bavi, and for procurement of fuel necessary for utility operations,
6 reasonable financing costs associated with the financing authorized by this
7 Act (including origination and closing fees), and reasonable administrative
8 and project management costs directly attributable to implementing such
9 measures. Authorized uses may include, but are not limited to:

10 (1) Purchase of fuel necessary for power generation;

11 (2) Repair, replacement, or restoration of damaged power generation
12 facilities, transmission lines, distribution lines, transformers, poles,
13 substations, control systems, and related equipment;

14 (3) Repair, replacement, or restoration of water wells, pumps, booster
15 stations, tanks, treatment systems, and distribution infrastructure;

16 (4) Repair, replacement, or restoration of wastewater lift stations,
17 collection systems, treatment facilities, and related equipment;

18 (5) Procurement of emergency equipment, materials, supplies,
19 professional services, and contractor services necessary to restore or
20 maintain utility service;

1 (6) Temporary generation, temporary utility infrastructure, and
2 emergency operational measures necessary to protect public health and
3 safety; and

4 (7) Reasonable financing of credit origination costs, closing costs, and
5 other financing costs directly related to the financing authorized by this
6 Act.

7 **§ 82106. Legislative Notice; Oversight; Reporting; Public Availability;**
8 **Coordination.**

9 (a) Legislative Notice. Not less than five business days after closing on
10 any financing option authorized by this Act, CUC shall transmit to the
11 presiding officers of both houses of the Legislature, the chairpersons of the
12 legislative committees with jurisdiction over public utilities and fiscal
13 affairs, and the Legislative Bureau a written notice identifying:

14 (1) The lender or financing source and whether the lender is located
15 outside the Commonwealth or the United States and any special
16 conditions or risks associated with such financing;

17 (2) The principal amount of indebtedness to be accessed (and whether
18 this is part of an aggregate facility);

19 (3) The interest rate or method for calculating interest and any
20 applicable floor or cap;

21 (4) The repayment term and amortization schedule;

- 1 (5) All origination fees, closing costs, and other financing charges;
- 2 (6) Whether any Commonwealth guarantee, pledge, or other public
- 3 obligation is being requested or implied;
- 4 (7) The anticipated source of repayment; and
- 5 (8) A summary of the intended uses of the approved financing
- 6 agreement.
- 7 (b) Quarterly Reports to the Legislature. Beginning thirty (30) days
- 8 after the first draw or disbursement of proceeds, and quarterly thereafter
- 9 until the indebtedness is fully repaid, CUC shall submit a written report to
- 10 the presiding officers of both houses of the Legislature, the chairpersons of
- 11 the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public utilities and fiscal
- 12 affairs, and the Legislative Bureau. Each report shall include:
- 13 (1) The total amount received to date;
- 14 (2) The total amount expended to date;
- 15 (3) The amount of principal interest paid during the reporting period;
- 16 (4) The current outstanding principal balance;
- 17 (5) A list of expenditures made with the financial proceeds during the
- 18 reporting period, including vendor names, payment amounts,
- 19 payment dates, and general description of goods or services
- 20 provided; such lists may be submitted in an electronic spreadsheet
- 21 or other standardized format;

- 1 (6) A description of the utility restoration, stabilization, or fuel-related
- 2 purpose served by each major expenditure;
- 3 (7) The status of any pledged collateral or security;
- 4 (8) The amount of any rate, fee, charge, surcharge, or other customer
- 5 recovery mechanism used to repay the indebtedness;
- 6 (9) The amount collected from customers for the indebtedness
- 7 repayment during the reporting period;
- 8 (10) The status of any FEMA, insurance, federal, or other
- 9 reimbursement; and
- 10 (11) Any material change in repayment terms, collateral, lender
- 11 requirements, or anticipated total cost of using the financing.
- 12 (c) Public Availability. Reports required under this section shall be
- 13 public records and shall be posted on CUC's website not later than five
- 14 business days after submission to the Legislature, except that confidential
- 15 banking information, account numbers, protected customer information,
- 16 and security-sensitive infrastructure information may be redacted. CUC
- 17 shall also provide plain-language explanations of any temporary financing
- 18 surcharges on customer bills and on its website, including the purpose of
- 19 the surcharge and its anticipated duration.
- 20 (d) FEMA, Insurance, and Reimbursement Offset. To the extent that
- 21 expenditures paid from the financing are later reimbursed by FEMA,

1 insurance proceeds, federal grants, disaster assistance, mutual aid
2 reimbursements, or other recovery funds, such reimbursements shall be
3 applied first to reduce the outstanding principal balance of the loan or line
4 of credit, unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, grant condition,
5 insurance requirement, or the terms of the financing agreement.

6 (e) Federal and Other Recovery Funds. CUC shall make reasonable
7 efforts to seek and secure FEMA assistance, insurance proceeds, federal
8 grants, disaster assistance, mutual aid reimbursements, and other recovery
9 funds to minimize reliance on the financing authorized by this Act, and
10 shall report on such efforts and receipts in its quarterly reports under
11 subsection (b).

12 (f) Independent Audit. Expenditure of financing proceeds authorized
13 by this Act shall be subject to independent audit. CUC shall include the use
14 of financing proceeds, repayment activity, and customer recovery amounts
15 in its annual independent audit. The Legislature or the Public Auditor may
16 request a separate audit or review by an independent certified public
17 accountant if necessary to verify compliance with this Act.

18 **§ 82107. Rate Recovery; Regulatory Review.**

19 (a) CUC may include reasonable financing costs (including origination
20 and other fees, principal, and interest) in rates, fees, charges, or temporary
21 surcharges billed to customers until such costs are fully recouped; provided

1 that such recovery shall be temporary, shall sunset upon full repayment of
2 the obligation, and shall remain subject to applicable law and regulatory
3 review by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission unless the
4 Legislature expressly establishes an alternative temporary recovery
5 mechanism.

6 (b) Any surcharge, rate change, or recovery mechanism implemented to
7 repay financed amounts shall be presented in clear, plain language on
8 customer bills and on CUC's website, including an explanation of purpose
9 and anticipated duration.

10 **§ 82108. Material Modificaitons.**

11 Any material modification to the loan or line of credit principal amount,
12 repayment term, interest rate structure, collateral, security, or repayment source
13 after closing, including any refinancing or restructuring that extends the repayment
14 term by more than three years or increases the anticipated total interest cost by more
15 than ten percent, shall be reported to the Legislature not later than five business
16 days after such modification.

17 **§ 82109. Expiration of Borrowing Authority.**

18 The authority to enter into any new line of credit or to increase the principal
19 amount of an existing line of credit under this Act shall expire thirty-six (36)
20 months after the effective date of this Act. The expiration of the borrowing

1 authority shall not affect the validity of any obligation lawfully executed before that
2 date or CUC's obligation to repay such loan according to its terms.

3 **§ 82110. No Commonwealth General Obligation.**

4 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to pledge the full faith and credit,
5 taxing power, or general revenues of the Commonwealth for repayment of any
6 borrowing authorized by this Act, unless expressly authorized by a separate Act of
7 the Legislature.

8 **§ 82111. No Waiver of Regulatory Authority.**

9 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive, repeal, or limit the lawful
10 authority of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, except to the extent
11 expressly provided in this Act."

12 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
13 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
14 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
15 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
16 shall not be affected thereby.

17 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
18 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
19 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
20 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
21 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have

1 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
2 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

3 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
4 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 07.17.2026

Date: 7/17/26

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

[Signature]
House Legal Counsel

Date: 7-17-26