



Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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To All CNMI Government Branches, Departments, Agencies, Public Corporations, and Autonomous Agencies:

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) would like to remind everyone regarding the prohibition against the use of government resources for political purposes. The Commonwealth Ethics Code includes an absolute prohibition on the use of government funds, time, personnel, or equipment for political activity. This prohibition applies to public officials and public employees.

Political activities include but are not limited to: the sale of political fundraiser tickets for political candidates during working hours, use of government computers and cellular phones to advertise political fundraising events, and soliciting donations. Other previously reported unlawful activities in the government workplace include the sale of plate lunches to benefit a political candidate, the use of computers and printers to print campaign materials, and the recruiting of volunteers for political campaign activities during working hours. None of these activities should occur in government offices or on government time. If substantiated, would constitute criminal acts and subject participation of public employees and officials to judicial sanctions.

Please assist OPA in upholding the law of the CNMI to keep politics out of the government workplace. Set the tone at the top so that such activities will not be tolerated. As we get closer to the election, OPA asks you to remind your employees of this absolute prohibition, to post this memorandum in a conspicuous place, and to report any inappropriate political activities to OPA. Violations may be reported anonymously at OPA's website, at www.opa.cnmi.gov or by telephone at (670) 322-3937. Complaints will be investigated diligently and, when substantiated, referred for prosecution.

OPA is willing to conduct training on the Government Ethics Act if your office is interested. Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a presentation, please fill out our request form available at OPA's website or contact our office at (670) 322-6481.

Sincerely,

Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, CPA
Temporary Public Auditor