



NMI SETTLEMENT FUND

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Possible Lapse of Health Insurance Coverage and Discontinuation of 25% Benefit Payments After December 31, 2025

Saipan, CNMI, November 21, 2025. The Settlement Fund seeks to inform all Settlement Fund members of recent developments regarding retirees' health insurance coverage and the continuation of 25% benefit payments by the NMI Government.

1. Possible Discontinuation of Health Insurance Coverage. On November 19, 2025, Secretary of Finance Tracy Norita informed the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee that Government health insurance coverage provided by Aetna International Inc. will expire on **December 31, 2025**. Without Government appropriation of \$7.2 million in the FY 2026 budget to cover the retirees' health insurance premium, health insurance coverage may not be extended after December 31, 2025 without full funding. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHfqTiev8Rs>.

Governor Apatang has proposed a revised FY 2026 budget which provides for retirees' health insurance coverage conditioned on a loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust. The Governor's revised budget has not been approved by the Legislature, and we do not know at this time whether the Legislature will approve the revised budget with the funding for retirees' premiums. The Government is required under the Settlement Agreement to provide the same health insurance benefits to retirees that is also offered to full-time government employees. If the Government is not able to fully fund a health insurance policy covering both retirees and full-time government employees, there is a real risk that retirees may not have health insurance coverage after December 31, 2025. We urge all retirees to explore other health insurance options and to contact your representatives regarding this matter.

2. Funding for 25% Payment. The Settlement Fund was informed by the Government that it does not have funding for the 25% payments beyond **December 31, 2025**.

We are communicating with the Government on the health insurance coverage matter, and will continue to keep Settlement Fund members informed of developments relating to these matters as information becomes available.