



By the order of the court, Judge David A Wiseman

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E-FILED
CNMI SUPERIOR COURT
E-filed: May 15 2009 3:46PM
Clerk Review: N/A
Filing ID: 25198173
Case Number: 09-0066-CV
N/A

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

CHRISTINA-MARIE SABLAN)	Civil Action No. 09-0066E
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	ORDER AFTER HEARING:
)	
BENIGNO R. FITIAL, in his official)	PARTIALLY GRANTING
capacity as GOVERNOR of the)	CONTINUANCE;
COMMONWEALTH OF THE)	
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS,)	ORDERING SUBMISSION OF
ELOY INOS, in his official capacity as)	DOCUMENTS FOR IN CAMERA
SECRETARY OF FINANCE.)	REVIEW; AND
)	
Defendants.)	ORDERING CLARIFICATION OF
)	PROPER ACCOUNT NUMBER

THIS matter came for a hearing on May 14, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. for a hearing on Plaintiff's Request for Production of Document pursuant to the Open Government Act. Assistant Attorney General Meaghan Hassel-Shearer appeared on behalf of Defendants. Ms. Christina-Maria Sablan appeared pro se.¹

On May 13, 2009, Counsel Huesman requested a continuance in this matter until the second week of June. The Court found good cause for the motion and granted a partial continuance thereby only discussing a portion of the pending issues in this case at the hearing on May 14th. As noted at the

¹In accordance with this Court's order which dismissed Acting Attorney General Baka from the lawsuit, Mr. Baka has been removed from the caption.

1 hearing, the Open Government Act provides for an expedited litigation schedule. In view of this, the
2 Court has exercised diligence in efforts to comply with the expedited scheduling required by the law.
3 Thus, while an additional short continuance will be granted, Counsel's request to postpone this matter
4 until mid-June cannot be accommodated.

5 Secondly, as discussed at the hearing, the Privilege Log submitted by Defendants in this matter
6 does not provide sufficient detail about the documents to ascertain if the exceptions, (specifically, 1
7 CMC § 9918(a)(7) and (a)(8)) are applicable or if it is clearly unnecessary to exclude the documents as
8 provided by 1 CMC § 9918 (c). Therefore, Defendants are ordered to personally deliver the following
9 documents on or before May 28, 2009, in a sealed envelope to the chambers of this Court for an in
10 camera review: all items identified as 'Billing Invoice,' 'Voucher/Payment,' 'Supplier Payment
11 Inquiry,' and Item Numbers 30-34 in Defendant's Privilege Log.

12 Lastly, as acknowledged by Counsel Huesman, the Governor's account number previously
13 provided to Ms. Sablan was erroneously identified. The account number provided does not exist.
14 Therefore, Defendant's are ordered to file a document which clarifies and or corrects the previous
15 misinformation with the Court on or before May 28, 2009, which properly identifies the account
16 number. **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that a hearing on this matter be held on June 4, 2009 at
17 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 223A at which time Counsel Brad Huesman, or another counsel who is prepared
18 and able to do so, is ordered to appear and be prepared to argue the Government's position in this
19 matter.

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants provide the aforementioned documents
21 identified in the Privilege Log to the Court for in camera review on or before May 28, 2009.

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants file with the Court, a correction and/or
23 clarification regarding the Governor's account number that was improperly identified on or before May
24 28, 2009.

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SO ORDERED this 15th day of May, 2009.

/ s /

David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge