



TERRITORY OF GUAM  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AGAÑA, GUAM 96910  
U. S. A.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2000-21**

**RELATIVE TO FORMING A TASK FORCE TO ASSIST  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN  
IDENTIFYING UNSAFE ABANDONED BUILDINGS  
AND TAKING STEPS TO REMOVE THEM.**

**WHEREAS**, Typhoon Paka, passing Guam in December of 1997, had a devastating effect on many buildings on Guam, and numerous buildings and structures have not been replaced, repaired, removed, or otherwise demolished since the typhoon; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the complications of rules and regulations, as well as need to obtain financing, some of which is unavailable or too expensive, many owners of uninhabited and partially-destroyed buildings and structures have not dealt with their properties, even though several years have passed since the last destructive typhoon; and

**WHEREAS**, Typhoon "season" has arrived again, the time of year when typhoons are generally frequent in the Mariana Islands, including Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, the many uninhabited and partially-destroyed buildings and structures still remaining on our island constitute a danger to the public in future expected storms and typhoons, which will most assuredly come at a time in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, debris from uninhabited and partially-destroyed buildings and structures can be guaranteed to fly freely in strong winds, and cannot be battened down or secured; and

**WHEREAS**, further predictable damage to our island, which is dependent on tourism as a mainstay of the economy, should be avoided as much as possible, and the time to take this action is now, prior to future storms and typhoons; and

**WHEREAS**, the laws of Guam provide for a procedure to handle unsafe structures, and to remove them if they constitute an actual and immediate danger; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable to form a task force to assist in this work, to make the identification of buildings and structures that need action immediately, and to start the processes which need to be undertaken now;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ, I Maga'Lahen Guåhan, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do order:**

1. **Task force created.** There is an "Unsafe Structures Task Force" created, whose members shall assist in the implementation of the provisions of



Article 5, Chapter 66, Division 2, of Title 21 of the Guam Code Annotated, the Building Law. Relevant portions of this Article are as follows:

"§66501. Unsafe Structures. (a) All unsafe buildings and structures are hereby declared to be illegal, and shall be repaired, vacated or demolished, in accordance with the procedure established by this Chapter.

... "

"§66502. Same. Examination. The building official shall examine or cause to be examined every unsafe or damaged building or structure. . . . "

"§66506. Same. Actual and Immediate Danger. (a) In case there shall be, in the opinion of the building official, actual and immediate danger of failure or collapse of a building or structure, or any part thereof so as to endanger life or property, he shall promptly cause such building or structure to be made temporarily safe, or if necessary, to be demolished. In such cases the decision of the building official shall be final and conclusive."

(b) . . .

(c) Costs incurred under this section shall be paid out of the General Fund of Guam on a certified voucher of the building official. Such costs shall be a lien on the land on which the building exists or existed, as the case may be, until recovered by the government of Guam."

2. **Members.** The Unsafe Structures Task Force shall consist of the following members:
  - a) Governor, or designee.
  - b) Director, Department of Public Works, or designee.
  - c) Attorney General of Guam, or designee.
  - d) Director, Department of Land Management, or designee.
  - e) Executive Director, Chamorro Land Trust Commission.
  - f) Other members as assigned by the Governor.
3. **Duties.** The task force shall meet regularly and establish the proper legal guidelines to take action regarding all uninhabited and partially-destroyed buildings and structures, according to the laws of Guam. The task force shall first identify these buildings and structures and inform the registered owner of the real property where the buildings and structures are located of their condition and seek to have the owner take action. On buildings and structures that need outside intervention, the procedures in the building law shall be followed.
4. **Report.** The task force shall make a report to the Governor as soon as possible on the number of uninhabited and partially-destroyed buildings and structures that need action, and recommendations regarding them.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 25th day of July, 2000.

  
CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ  
I Maga'Lahen Guåhan  
Governor of Guam