**Government Corruption: Nepotism in the CNMI Government**

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**Abstract**

**Summary:** Nepotism plays a big role when it comes to government corruption in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). When we talk about nepotism, the CNMI is a good example of it. The CNMI is made up of about eighty thousand people and of those eighty thousand people a large percentage are related in some way. This makes hiring family member for employment in the government hard to avoid. Family hiring in the CNMI government occurs so much that it is the norm. CNMI citizens see it all the time but don’t really care that it is happening. This report will show how nepotism plays a big role when it comes to government corruption in the CNMI. I will also provide some ways that the CNMI government could address this issue.

**Government Corruption: Nepotism’s Role in Government Corruption in the**

The Commonwealth of the Northern Marinas Islands (CNMI) has a unique situation when we talk about nepotism. We live on an island with a population of about eighty thousand people, with a high percentage of people being related. This create issues when people apply jobs on the CNMI government. Nepotism happens so much in the CNMI government for many years that it has become a norm. People do not realize that this creates a breeding ground for corruption within the government.

People do not realize that nepotism create issues when it comes to making critical decisions in the government. This creates control and bias when it comes to matters that need to be addressed without any influence. An example of the effects of nepotism is currently the CNMI government has no money at the moment so employees are being laid off in order to compensate for the loss or revenue in the government. The governor put out a directive to all department heads to come up with a list of names of employees that will be laid off. One of the guide line is that rating should be judge by the position and performance of employees and not by the affiliation of the personnel to the department heads. Although this has been put out people are noticing that a big number of people that are being laid off have no relations to department heads. On the other hand people that have relations are being kept and being placed in positions regardless of experience.

In the beginning of my study I created a questioner with three simple question. This questioner was a tool I used to see if people knew what nepotism was and to see what role it played in the CNMI government when it comes to corruption. I asked five people who worked in five different departments in the government my questions. The first question was do you know what nepotism is? Three out of the five people knew what nepotism was. The second question was if you were affected at the work place because of nepotism will you address the issue or bring it up to the proper channel to be looked into? Four said no said not and one said yes. The third question was does nepotism play a big role when it comes to government corruption in the CNMI? All five people said yes.

In a local news article (Rosario, *The culture of corruption - Saipan News, Headlines, Events, Ads: Saipan Tribune* 2018) it mentioned Acts of corruption usually involves conflict of interest, bribery, cronyism, nepotism, sinecures—jobs with salaries but no duties; and fraud. With this, it doesn’t take rocket science to reasonably figure out what may be coming down the pike. After looking into nepotism I found out that majority of the people in the CNMI know what nepotism is, they know how it could influence corruption in the CNMI, but majority of the people do not do anything about it in fear of the reproduction or retaliation for the establishment. Nepotism has existed in the CNMI since the signing of the Covenant, but because no one really does anything about it has become acceptable in our society, it has become a norm to where people know it happens but they just tend to look the other way.

**References**

(Rosario, *The culture of corruption - Saipan News, Headlines, Events, Ads: Saipan Tribune* 2018)

<https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/the-culture-of-corruption/>