



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF CYRUS BEN
101 Industrial Road • P.O. Box 6010 • Choctaw, Mississippi 39350
Phone: (601) 656-5251 • Fax: (601) 650-1606

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-03

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, pursuant to an Executive Order and State of Emergency Proclamation authorized by Ordinance 50-A, I determined that a State of Emergency existed on the Tribal lands of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and on March 14, 2020, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves declared a State of Emergency in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) in Mississippi and as of April 13, 2020, there were 3,360 positive cases with 122 deaths in Mississippi and 8 positive cases for persons who are eligible for healthcare at the Choctaw Health Center; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is not only a threat to the health of tribal members but also an economic threat due to the financial hardship caused by economic uncertainty associated with the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Section VI of Ordinance 50-A authorizes the Tribal Chief to prohibit activities or conditions during a State of Emergency to maintain order and protect lives and property for the safety, health or welfare of tribal members; and

WHEREAS, financial monthly obligations such as rental, mortgage, or loan payments and utility payments at this time constitute conditions that are a financial threat to the safety, health and welfare of tribal members, and it is in the best interest of the members of the Tribe that those payments be deferred until further notice so those funds can be used for other essential needs;

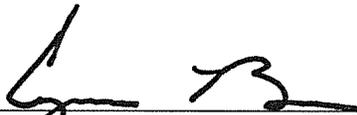
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cyrus Ben, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, pursuant to the authority of Ordinance 50-A, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. That until further notice, payments due to the following programs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians shall be deferred:

- A. Mortgage Payments to the Choctaw Housing & Land Mortgage Program;
 - B. Payments to Choctaw Short Term Loan Program;
 - C. Payments to the Choctaw Revolving Credit Program;
 - D. Payments to Choctaw Housing Development Enterprise Program;
 - E. Payments to the Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Program;
2. That until further notice, payments due to the following program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians shall be deferred for one month only:
- A. Tribal Housing Rental Program;
 - B. Division of Early Childhood Education.
3. That until further notice, payments to the following program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians shall be waived:
- A. Payments to the Office of Utilities Management (Water and Sewer);

This Executive Order shall not extinguish the financial obligations listed in Section 1 and 2, but shall only serve to defer the payments for the times listed. Deferred payments under Sections 1 and 2 will not accrue late fees, but will be subject to interest as outlined in the terms of the applicable written agreements. Nothing in this Executive Order prevents the voluntary payment of payments that have been deferred. This Executive Order extinguishes the payments due under Section 3 after the date of this order until further notice, but does not extinguish debt due before the entry of the Order. All programs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians affected by this Executive Order shall take the necessary steps to implement this Order in accordance with its terms and requirements.

SO ORDERED, THIS THE 16th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.



CYRUS BEN, TRIBAL CHIEF