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**EXECUTIVE ORDER AND STATE OF  
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (“MBCI” or the “Tribe”) approved Ordinance 50-A on July 7, 2008, which contains policies for the operation of the Choctaw Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and

**WHEREAS**, Section VI(1)(b) of Ordinance 50-A, authorizes the Tribal Chief to declare a state of emergency in the event of an actual or threatened emergency which may endanger the lives, safety, health or welfare of the people on Tribal trust lands, or any part thereof, or which may threaten damage to or destruction of property on said land; 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 ten (10) presumptive cases have since been identified in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, especially among the elderly or persons who have compromised immune systems, can spread easily from person to person, and the United States Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as “very high” in the United States; 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**, the Mississippi State Department of Health has now confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Mississippi, which significantly increases the risk of exposure and infection to the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the over eleven thousand enrolled members of the Tribe, each year the Tribe host hundreds of thousands of visitors to tribal lands as the Tribe operates Pearl River Resort through the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a threat to the members of the Tribe and the Choctaw culture, particularly Tribal elders and those with compromised immune systems, as well as a threat to thousands of Tribal employees and visitors, and actions must be taken to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on the reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Administration, through Choctaw Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in conjunction with officials from the Choctaw Health Center and other persons appointed to the MBCI COVID-19 Planning and Response Team, is coordinating tribal resources with local, state and federal officials and agencies to implement preparedness and response to hazards related to the outbreak of COVID-19 for the purpose of protecting its citizens, employees and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid conditions of public health are expected to worsen due to the person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi, and said conditions will significantly impact the life and health of tribal members as well as the economy of our Tribe and warrant and necessitate a proclamation of a state of emergency in order to provide for the health and safety of the tribal citizens, employees and visitors; and

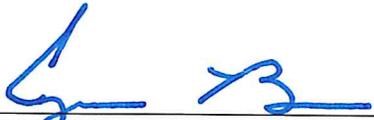
**WHEREAS**, the risk of spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States and Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe, during this time of a declared emergency only, shall follow the policies and procedures for emergency management as outlined in Ordinance 50-A as approved by the Tribal Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe may request and receive such emergency assistance as may be necessary from local, state and federal officials and agencies due to the declared emergency and as provided by any mutual aid agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, this Executive Order and Proclamation shall expire five (5) days from the date of issuance, unless renewed as provided by Ordinance 50-A;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Cyrus Ben, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, pursuant to the authority of Section VI(1)(b) of Ordinance 50-A, declare that a state of emergency now exists on Tribal trust lands of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and all departments and programs of the Tribe shall render all possible assistance and discharge their emergency responsibilities as set forth in Ordinance 50-A; and I further direct that tribal departments, offices and programs take all necessary steps to seek federal assistance as may be available.

  
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CYRUS BEN, TRIBAL CHIEF

3/15/2020  
DATE