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# Postpone Saipan Deed Transfers

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SAIPAN- Issuance of 180 controversial homestead deeds on Saipan has been stopped by court order before it had begun.

Sitting in Truk district, Trust Territory Chief Justice Harold W. Burnett signed a temporary restraining order on Monday preventing the deeds from being issued, according to a telegram received in the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. office on Saipan. MLSC is serving as counsel for the homesteaders.

The order was to remain in effect until this morning, when a hearing into the merits of other MLSC motions is scheduled in Truk.

In addition to the restraining order, the homesteaders' attorneys have asked the High Court to issue orders specifying the form the homestead deeds shall take and the manner of notifying the homesteaders and delivering their deeds to them.

Issuance of the deeds by the TT government pursuant to an earlier court order was to begin last Friday. Objecting to the wording of the deed forms, MLSC went to court that afternoon to keep the TT from issuing any to homesteaders who came to the Marianas Land Management Office to pick them up.

A headquarters land management official said yesterday it was his understanding that none of the eligible homesteaders had obtained their deeds in the two half-day periods that they were available. MLSC has advised the homesteaders not to accept the deeds, and the TT has pointed the deeds' negative aspects as well.

The TT objects because the sites have not been surveyed. MLSC contends that the special deeds deny the homesteaders certain rights they should have.