



*Mabuhay!! God Bless America!! Hafa Adai!!* **The People's Newspaper**

# Mayors Making \$100,000+ Yearly

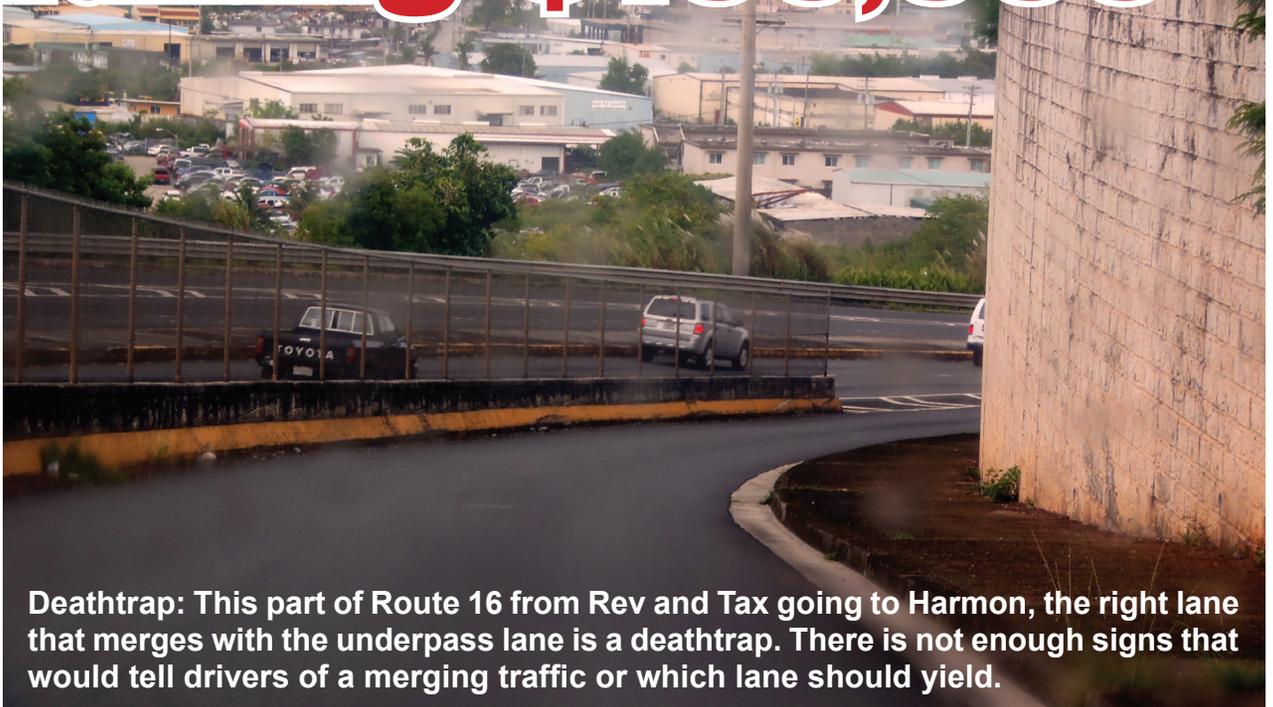
If you think your mayor's \$75,000 a year salary is exorbitant, then think again, because village mayors are making more than that.

The highest paid mayor so far is Johnny Quinata of Umatac making \$106,062.00 a year in total (\$75,000 in salary plus \$31,062 in benefits). Umatac has the least population among the 19 villages with a total population of 887 (year 2000 census).

Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares receives \$103,328.00 in total (\$75,000 in salary plus \$28,328.00 in benefits). Dededo is the most populated village with a total population of 42,980 as of year 2000 census.

Four mayors are making \$76,760.50 annually (\$75,000 in salary plus \$1,760.50 in benefits): Carol Tayama of Agat, Nonito Blas of Mangilao, Ernest Chargualaf of Merizo, and Ernesto Gumataotao of Piti.

Mangilao ranks fourth in terms of population (13,313) **continued on page 6**



**Deathtrap:** This part of Route 16 from Rev and Tax going to Harmon, the right lane that merges with the underpass lane is a deathtrap. There is not enough signs that would tell drivers of a merging traffic or which lane should yield.

## Public Hearing Finally Set for Salary Increases

The long awaited public hearing the long and protracted controversy of salary increases for elected and appointed cabinet officials has finally come.

Speaker Judith Won Pat made the call for public hearing in relation to Bills 201 and 202 filed by Senator Brant McCreadie, October 30.

In her October 30 letter to Senator Mike San Nicolas,

the Speaker called for Senator Mike Nicolas to take the lead and introduce a bill that would repeal pay raises for all elected officials and political appointees. The Speaker believes that "Bills 201 and 202, including any measures introduced on this matter, should have public hearing and given the opportunity to be deliberated."

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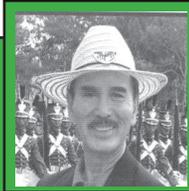


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### Fighting for a Cause & More

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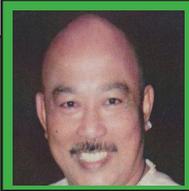


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### Diretsahan Tayo

- Miki Taxi sobrang abusado na!
- Baku-bakong mga kalsada!
- Mga motorista, mag-ingat!

By: **Dan "The Man" Romulo**



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# Tiyan Campus Purchase: The Untold Story

## (Second Part)

Last issue, we gave you a background of Public Law 30-37, the law which facilitated the then Camacho administration to enter into a contract (lease agreement with option to buy) with Core Tech International.

### Consider the following chronology of events:

January 1, 2009 – Speaker Judith Won pat Introduces Bill No. 1 (LS) that will soon become Public Law 30-37.

- Original bill merely allows leasing for a temporary location for JFK and making use of tax credits to pay the for the lease.
- March 19, 2009 - Bill No. 1 (LS) was reintroduced.
- From here on forward, Bill No. 1 (LS) has been amended as per the administration's "suggestions." Among the amendments was the appropriation of some money for collateral equipment and one-year lease pursuant to IFB No. GSA-025-09.

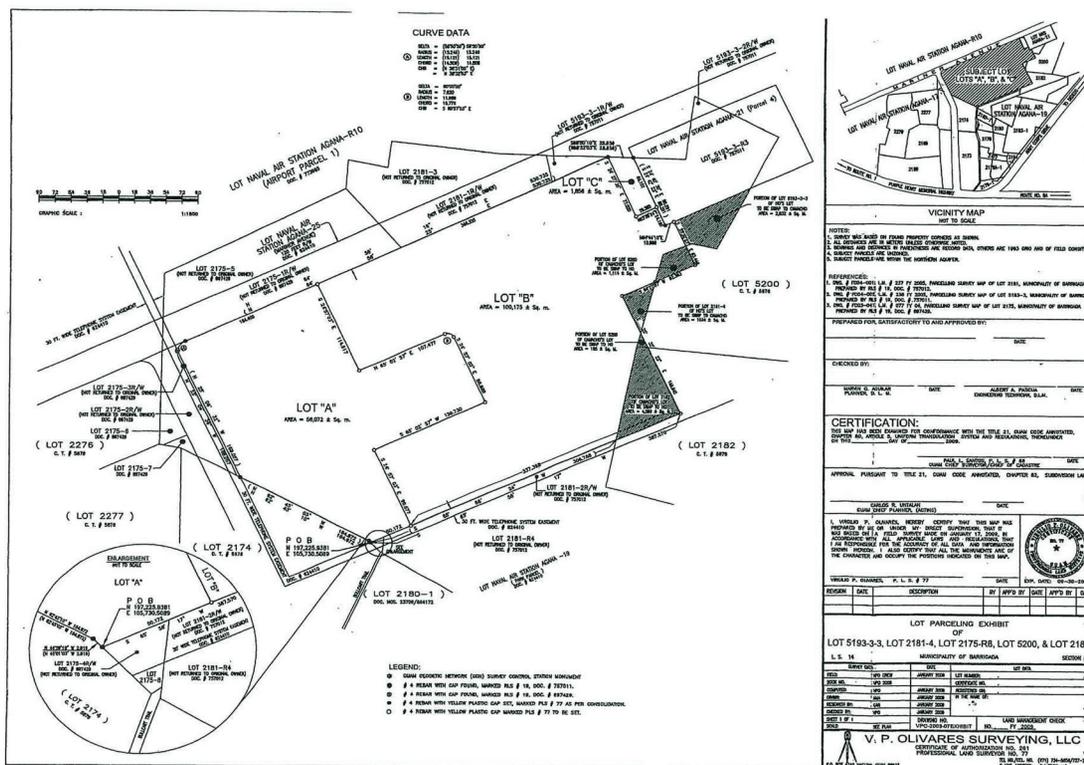
A press release from Adelup on December 30, 2013 states that for the period late 2008 to early 2009, "GSA puts out IFB No. GSA-025-09, requiring bidders to submit a bid by February 20, 2009 for the lease and maintenance of interim facilities for JFKHS and collateral equipment."

June 25, 2009 - Dr. Michael W. Cruz (Acting Governor) signed Bill No. 1 (LS) as Public Law 30-37, the same day the bill was passed.

### Public Law 30-37 an afterthought?

As noticed on the above dates, while the legislature is crafting a law that would facilitate the lease, the Camacho administration has already dealt with Core Tech. In fact, Core Tech's letter to Claudia Acfalle (GSA procurement officer) admits that they were the ones suggesting the proposed language for Bill No. 1 that is accepted by their lending institution.

Noticeable in the agreement is the table survey plan that is unsigned as an attachment. At the time of the signing of the contract, it appears that Core Tech does not have in its possession the proper survey and map.



“Said lot is a consolidation of Lot Nos. 5193-3-3, 2175-R8 & 2181-4, and is part of a land exchange transaction with the Estate of Juan Santos Camacho. The consolidation maps are presently being finalized by a certified surveyor and reviewed by the Department of Land Management. The premises described above and as shown in Exhibit A, shall be subject to a final map showing the meters and bounds, and setting forth the proper lot numbers. Upon approval of the Territorial Land Surveyor, such map shall then be recorded with the

Department of Land Management, Government of Guam. Once the map has been recorded, then this Lease shall be amended to include and to refer to the final recorded map,” the Lease agreement states.

Core Tech at that time the agreement was executed and finalized, also does not have in its possession the proper fee simple title, as it says, “Landlord warrants that it is and has lawful possession, use and control of the above-described Premises. The majority of the property is owned in fee simple, and a minor portion of the property shall be on a temporary lease. Landlord is presently on the process of obtaining the fee simple title to the minor portion, and will eventually have fee simple title to the entire property.”

It is now a question why and how this legal multimillion transaction even started without the basic documentary proofs of ownership. Why was the proposal (bid) even entertained? Isn't the documentary proofs of ownership the first thing that should be looked at?

Why was the Lease agreement signed ahead of the Public Law 30-37?

Further, why did the administration representatives did not negotiate for better terms?

Legislation has been introduced to authorize such credits, but the language currently contained in Bill No. 1, as introduced, does not provide sufficient authorization for this solution to be used. For your reference, I am transmitting proposed language accepted by our lending institution as a condition of securing the proper financing to complete this project and procure the collateral equipment. The proposed language provides sufficient legal authorization to utilize tax credits, rebates and off-sets as a form of payment. This option is particularly acceptable as it effectively ensures the timely payment of the lease and avoids any occurrence of non-payment, a major concern of our lending institutions.

Upon the verification with the GSA office by the Junction News Team, the documents presented as contained in one large box with several folders were all folders pertaining to Core Tech as the lone bidder. In a call to Anita Cruz (Buyer Supervisor) of the GSA, she could not recall if there were other bidder as she still has to verify with the records in her office.

As the late Senator Ben Pangelinan would put it in his June 20, 2013 article “Core Tech seized the opportunity to rally JFK students and alumni and lobby the government of Guam to use its Tiyan property for a temporary school.”

This leaves us with the question of which came first, Core Tech's “offer,” or GSA's Invitation For Bid? Was the IFB a mere formality to legalize a deal that's already been cooking?

### Core Tech's Tiyan property history

As everybody might already know, the Tiyan property used to be a part of the Naval Air Station. It was conveyed back to the Government of Guam, and in 2002, through legislation, the conveyed properties were deeded back to the original owners (from 2002 to 2008), one of them would be the heirs of Juan Santos Camacho for the Tiyan property (Camacho estate).

On 2008, Core Tech bought the property from the Camacho estate for \$11 million (as per the late Senator Ben Pangelinan). “At the time Core Tech planned to rehabilitate the buildings on the property to house up to 1,600 H-2 workers it planned to bring to Guam to help deliver on its construction projects for the military buildup,” Pangelinan said in his article. The buildings were then 50+ years old. The expected military buildup did not pan out.

Core Tech offered its newly acquired property to the government of Guam for temporary use of disenfranchised JFK students.

8. OPTION TO PURCHASE.  
The parties agree that the Government of Guam shall have the option to purchase the Premises at any time during the term of this Lease at a price to be negotiated to the satisfaction of both parties. If Tenant desires to purchase, then it shall give notice to Landlord of its desire, and the parties shall enter into negotiations to determine the price and terms. If the parties cannot satisfactorily agree on the price and terms within sixty (60) days after the Tenant's notice, then all further negotiations shall be terminated.

9. COLLATERAL EQUIPMENT.  
a. Collateral Equipment. Collateral equipment is certain personal property which Tenant required Landlord to purchase for Tenant's use, such as furniture, computer systems, band equipment, etc.). On or about the time this Lease was executed, Landlord spent or was required to spend THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,944,000.00) for said collateral equipment for the Tenant. The collateral equipment purchased with this THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,944,000.00) may sometimes be referred to as the “Collateral Equipment” and is more particularly described in Exhibit B attached hereto. Landlord shall have no obligation to provide lockers. All Collateral Equipment shall be deemed the personal property of the Guam Public School System. Tenant shall reimburse Landlord the cost of the Collateral Equipment by October 1, 2009. If the Landlord is not paid by October 5, 2009, then a late payment fee of five percent (5%) shall be paid in addition to any interest being due and payable. If this collateral amount due is not paid by November 1, 2009, then Tenant shall pay another late payment fee of five percent (5%), in addition to interest on the cost of Collateral Equipment.

Why did they allow the whopping 5% late payment fee?

Why did they agree to a 10% per annum interest? This is even higher than personal credit card interest rates.

12. INTEREST.  
Tenant shall pay to Landlord interest at ten percent (10%) per annum on the declining balance on all amounts owed, and which were not paid to Landlord on the due date as set forth in this Lease. The interest shall start to run and accrue starting on and from the 5th day after the due date such amounts were due. As for rents, the interest shall commence on October 6 of that particular year. Provided, however, interest shall also accrue on the late payment fees. Interest on the late payment fees shall commence as of the date such late payment fees became due and payable.

Note that this deal was finalized towards the end of the Camacho-Cruz administration. Come 2010, with the new Calvo-Tenorio administration – was something done to correct the issue, or did they dig the hole deeper?

-to be continued-

# So the public may know: (part 2)

# The Calvo Businesses: Were They Issued Tax Credits?

Guamanians you be the judge, how come the Department of Revenue and Tax (DRT) does not want to divulge such basic and simple information that has nothing to do with personal taxpayer information?

The way we see it, as you will read in our follow-up letter dated November 2, 2015 wherein we had already re-worded our Questions which is basically a question that is answerable by yes or no, this can also be answered without the need to disclose any personal taxpayer information. Our question does not call for any disclosure whatsoever of personal taxpayer information. Our question is simply: "QUESTION NO 1 - WERE TAX CREDITS ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING CALVO OWNED COMPANIES, KINDLY INDICATE WHICH PARTICULAR COMPANY WAS ISSUED (IF ANY)?"

QUESTION NO 2- IF TAX CREDITS WERE ISSUED, KINDLY INDICATE WHAT YEAR(S) THEY WERE ISSUED, AND WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF TAX CREDIT PER COMPANY?"

To our mind this is a slap on the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA). Are they hiding something that they cannot

even answer such simple questions and would have to cite all sorts of provisions that we believe do not apply to the information we are asking?

Do the Guam taxpaying public no longer have the right to know about such basic and elementary information?

In the meantime, we will refer this issue to our lawyer for their legal opinion.

The following is another provision they had cited for the refusal to provide us with such a simple answer:

11 G.C.A. § 26120. Inspection of Tax Returns and Information: Prohibition. Tax returns and other information required to be filed or furnished by the taxpayer, or any other person, shall not be open for public inspection or divulged except when testifying in any judicial or administrative proceeding in which the government of Guam, or any of its officials in an official capacity, are a party, and in which the government of Guam has an interest in the result; except that any committee of the Legislature, duly created, authorized by resolution of the Legislature, may require that it be furnished any data contained in any tax return for use by such committee in executive session only.

On the first part of this issue we had already cited that among the allowable exemptions at the FOIA is "Exemption

6: Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy." According to IRS.GOV's FOIA Guide:

### Exemption 6. Personal Privacy

Exemption 6 applies to personnel, medical, and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This exemption protects the privacy interests of individuals by allowing IRS to withhold personal data kept in its files where there is an expectation of privacy. Only individuals have privacy interests. Corporations and business associations have no privacy rights under the sixth exemption, with the exception of closely held corporations or similar business entities. Once it has been determined that a personal privacy interest is threatened by a requested disclosure, the exemption requires agencies to strike a balance between an individual's privacy interest and the public's interest in disclosure. The Privacy Act of 1974 also regulates the disclosure of personal information about an individual. The IRS will automatically consider a request for personal information under both the FOIA and the Privacy Act and will rely on the statute that provides the greater access. Source: [https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/irs\\_foia\\_guide.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/irs_foia_guide.pdf)




November 2, 2015

**MR. JOHN CAMACHO**  
Director  
Department of Revenue and Tax

**MS. MARIE M. BENITO**  
Acting Director  
Department of Revenue and Tax

**Subject: Request for the following information as allowed for under the FOIA (rejoinder to earlier letter dated Oct 22, 2015, as attached)**

**Dear Dir. Camacho & Acting Dir. Benito:**

With all due respect, we would like to be informed on the following general inquiry that we believe will not be in violation of the Internal Revenue Code at 26 U.S.C 6103 (a) and 6103 (b) (2) (A).

**QUESTION NO 1 - WERE TAX CREDITS ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING CALVO OWNED COMPANIES, KINDLY INDICATE WHICH PARTICULAR COMPANY WAS ISSUED (IF ANY)?**

1. Calvo Enterprises
2. Calvo's Insurance
3. Pepsi bottling Companies
4. Mid-Pacific Liquor Distributors
5. Calvo's Realty
6. Payless Supermarkets
7. Pacific Telestations
8. Pacific Trading Company LTD.
9. Royal Management
10. Title Guaranty
11. Hawaiian Life

**QUESTION NO 2- IF TAX CREDITS WERE ISSUED, KINDLY INDICATE WHAT YEAR(S) THEY WERE ISSUED AND WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF TAX CREDIT PER COMPANY?**

This request is for research and verification purposes, for and in behalf of the public interest and for media information dissemination purposes.

Should the requested information and/or your reply be ready for pick-up kindly call **858-5974** or email [junctionguam@yahoo.com](mailto:junctionguam@yahoo.com) so that we can send over our representative to pick up your reply.

**Si Yu'us Ma'ase.**

Sincerely,

**OUR SECOND LETTER**

Benigna Dawang-Farres  
Publisher

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
REVENUE AND TAXATION**  
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM      Gubetnamenton Guåhan

Dipårtamenton Kontribusion yan Adu'ána

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Migraññi  
RAY TENORIO, Lt. Governor  
Tiñente Gubetnadot

JOHN P. CAMACHO, Director  
Direktor  
MARIE M. BENITO, Deputy Director  
Sigundo Direktor

November 5, 2015

Benigna Dawang-Farres  
Publisher  
The Weekly Junction  
414 W. Soledad Avenue  
GCIC Bldg., Ste. 500W  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: FOIA request dated November 2, 2015

Buenas yan Saludas Ms. Dawang-Farres,

In reference to your request dated November 2, 2015, our department is prohibited from disclosing any tax return and return information pursuant to GTITC § 6103 and 11 GCA 26120.

Sincerely,



JOHN P. CAMACHO  
Director

**THEIR ANSWER**

1240 Army Drive, Post Office Box 23607, Barrigada, Guam 96921 • Tel. / Telfon: (671) 635-1763/1895/1897 • Fax / Faks: (671) 633-2643

## Aguon to conduct Roundtable Meeting for Law Enforcement Agencies

Senator Frank Aguon will convene a Roundtable meeting for all Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) on Thursday, November 12 at 4 PM at the Public Hearing Room of I Liheslatura.

The Roundtable will openly discuss the following:

- LEA's recruitment and retention program;
  - Analyzing concerns among LEA Administrators;
  - Review of LEA procedures and conditions for lateral transfers; and
  - other related concerns.
- Those in attendance will

- include:
- the Guam Police Department;
  - Department of Corrections;
  - Guam Fire Department;
  - Airport Police;
  - Port Authority Police;
  - Department of Agricul-

ture;

- Department of Parks and Recreation Park;
- Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency;
- the Judiciary of Guam;
- the Department of Administration;
- and all other related personnel.

The underlying objectives and expectations range from reducing policy fragmentation and mitigating compe-

tion among agencies, to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness during the "on-boarding" process—from a Law Enforcement Academy recruit to a LEA's new-hire personnel, to changing organizational and administrative cultures, and to developing policies and/or legislation to ensure that all LEA's abide by any limitations or affirmative obligations resulting from lateral

transfers.

The Roundtable will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117 or streamed live online at: [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com).

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should submit their request to: Ivan Palacios at (671) 475-4861/2 or email at: [communications@frankaguonjr.com](mailto:communications@frankaguonjr.com).

## Hiatus for the People's Paper

As earlier announced in our previous editorial, several options are being considered for the continuity of this newspaper.

Among the considerations are, whether we come out on a bi-monthly or monthly basis but with a definite increase in circulation. This is after all the essence of a newspaper publication which is to develop the widest possible reach and circulation.

We are thankful that we have a lean and highly competitive set-up and given our current printing level of 5,000 copies at 16 pages, once we take out the not so essential contents of the paper, certainly 16 pages can take on quite a number of substantive stories and quite extensively at that given our limited resources.

We figure that at printing level of 10,000 copies or beyond (verifiable and easily provable, unlike other un-provable claims), this will certainly come a long way. If distributed the right way which is directly to the readers that matter most which are those that are part of the working class and hopefully voters at that, this paper's lofty ideals would have done its part which is principally to let the public know what needs to be known. Should these ideals come to pass, it would be a mission accomplished for us.

Plans are afoot during this hiatus which will include a modest fund raising activity (we enjoin you to support our humble fund raising and formal launching luncheon), work on grant(s) as we are now a registered non-profit, secure other forms of financial assistance (unconditional at that), all this in the pursuit of an independent and free press; and from hereon we would like to be known as the People's Paper.

In all of this, transparency in our operations from the business to the editorial side will be on top of the list, for how can one run a credible media outfit if the owners or persons running the outfit have their fingers dipped into politics and engaged in highly questionable and blatantly illegal business transactions with government? It just cannot be done. We will neither be a paper for the Democrats or the Republicans, but will instead be The People's Paper.

Unfortunately, we cannot just allow a few of those who are in power to subdue us through whatever machinations we have seen they are capable of. While they may have the means and the power to do so, that power is not

absolute nor is it infinite. As far as we are concerned, our principal mission is to write about government transactions; expose inept, corrupt officials (in government and their private counterparts) and their highly questionable transactions that need to be brought before the bar of public opinion. This is so that when the day of reckoning comes (election day), we are optimistic that a substantive percentage of the voters would have already been well informed. After all only the wicked would want a mis or un-informed

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## Editorial

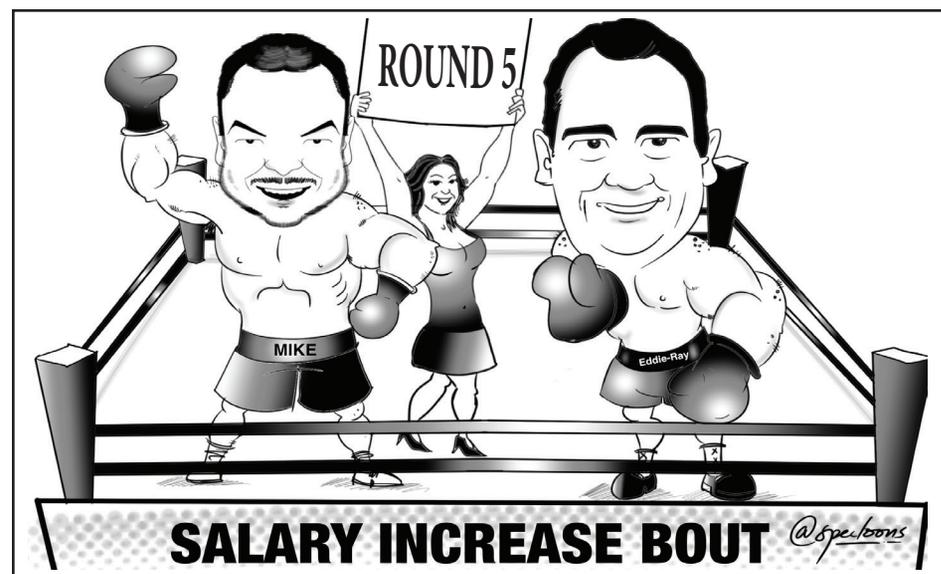
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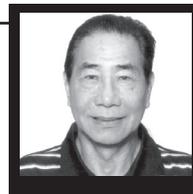
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### The Truth Matters

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By: Rolando Zabala



The Freedom of Information Act or FOIA as it is commonly known, is one fantastic law that is meant to keep us duly informed. The spirit and intent of the law simply embodies the essence of a true and vibrant democracy while adhering and supporting the first amendment.

As a media person, the first amendment is what I hold sacrosanct. Unfortunately, some officials obviously do not feel the same way.

There was an official who even lamented that he has the documents we are requesting for ready and available and all we have to do is make a formal letter request to him and he will get it prepared; although prior to that, we already emailed to him a FOIA request, still at the end of the day, after numerous back and forth rushing on our part and a waste of useless man hours, this fella still had treated it as a FOIA request.

How independent can this official get!

My unsolicited advice to the concerned officials - comply accordingly with FOIA requests and stop looking for ways to circumvent it. The people have the right to know and no one is above the law!

\*\*\*\*\*

It is truly a big wonder as to how come the Pacific Daily News (PDN) had not bothered to tap an independent and credible auditing firm to audit and certify their circulation. But more thought provoking (or is it?!) are some of these advertising/marketing executives whom I have personally encountered who act and appear as though they are the masters when it comes to the dynamics of print advertising. After letting us go to the ringer only to be flimsily refused with their ads at the end of the day, has been a bit surprising as we never imagined that the tentacles of the powers that be have mangled into their balls (assuming these guys even have any balls to speak of).

At any rate, if they don't want to support a free and independent press, that is their right and I can only hope that at some later point in their lives, they or their loved ones will not find the need for a free and independent press.

When one talks about circulation, one does not merely rely on the say so of the publisher. Claims without substantive credible basis are merely claims, no more no less.

When one talks of circulation, my understanding is it refers to the number of copies being sold (including pre- or postpaid subscription) and/or given for free to the public.

The question now with PDN is what is their sold and complimentary circulation? Twenty thousand (20,000) copies circulated on a daily basis (15,000 during Sundays as they claim) for a community 180,000 is quite a huge number.

And where does that leave the circulation of the Daily Post?

At least in our case, what we say we print is what we circulate, all for free; and we can easily prove and substantiate that as we air-freight from the Philippines this paper (should our financial position improve, we hope to be able to do printing on-island). All one has to do is request to see the paper work from the shipper and customs, as declared therein is the weight of the newspapers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Unfortunately, those Senators who played footsy-footsy with the retroactive salary wage increases will have to bear the brunt of the electorate in due time. This, I am certain of. To the proponents of this immoral and illegal retroactive increases (as I truly believe it is illegal, despite the seeming semblance of having gone through the legal process), perhaps one of this lawyers out of a sense of civic duty should take this issue to the supreme court so it's legality or illegality can once and for all be confirmed.

However, come Tuesday (Nov. 10) on the public hearing, some of these Senators might still get to redeem themselves and/or bury themselves deeper into the rut of this highly unpopular increases. Unless they truly believe that their re-election will simply be dependent on the Governor, his cabinet, and the Mayors, and if this supposedly learned and wise legislators truly believe that they can just scoff of the public, then by all means make my day. Vote for the status quo. After all, I can only pray that this will be your last term.

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### THE WEEKLY JUNCTION

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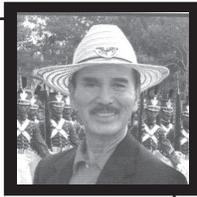
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**Fighting for a Cause & More**

**Guam Must Develop Efficient & Modern Hospital**

By: Pat Duque



**Q**uestion: "What are the similarities between Guam Memorial Hospital and a 'white elephant'?" Answer: "Both are white, bloated, and big, and very expensive to maintain."

My mind wanders to an incident that I personally experienced more than two years ago. Place: Emergency Room (ER), Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH).

My blood pressure shot up to 220/120. I felt I would collapse! I pleaded with the hospital clerk, "Please, check me in now!"

Clerk: "Wait for your turn. There are people ahead of you."

I looked around and there were around 15 people seated. "But I believe I'm much worse off than anyone," I replied. "I feel they won't mind."

"Sorry," the clerk said. "Besides, we're short of personnel."

That incident further increased my already elevated blood pressure. My daughter, who rushed me to the ER, calmed me down. I instructed her exasperatedly, "Should I die here unattended, sue this hospital!"

A doctor saw me after an hour.

Months ago, I brought a relative to the ER. Although he needed immediate attention for food poisoning, he was attended to after an hour. Similarly, some three years ago, my wife rushed our daughter to the ER. After pleading with the clerk to have someone attend to her soonest, she waited in pain for two hours!

We have never before experienced this kind of inefficiency in any hospital in the Philippines or in the U.S. Is this GMH's standard performance? I wonder how many more are victims of the hospital's ineptness and no-care attitude.

I realize GMH's problems: shortage of funds, overstaffing – some 300 out of the almost 900 employed are non-medical personnel – too much politics, mismanagement and other questionable conditions.

This situation may also be true with the other hospitals in Micronesia.

Therefore, I strongly suggest that GMH should be privatized. There is a pressing need for Guam to take the lead in the region as a medical center.

Rather than patients going abroad, it is high time that we should streamline and modernize our hospital. Ultimately, this will increase local employment and thereby lessen dollar outflow. Let's encourage entrepreneurial businessmen to explore the health-care industry, which is in great demand.

Moreover, if the United States can give generously to Israel and Turkey to the tune of \$15 billion and \$26 billion, respectively, how about our leaders negotiating for even a fraction of such aid? It's worth trying.

How else could we alleviate these problems?

Lately, I told my wife: "I think we should rename GMH to exorcise its present image. Let's call it either 'White Elephant Hospital' or 'Mona Lisa Hospital'. But the latter sound more pleasant, right?"

Wife: "You're still so romantic and forgiving after your traumatic experience there. Remember, 'Mona Lisa' is one of our favorite songs."

Lovingly, I replied: "It's just appropriate."

And I sang a part of it:

"Many men have been brought to your doorstep; they just lie there... and they die there..."

\*\*\*\*\*

This was written in 2003 and lifted from my book Fighting for a Cause & More.

Did GMH improve? Judge for yourselves.

It is my hope that the new hospital, Guam Regional Medical City, will set the standard on how a hospital must be. Will this new hospital answer the medical needs of the region? I hear many pros and cons circulating around the operations of this new addition.

I wish it the best and Godspeed.

Please email your observations to this newspaper.

\*\*\*\*\*

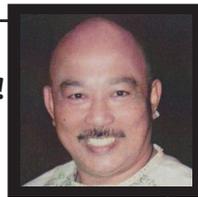
Patrocel Duque is the author of four (4) books and a musical drama: *Mathematical Proofs that God Exists*, *Fighting for a Cause*, *Manning the Maritime Industry*, *Guam in War & Peace* (poetry) and *Our Life is Your Life* (musicale).

Available worldwide: Amazon.com, National Office Supplies, bookstores in Guam & Philippines.

**Diretsahan Tayo**

- Miki Taxi sobrang abusado na!
- Baku-bakong mga kalsada!
- Mga motorista, mag-ingat!

By: Dan "The Man" Romulo



**M**alapit na talaga maubos ang sintas ko pagdating sa mga Miki Taxi na ito. Malapit ko nang kausapin itong si Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio na siya diumano daw ang protektor ng mga Miki Taxi. Alangya itong mga ibang kolorum na Miki taxi, kolorum na nga kung saan-saan pa nag pi-pick up at kanilang sinasapawan ang mga lehitimong taxi na katulad natin, at pati na rin sa mga ibang Miki taxi na hindi kolorum. Kaya mula ngayon ay ililista ko na lahat ang insidente at saka ko ipapa police blotter ang kilos ng mga magagaling na ito, na ang kanilang pakiwari ay sila lang ang mga anak ng diyos!

\*\*\*\*\*

Masingil ko kaya itong si Governor Calvo kapag nasira ang suspension at mga shock absorbers ng aking sasakyang dala ng mga masasamang kalsada sa mga lugar na papasok sa halimbawa sa Dededo at mga iba pang mga village?

Sa totoo lang iniwasan ko na minsang bumiyaha sa mga ibang looban na lugar dahil sa kasamaan ng kalsada. Akala ko pa naman sa Pilipinas lang ang ganitong mga kalsada, ngunit nung bumiyaha ako sa Pilipinas aba eh, nagulat ako sapagkat puros sementado ang dinatnan ko na mga kalsada. Ngayon kung bakit dito sa Guam na isang teritoryo ng Amerika ay mala barrio ng Pilipinas ang ating mga kalsada sa interior?!

Wala na ba talagang salapi ang gobyerno ng Guam para ipagawa sa DPW at kanilang mga contractor ang ating mga kalsada? BWISET!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Mga driver at motorista dapat ay obserbahan natin ang sinasabing defensive driving at huwag tayong maging masyadong agresibo. Pakatatandaan natin na darating din tayong ating destinasyon na walang sakuna o aberya basta't maingat lang tayong. Pakatatandaan rin natin na marami sa mga motorista sa daan ay mga turista na hindi rin sila masyadong sanay sa istilo ng driving in Guam, kaya pasensya lang tayong.

Kamakailan lang ay muntik-muntikan ng makipag head-on ang isang sasakyang minamaneho ng Koryano. Mabuti na lang at naka-iwas yung katapat niya.

Let's always drive safely and defensively. Sabi nga nila "the life you save may be your own".

\*\*\*\*\*

Kasiyahan nitong nakaraan Halloween sa iba't ibang lugar sa Tumon strip, tunay na nakagigiliw. Meron diyan nag-suntukan, merong nag-sigawan, merong mga lasing na ang gagaling mag-diskurso, at iba pa.

Naisip ko tuloy ano ba talaga ang mayroon sa Halloween na para bang nagiging wild ang mga ibang tao? Mukhang talo pa ang pagka wild ng bagong taon! Iba nga rin siguro ang thrill ng Halloween!

**Public Hearing...**

*from page 6*

**Survey**

A recent survey conducted by the students of Simon Sanchez High School late September and Early October proved that Guamanians disapprove of the salary raise of public officials. The netizens said that they will have the upper-hand this time and that the fate of the legislators who supported and pushed for the PL 32-208 will be decided by the people.

The survey had 5 questions that aim to obtain statistical value of the public's view about the salary increase after a year has passed. Participants to the survey are registered voters and are actively following the PL 32-208.

Out of the 1243 participants, 947 or 76% remained to disagree with the raise, 280 people or 23% said they are okay with it and only 1% or 16 participants were unsure which side of the issue they are in, but the numbers clearly state that the public is unhappy with the salary increase.

With Speaker Judith Won Pat's showing support to repeal PL 32-208 for the first time, the netizens are hopeful that the legislators and the executive branch will listen to the voice of the people.

The public hearing is set on Tue, November 10, 5:30pm – 6:30pm at Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room./The Junction News team

**Editorial**

*...from page 4*

electorate.

While in the process of bringing to you reports, expect that this paper will denounce in the strongest possible terms those we believe that need to be denounced, as we have previously said we will not mince our words. We will call a spade a spade.

As we have asked in a previous editorial "who among us wants evil to triumph," lest we forget the words of Edmund Burke- "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." To the Guamanians, the silent majority of which we believe truly love and care for the island, the hardworking decent tax paying, God loving Guamanians, stand up and be counted. Let's all do our part for a better Guam.

Our promise then- to keep you informed to the best of our abilities on the issues that are hidden that the crooks and their minions don't want you to know about!

The 8th issue of this paper will be out on December 6, 2015. Watch for it.

**The Truth Matters**

*...from page 4*

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We will now take a one (1) month break from publishing this paper (THE PEOPLE'S PAPER). Our next (8th issue) will be out on December 6. Urgent business concerns need to be addressed mostly in terms of finance. But despite the break which should be a breeze for us all, among our lofty ideals is to print at least 10,000 copies (one of the immediate challenge) when we resume publishing. And as to the frequency, whether we publish on a weekly or bi-monthly basis remains to be seen at this point. A daily paper with this population is simply a joke, only in Guam!

However, rest assured that we will bring to you the inside stories as candidly as possible.

A luncheon fund raising is in the offing and we hope for your support as we hold our formal launching on December 5 during the fund raiser luncheon on that day.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

For issues, concerns of social relevance and of public interest that you may wish to be published or exposed, send us an e-mail at [junctionguam@yahoo.com](mailto:junctionguam@yahoo.com) and/or [ed\\_gu@junctionnews.com](mailto:ed_gu@junctionnews.com), providing us with as much information as you can. We entertain information, leads, tips from anonymous sources. Publication is subject to editorial discretion.

## Public Hearing...

*from page 1*

“While I agree with the intent of these measures and the abiding public, Guam law permits me to waive a Bill’s Public Hearing requirement only when that Bill is identical to a measure which has already had a Public Hearing or when such a measure considers an emergency concerning the public health and safety (2 GCA Section 2103), Won Pat states.

The speaker clearly expressed in her letter that she supports legislation that will repeal the pay raises of elected and appointed officials.

### McCreadie’s Bills

It is recalled that as far back as year 2013, Sen. McCreadie co-authored with by former Sen. Michael Limtiaco Bill 30-32 to bring down the salary of senators to \$55,307. This bill however was “withdrawn by the sponsors.”

On October 30, Sen. McCreadie introduced Bill 201-33 (COR) excluding the senators from the Competitive Wage Act of 2014 and to reduce their wages to \$55,307.00 from the current \$85,000.00 they get annually, which is according to Sen. McCreadie, is the same as what they received back in 2010.

In addition, Sen. McCreadie also introduced Bill 202-33 (COR) for Senators to repay to the Government of Guam the retroactive pay increase they received from January 15, 2014 to November 21, 2014.

### San Nicolas’s Bill

San Nicolas’s latest Bill No. 204-33 (COR) on the other hand seeks to restore salaries of elected and appointed officials to levels before Public Law 27-05. This bill would revert the senators’ compensation to \$55,307 and the Speaker’ to \$60,837 per annum. Mayors’ salaries would become \$46,062 and Vice Mayors’ shall be 42,264 per annum. It would also roll back the current salary rates of the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the politically appointed cabinet members to previous rates.

Sen. San Nicolas pointed out in his press release that his bill would save \$2.5 million a year and \$1 million in pensions for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Under the law, the Governor and the Lt. Governor would receive a lifetime pension which would be half of their salary.

San Nicolas’s Bill was co-authored by Speaker Won Pat, Vice Speaker BJ Cruz, and Senators Nerissa Underwood and Tom Ada.

### Public Law 32-208

The infamous Public Law 32-208 was the result of passage of Bill No. 1 (8-S) was presented and signed by Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio in a special session before the members of the 32nd Guam Legislation last Nov. 21, 2014. Lt. Gov. Tenorio was the acting governor during at that. The bill was passed and became public law (PL 32-208) on the same day and less than 24 hours after it was presented on Nov. 21, 2014. No public hearing was conducted.

Sen. Limtiaco was the only member of the 32nd legislature who voted in the negative. Senators Mike San Nicolas, Tom Ada, and Dennis Rodriguez were absent. A source said

## Mayors Make...

*from page 1*

but its mayor is among the least paid. The Vice Mayor Allan Ungacta is making more at \$89,957 in total yearly. He is so Mangilao is so far the only village whose vice mayor makes more than the mayor.

Vice Mayors Jessie Bautista (Barrigada) Agustin Quintanilla (Agat) are is so far the highest-paid vice mayors making \$94,137.00 a year.

Dededo Vice Mayor Andre Peter Benavente is the least paid with \$69,659 per annum salary with benefits.

It appears that Dededo Mayor and Vice Mayor are the least paid among all village leaders vis-à-vis population.

Mayors got a 62% raise while vice mayors got a 60% raise at the controversial Public Law 32-208. Senator Michael San Nicolas in his recent bill 204-33 (COR) wants to revert the salary levels of Mayors and Vice Mayors to \$46,062 and 42,264 annually respectively. The bill was co-authored by Speaker Judith Won Pat, Vice Speaker B.J. Cruz, and Senators Nerissa Underwood and Thomas Ada. (See related story)/  
*The Junction News Team*

that San Nicolas was absent because he was off-island for his child’s medical treatment.

The enactment of PL 32-208 under the wage act of 2014 increased the public official’s income of roughly 45% to 48% from the governor down to the other members of the cabinet.

### Competitive Wage Act of 2014

A lot of controversies surround Bill No. 1 (8-S)/PL 32-208. While it was said the law would set salaries pursuant to the Competitive Wage Act of 2014, that in itself is questionable.

It is recalled that Guam Department of Administration sought the services of the Hay Group to study and come up with comprehensive pay plan. The Hay Group in the study came up with six pay plans: Executive Pay Plan, Nurses Pay Plan, Law Enforcement Officer Pay Plan, Educator Pay Plan, Attorney Pay Plan, General Pay Plan, and Rate of Pay Positions that will not have a salary grade or salary range. Included in the Rate of Pay Positions are: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Supreme Court-Chief Justice, Supreme Court-Associate Justice, Superior Court-Presiding Judge, Superior Court-Judge, Superior Court-Magistrate Judge, Attorney General, Public Auditor, Mayor, and Vice Mayor.

It is noted that the Hay Group did not include the Legislators in any of the pay plans.

However, when the Department of Administration came up with Competitive Wage Act of 2014 on January 15, 2014, the Senators were included in the Rate of Pay Positions. During the deliberations on the wage act, when asked for the basis of the inclusion of the senators and their pay, Benita Manglona (who was then the Director of Administration) would say to the legislators to trust (them) as they are professionals.

The inclusion of the legislators in the Competitive Wage Act of 2014 made the Guam senators the highest paid state senators in the country.

On January 24, 2014, San Nicolas introduced Bill No. 268-32 (COR) which would approve DOA’s implementation of the Guam’s Competitive Wage Act of 2014 and to require a performance-based standard for the directors and deputy directors of line agencies and I Maga’lahen and I Segundu Maga’lahen. San Nicolas’s Performance Pay Plan (PPP) would deposit the excess of the base salaries of I Maga’lahen, I Segundu Maga’lahen, the Attorney General, the Public Auditor, and the Directors, Deputy Directors or equivalent executive unclassified officers appointed by I Maga’lahen, shall be deposited into a Performance Pay Plan reserve fund and shall be paid to the parties in an annual basis only upon achievement of set criteria. Among the criteria are: decline in the unemployment rate, increased test scores of students of GDOE, decline in crime rate, among others. This bill was passed by the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor on February 13, 2014, citing among others that the legislature must not interfere with his organic duties to administer and manage the Executive branch. The Governor further added that the increases in their (his and the Lt. Governor’s) salaries will be diverted to educational and health accounts in government. The Governor also said that the legislature is welcome to examine his pay stub AS400 to verify.

### Moves to repeal PL 32-208

Shortly after PL 32-208, Senator San Nicolas (who was absent when the controversial PL was passed) immediately introduced Bill 435-32 “to stop the salary increases for elected officials and cabinet members by repealing PL 32-208. This bill failed, however as the only ones who voted in favor of the bill was Vice Speaker B.J. Cruz and San Nicolas himself.

On December 16, 2014 Senator Frank Aguon, Jr. also attempted to introduce a bill (Bill No. 436-32) to remove the senators from the competitive wage act. This also failed, with Senators Aguon, Limtiaco, and San Nicolas voting in favor, 10 senators voted against, and Sen. McCreadie was absent.

On January 5, 2015 San Nicolas again made an attempt to repeal PL 32-208 by introducing Bill No. 4-33 to restore the salaries for elected officials and cabinet members to levels prior to the enactment of PL 32-208, and to require public hearing for bills proposing salary changes for elected officials, and to require that any change in salary of elected officials should take effect after a general election. Again, this failed.

In an interview by the press on early on January, Governor Calvo said that he will veto any bill to repeal raises. This is consistent to what he has stood from the beginning according to him that pertains to the issue of the bill’s passing. The Junction News Team tried to get the side of the administration whether the Governor still stands by this pronouncement but the Governor’s Communications Director did not reply to the email inquiry, nor did she return the call(s).

### Opposed by Atty. General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson

In a letter sent to Senator Benjamin Cruz last June 2015, it can be recalled that Atty. Gen. Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson proposed the removal of her legal counsels and staffs out from the Competitive Wage Act Salary Bracket and roll back their pay to the previous compensation.

According to the letter, 50% of her staff has filed their resentment with the Department of Administration since the approval of the PL 32-208. It was also pointed out that the salaries of the legal counsels should be using a “step” system based on the years of service and or by the position of the individual attorneys’ level 1 through 5 and Chief Deputy Attorney General.

But Senator Benjamin Cruz told the press that “My initial reaction is I’m not happy that they’re having problems with (the Wage Act).” “I just wish they had spoken up and made themselves clear to the Hay Group when they were doing the study. That is their profession — to defend themselves.”

Cruz said he doesn’t support taking part of the PL 32-208 or the wage hike in anyway, adding that he’s worried about the precedent it will set.

“I’m not really in favor of starting to take apart the Competitive Wage Act, because once you do that, you’re back to chaos,” he added.

### Guamanian’s View

Guamanians believe that the annual salary increase should have been allotted for other government programs such as Guam Medical Center that was recently reported as struggling to pay retiree benefits.

Private individuals, public officials (who are against the PL 32-208), and community groups started a petition and on-line campaign to support San Nicolas’s Bill 4-33.

Mr. Andri Baynum, a member of “Guamanians for Fair Government” expressed his support of Bill 4-33 (LS). He stated his displeasure with some of the testimonies previously presented by some of the public officials.

Mr. Baynum also submitted both a petition with approximately 1,600 signatures and a document containing approximately 400 comments from the organization “Guamanians for Fair Government” in support of repealing Public Law 32-208. The list was included in the committee report submitted by Sen. San Nicolas to Judith Won Pat, Speaker of the 33rd Guam Legislature on Feb. 9, 2015.

On-line petition addressed to Governor Eddie Calvo coming from the Guam residents was also posted on a blog site (change.org) calling for public hearing to repeal the Public Law 32-208. This on-line petition however did not get much support, and was thus closed.

The pay hike adjustment under Public Law 32-208 is estimated to reach \$4 Million that according to Sen. San Nicolas, could be used to renovate public schools and other government facilities where funding is needed.

The netizens mostly agreed with San Nicolas’s Bill 4-33 which according to them had a very good chance of getting through. But the bill got a 5-5 result in voting; 5 in favor of passing the Bill and 5 signed to just report it out.

Another petition letter addressed to the Guam Legislature was posted online at change.org calling for recall of all elected officials responsible for promoting, supporting and refusing to rescind the retro lump sum payment and Public Law 32-208 that raised the salaries of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Senators, Mayors, Vice Mayors, and politically appointed officials.

According to the petition, lawmakers routinely violate Guam law by refusing to hold public hearings on bills, even though Guam law is clear that the only time public hearings can be waived is under “emergency conditions.” Such conditions are defined as when there’s a danger to public health or safety.

The petition served as notice of intention to recall the following public officials:

- Gov. Eddie Calvo
- Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio
- Senator Rory Respicio
- Senator Dennis Rodriguez, Jr.
- Senator Judi Won Pat
- Senator Tina Muña Barnes,
- Senator Frank Aguon
- Senator Tom Ada
- Senator Tony Ada
- Senator Brant McCreadie
- Senator Tommy Morrison

Again this petition did not gather much support.

**continued on page 5**

## Vice Speaker Cruz wants debt ceiling reduced as Guam's debt reaches \$1.5Billion

With Guam's mounting debt that has reached \$1.5 billion, Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz has introduced a Bill 205-33 on Nov. 3 that will reduce the current debt ceiling of the Government of Guam. The bill will also ensure that any future proposal that would increase the debt of the government of Guam be dealt with separately and apart from the issue of raising the debt ceiling.

He also pointed out that apart from reducing the current debt ceiling it should be also separated from any

bonds or debts authorized by the Guam Legislation that may arise in the future.

Vice speaker Benjamin Cruz proposed that a new computation to get the debt ceiling should be the 10% of the 77% assessed real estate value in lieu of the previous Law which is 10% of the total appraised value or 10% of the 100% land appraisal.

"A higher debt ceiling resulting from the real property revaluation doesn't mean an improved ability or position to repay new debt," Cruz was reported as saying in an interview by the local

press.

The latest appraisal on March 14, 2015 of Guam's taxable land and assets including development reached \$16,973,805,644.00. According to the existing law, the debt ceiling should be computed to and from the 100% land assessment value.

Guam Economic and Development Authority or GEDA has issued last October 7 a debt abstract which computed the debt ceiling of Guam amounting to \$1,697,380,564.40 or the 10% of the 100% land assessment appraisal.

Vice Speaker Cruz is determined to have the bill approved. He said that any continued attempt to place the government of Guam on further debt may be detrimental to the payment of income tax refunds. Vice Speaker Cruz' intent is to allow the Government of Guam to use the budget on appropriate government projects and control its debt and that should be decided by the legislation and the people of Guam./  
*The Junction News Team*



Halloween - Too much booze on Halloween.

/ Photo by D. Romulo - Junction Guam

## Senator Ada Spots Over 300 Acres of Public Land for Commercial Use

Senator Tom Ada and his committee went through all the five (5) bills during the public hearing which started at 1:30 pm in the Legislative Hearing Room last October 29, 2015. These bills are intended to transfer more than 300 acres of land to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission or CLTC that could be used for commercial, agriculture, and residential lease to be added to the depart-

ment's inventory.

The five (5) bills that were presented during the public hearing are:

- 192-33 - An act to amend Public Law 22-18 to transfer thirty-five (35) acres of lot 10122-r18, municipality of Dededo reserved by the Department of Education for the Astumbo Elementary School to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission for residential and agricultural

leasing.

- 193-33- An act to amend Public Law 22-18 to transfer thirty-five (35) acres of lot 10122-r18, municipality of Dededo reserved by the Department of Education for the Astumbo Middle School to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission for residential and agricultural leasing.

- 194-33- An act to transfer lot 3463, Agana Heights to the Chamorro

Land Trust Commission for residential and agricultural leasing.

- 195-33- An act to amend Public Law 22-18 to Transfer lot 3470, municipality of Chalan Pago reserved for Guam's health care needs to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission for residential and/or agricultural leasing.

- 196-33- An act to transfer four hundred (400) plus lots which have lapsed into foreclosure from all the "Land for the Landless" subdivisions and all other such subdivisions to the

Chamorro Land Trust Commission's available lands inventory for Chamorro homelands

It can be recalled that recently, Senator Tom Ada has spotted numerous lands that could be used by the Guam government for

commercial lease and can be added to the territory's income generation. The estimated 300-acre land has been identified to be "idle" by the Senator and that it has not been put to good use.

This led to Tom Ada's

**continued on page 9**



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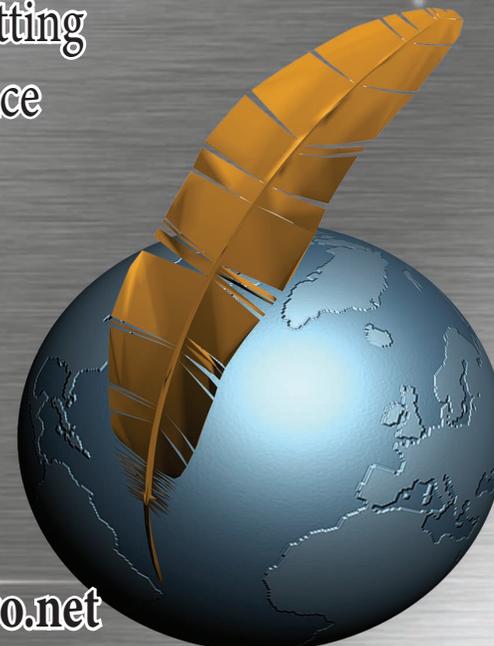
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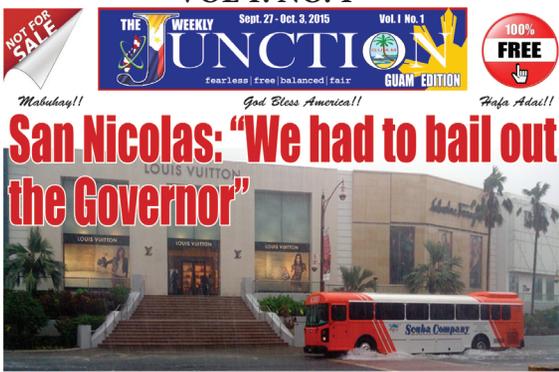
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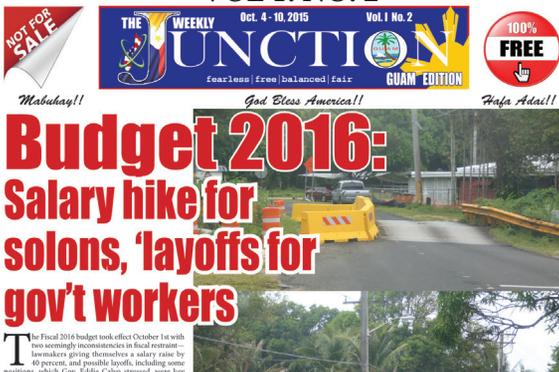


San Nicolas: 'We had to bail out the Governor'

W should take credit for the pay of our... fund? Who should be blamed for its delay? Or should anyone take credit at all? These questions loomed after the Governor made his special address on the day the second tranche of tax refunds was being prepared.

In his special address, the Governor said, some 'senators now want to take credit for the administration paying out tax refunds, making special mention of Senator Mike San Nicolas and Vice Speaker BJ Cruz. These two senators the Governor said were the same ones "who actively campaigned" against his 2011 proposed financial plan as part of the bond bill that would have created a one-year amnesty on tax refunds. This, the Governor said would have created a "reverse fund through a bond instrument in anticipation of the tax refunds."

But Senator San Nicolas did not take this "taking credit" comment sitting down. In his e-mail on this paper, he said, "There should be no one taking credit for how long it



Budget 2016: Salary hike for solons, layoffs for gov't workers

The Fiscal 2016 budget took effect October 1st with two seemingly inconsistent provisions: lawmakers giving themselves a salary raise by 10 percent and possible layoffs, including some positions, which Gov. Eddie Cabra stressed, were key provisions, like the already filed bill on vacancies at the Department of Corrections.

Already, the Legislature has come under fire from private groups like the Guamans for Our Government, using the law that granted the salary increases was enacted in a "shaky manner."

"We're moving towards 2016. And if Bayman, chair of the group said, "It's what the people are going to be doing to decide if they want to have these types of leaders continue to be in office, and to understand a democracy and understand the importance of public hearings and the importance of people getting involved."

He further added that, "The Governor, since the start of the fiscal year, ignored Public Law 29-17 which legally requires him to make deposits into the 'tax refund account.' The failure to make those payments to the fund has resulted in much slower payments of tax refunds to one people this year. In the first quarter of FY2016 the law mandated that \$26,951,010 be deposited into the fund by the Department of Administration. But only \$4,164,047 has been deposited in that first quarter according to bank statements provided by the Department of Administration."

"I had to withhold the nomination of Gov. Cabra because he did not take this 'taking credit' comment sitting down. In his e-mail on this paper, he said, "There should be no one taking credit for how long it



Junction Guam Banned at Adelup?

A classic infringement of free speech and free press? Simple enough? Or could this be the work of some... informed but long-dragging protect their matter?

The issue stemmed from an incident on October 5 when a volunteer of Junction Guam who was distributing copies of the paper was blocked and stopped by some individuals at the Governor's office. The volunteer stated that he gave copies to the Legal office and the Communications office without incident. However, when he reached the Deputy Chief of Staff's office, the lady who was there at that time allegedly said "I will not accept that" to which the volunteer countered, "but it is free, it is for the staff." Accordingly, the lady replied, "Even though it's free, get it back!"

The volunteer then proceeded to the Information office, the lady who was there also said that she will not accept the paper, and told the volunteer to "get out" of the office. Then at the Chief of Staff's office, a lady who identified herself as a certain Ms. Cruz reportedly called the attention of the volunteer and said, "Do you have a permit to distribute the paper?" To which the volunteer answered negatively. He was then told to "get back all the newspapers" that he distributed. The volunteer then asked whether he can get a permit, to which Ms. Cruz said he should go back from Julius at the Communications division, when he asked Julius about the permit, the lady allegedly said, "I could not allow you to be

2008 Deal Spares DPW Engineer From Losing Job

C onceding its hands, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) dismissed the case against Public Works Employee, Liberty Perez, who admitted to defrauding the local and federal government of highway funds by illegally settling where all matters are not in the record.

The verdict, handed down last Sept. 23, means Perez will get his job back and almost a year of back pay, along with Josephine Torres and Danilo Galbra, were accused of collecting overtime pay in 2008 by falsifying overtime documents.

The commission said "the broad, sweeping language"

What's With Core Tech's Acquisition of Former Marianas Variety?

What's With Core Tech's Acquisition of Former Marianas Variety? Fred Magdalen: Simple, silent, but deep

What's With Core Tech's Acquisition of Former Marianas Variety? Batam Association of Guam: A Showcase of Filipino Resiliency

What's With Core Tech's Acquisition of Former Marianas Variety? Puntos de Vista

GWA Face Irked Customers

GWA Face Irked Customers... Bortallo appoints Herrman... Lawmakers want better abortion law compliance

GovGuam receives \$417,510 grant... \$0.5-M Goes to Westcare... Navy Digital Library Expands

USS Ronald Reagan in... Phil Senate pushes free education for dependents of cops and soldiers

LOCAL NEWS

- 2008 Deal Spares DPW Engineer From Losing Job
• Two Taipans in Mall War
• Guam has an average of one suicide every two weeks
• SC orders new trial for Tumon Killer
• Lawmaker seeks better tax collection
• Armed men rob Tenbat residence
• Patient loses leg due to

LOCAL NEWS

- What's With Core Tech's Acquisition of Former Marianas Variety?
• Guam Records Drop in Same-Sex Union (p.6)
• Just Compensation for Land Owners
• Guam Beaches Polluted
• Leddy steps down as Guam Chamber executive
• Bortallo Seeks Increased SSS Benefits for GovGuam Workers

LOCAL NEWS

- GWA Face Irked Customers
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GMHA to increase rates by as high as 2,449%

Guamians are looking at a whopping 12% to 2,449% rate increase for certain procedures and services at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

GMHA's annual rate and service charges for 2016, approved and adopted 14 days for Labor and Delivery, and 24 approved and adopted 14 days for Outpatient Services.

On August 21, GMHA conducted a Public Hearing on the 14 new fees. This was attended by 14 stakeholders to include representatives from health insurance companies.

On August 26 letter to GMHA's CEO, Anthony Mendez (VP of Statewide Insurance) states that "implementing the proposed 2012 Medicare APC fees at GMHA would lead to an average increase of 277% further adding that "Increases in individual procedure codes pricing ranged from 12% to 2,449%." He said that such increase would have a staggering financial impact. Not to mention, the simple blood typing procedure that costs \$9.79 would be



GOVERNOR UNDER FIRE Underwood to Governor: Please walk your talk

In an emotional and impassioned testimony, Senator Nerissa B. Underwood on Thursday's legislative session, begged the Governor to walk his talk.

This developed as Underwood's Bills (112-23 and 113-33) for University of Guam and Department of Education had to be set back because of lack of funds.

Based on the information that was provided by Chris Dennis, the Special Assistant to the Governor, and also Mr.

October 29, he urged him to authorize the Attorney General to act as a special investigator and prosecutor to investigate corruption in the Department of Revenue and Taxation.



Hundreds of millions of taxes remain uncollected

Ready for All Souls' Day... Masses are said in Catholic and public cemeteries all over Guam, November 2

Collect taxes - properly and efficiently. San Nicolas estimated that it is not fair that the administration is running after the individual taxpayers, instead of the business taxes.

Long time at the Real Property Tax Division of the Rev & Tax is a daily scene, mostly relating having insecurely received a notice of unpaid taxes.

San Nicolas said one of his first acts in office was to study the collections procedure at the Rev & Tax, wherein it was found out that as of March 1, 2014, a whopping \$179 million remain uncollected. Gross Receipt Tax accounts for over \$100 million, 21.5 million in corporate taxes (110), \$33.8 in personal income tax. It is also surprising that some employers were not remitting withholding taxes (\$21.5 million).

LOCAL NEWS

- Core Tech Reopens
• GMH in hot water over client's garnished tax refunds
• Guam Tax Commission to study delinking from IRS
• Lawmaker wants contractor's list published
• Catastrophic Leave Bill Signed Into Law
• Tax Cheat Gets One-Year Jail
• Guam Marks All-Time High Tourist Arrivals

LOCAL NEWS

- Senators Surprised at Governor's Spending of Initial 2015 Savings
• Lawmaker Revisits Guam Only Visa Waiver for Philippines and Vietnam
• Man Admits to Marriage Fraud
• Wounded Warrior Visits Guam, Recalls Excellent USNH Guam Care
• Next Week... Tiyan Campus Purchase - The Untold Story

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## \$1.2 Million Retirement Fund Debt Cleared by GMH

“It is better late than never.”

Employees and staff of the Guam Memorial Hospital who had planned and hopeful to retire before the Fiscal year 2014 can now sleep well as the GMH already updated its payment to the Government of Guam Retirement Fund or GGFR.

clears GMH from any GGFR obligation.

It can be recalled that the GMH has a total debt to GGFR of about \$1.2 Million for their employee's retire-

paychecks but failed to forward such to the GGFR.

By doing so, the retirement benefits of GMH employees that was filed to GGFR was placed on hold temporarily until their agency has forwarded payment to the GGFR.

Paula Blas Director of Government of Guam Retirement Fund or



GMHA officials said that the payment was made just yesterday Nov. 4, 2015 with the amount total of \$700,000.00 that totally

ment funds. The GMH was reported on the recent news as deducting employee retirement contributions from their employees

GGRF said on her previous statements to the press that if the hospital doesn't pay contributions for the next pay period, additional debt will be tacked on and “It will keep growing if they don't pay it down,” she said as the GMH had missed two payments for pay period ending October 3 and October 17, 2015.

### Collection Issues

The first settlement made by GMH was Thursday last week with the amount of \$514,000.00 and as of 5 p.m. Wednesday another payment of \$700,000.00 was made totaling to \$1.2

## Senator Ada Spots

...from page 7

proposal to transfer the unused land areas to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission and add to its inventory.

According to Senator Ada, he is hoping that the rules and regulation for commercial lease of the Chamorro Land Trust Commission would be passed and that portion of the 300-acre land can be taken out from the CLTC's inventory and use for commercial leases.

Sen. Tom Ada's was referring to his Bill 175-33 as the rules and regulation mentioned above – An act to prioritize the surveying, registration, and construction of infrastructure for Chamorro Land Trust Commission (CLTC) residential and agriculture properties using the proceeds of commercial leases, through the enactment of rules and regulations for CLTC commercial leases. The bill is all set and just waiting for Governor Calvo's signature to make it official.

Michael Borja, Department of Land Management director said on earlier press release that the whole idea is not to lease all the property to make money. The purpose is to have the land available and usable for residential and agricultural leases in the coming days to add to GovGuam's revenue.

Director Borja added that the department is planning to lease out a portion of the commercial property to different housing developers to put the land to good use. The development of the land plus residential expansion and development is a win-win situation for the commission and the generation of revenue would be a big bonus.

### A Letter from the DPHSS Director

A letter was received on the day of the public hearing (Oct. 29) from The Department of Public Health and Social Service Director, James Gillian. According to the letter, Director Gillian is requesting that the lots remain dedicated to the intent of providing options for development that would evolve as the commission's position to address the needs of the elderly and public health through alternate options. Dir. Gillian also stated in the letter that they are still developing initiatives on assisted living and also applying to expand for an adult day care facility for the elderly where the Inarajan Senior Center is located.

The letter included a working draft for the Public Health Laboratory that was dated April 2015 proving that a facility is proposed to be built on the land included under proposed Bill 195-33.

Gillian is also opposed to the transfer of DPHSS properties to CLTC as per 195-33 and is asking Senator Ada to look for alternate sites for their projects.

Senator Ada has yet to comment on the letter as the Legislature will go into session to vote on these bills during by mid November./The Junction News Team

Million. This is according to Benita Manglona, CFO of Guam Memorial Hospital Authority to the press earlier.

The payment that was made to GGFR of \$514,000.00 will cover the October 3 pay ending period while the \$700,000.00 is for the October 17 pay ending contribution only which makes the November pay ending unpaid.

Ms. Manglona said the real issue that the institution is dealing with is its collection. Many outstanding accounts were referred to a collection agency that has been recently helping GMH and has already collected over half a million dollars from the start of its contract.

Ms. Manglona also reported as saying that only one-fourth of their patients have private insurance, and of the self-pay population, the hospital collects less than 10%. “We bill about \$31 million and collected about just less than \$3 million,” she said.

GMH is taking numerous measures to increase its revenue and already sought help from the Guam Legislature last week to increase the hospital charges, which is according to GMH is below the Medicare rate.

GMHA still needs to catch up on the November contribution payment as it was due last Tuesday November 3./The Junction News Team

## UOG and GCC Raise \$27K in Scholarships for APIASF

The University of Guam and Guam Community College raised \$27,200 for the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) during a “Stay at Home” fundraiser held on May 30, 2015 at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. The event was hosted by GCC President Dr. Mary Okada and UOG President Dr. Robert Underwood and sponsored by DFS T Galleria and First Hawaiian Bank. “Stay at Home” co-coordinator Liza Camacho Beighley and Underwood recently presented a check to APIASF President and Executive Director Neil Horikoshi during an APIASF board meeting in New York.

With the funds raised from the event, APIASF will award \$2,500 scholarships each to five UOG students and five GCC students with the balance remaining going to the APIASF general scholarship fund.

### About APIASF

APIASF was founded by active corporate citizenship and was launched in large part through private sector funds. UOG President Dr. Robert Underwood was the founding Chairman of the APIASF board and continues to serve as a board member.

APIASF provides scholarships for Asian American and Pacific Islander serving institutions across the United States. In the past year, 18 students from GCC and 14 students from UOG were awarded APIASF scholarships totaling over \$87,000.

For more information about APIASF, visit [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org).

### Kabayan Pinoy

Maraming Senador dito Inutil!  
Klase-klaseng mga Senador!!!

By: Ben Tufo

E-mail: [bentufu\\_guam@yahoo.com](mailto:bentufu_guam@yahoo.com)



**Maraming Senador dito Inutil!!!**- Mga mahal na kababayan, kilala niyo ba ang mga senador na sang-ayon sa isinagawang retroactive salary increases nila Gov. Calvo at silang lahat na mga senatong este senador at ang ilan lang na mga ibang feeling sila lang ang anak ng diyos ang nabiyayan ng nasabing increases? Ang ibig ko sabihin ay kung nasaan ang kanilang kinilingan hinggil sa botohan kung dapat na manatili ang kanilang mga salary increases o dapat na tanggalin! Sa ayaw at sa gusto natin ay isa ito sa mga magiging matinding election issue - hinggil sa mga Senador na nagpakita ng kanilang so-called moral uprightness o nag bulag-bulagan at sumang-ayon na lamang sa mga panukala ni Gov. Calvo na taasan ng matindi at i-retroactive pa ang kanilang mga sahod. Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! Buking ang marami sa kanila na mahihinang klase pala ang mga senador na ito.

Una sa lahat ay dapat sana, across the board ang nasabing mga increases at para sa lahat hanggang rank and file at hindi lamang sa kanilang mga feeling sila lang ang mga anak ng diyos!

Sa ngayon ay ako mismo hindi ko pa rin alam ng tiyak kung sinu-sino sa mga labin-limang senador ang tumutol sa simula't-sapol sa mga ma-anomalyang napakalaking mga increase na ito.

Sa mga darating na araw ay aking babasahin ang mga dokumento na nakalap ng opisina hinggil dito.

Sa ngayon ang tiyak ko lang at 100 percent na sigurado ako na kontra at nag-file ng mga bill(s) para mapawalang-bisa ang sinasabing immoral na salary increases ay walang iba kung hindi si Senator Michael San Nicolas. MABUHAY KA SEN. SAN NICOLAS!

Siya lamang ang consistent simula-t-sapol na kumontra dito at ang katunayan ay nung kanyang natanggap ang nasabing retroactive increase na ay ito ay kanyang idinonate sa isang charitable institution ang buong halaga at ang kasalukuyan mga increases ay kanya ring inilalaan para sa isang Catholic charity na nagpapakain sa mga walang makain.

Kumusta kaya ang mga ibang mga senador, ano kaya ang kanilang isinagawa sa kanilang mga retroactive at current salary increases?

Nagtatanong lamang.

Bagama't wala na akong pakialam kung paano man nila ito gastusin, kaya lang, sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon kung saan marami sa mga Guamanians ay kapos sa kita at nag-hihirap, karapat-dapat lang siguro na magpakita ng konting pagakka-sensitobo ang ating mga senador at manguna sila bilang isang magandang halimbawa.

Sa mga susunod kong kolum ay aking hihimayin at ipaalang sa inyo ang mga detalye hinggil dito kung sino ang mga tunay na trapo na sakay lamang sa agos, bagama't sa isang buwan pa o sa December 7, pa ninyo mababasa ang aking matinding opinyon hinggil dito, sapagkat magkakaroon ng 1 month break ang pahayagang ito dala ng isasagawang formal launching, fund raising at iba pang mahahalagang bagay na dapat gampanan para sa ikagaganda at ikalalakas ng mga exposes natin.

Basta't huwag nating kalilimutan na dapat na tayong mga tunay na Pinoy ay magka-isa at ihalal natin ang karapat-dapat na makakatulong sa ating kapakanan at huwag yung porke't na indorso lamang ng ilang mga naggagaling-galingan na mga opisyal ng kung anu-anong mga Filipino organizations. Sa totoo lang naman ay ang ilan sa kanilang mga inindorso nung mga nakaraang eleksyon ay mga inutil at walang naitulong sa ating mga kababayan.

**MAG INGAT KABAYAN SA MGA SENADOR NA PUMAPAPEL NA NAGMAMALASAKIT PA KUNWARI SA KAPAKANAN NG MGA PINOY NGUNIT SA TOTOO LANG AY WALA SILANG PAKI SA ATIN!!!**

Ngunit, huwag kayo mag-alala at inyong mababasa sa pahayagang ito ang kanilang mga honest to goodness accomplishments at siyempre pati na rin ang kanilang ka-bulshitan at pagka-trapo ay ating ibubunyag at ipaalang sa inyo. Hanggang sa muli.

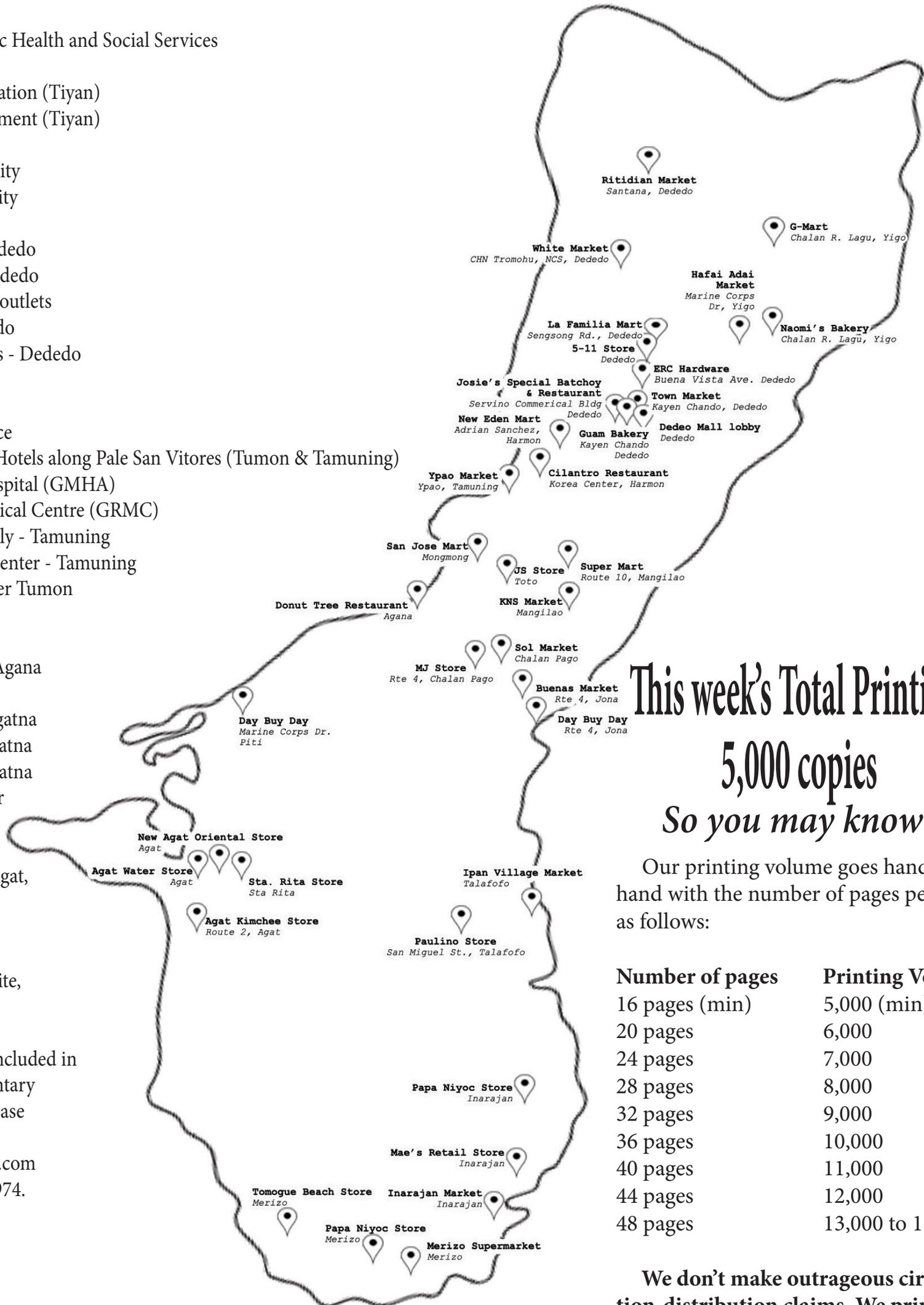
Mabuhay ang mga tunay na Pinoy.

Mabuhay ang mga tunay na Guamanians na nagmamahal at nag-mamalasakit sa isla na ito!

The Junction Guam Weekly is also distributed in major government and private buildings and offices as follows:

- Department of Revenue and Taxation
- Department of Public Works
- ITC Building
- Department of Public Health and Social Services
- University of Guam
- Department of Education (Tiyan)
- Guam Police Department (Tiyan)
- EPA (Tiyan)
- Guam Power Authority
- Guam Water Authority
- Agana Mall outlets
- Micronesia Mall, Dededo
- Compadres Mall, Dededo
- GPO Shopping mall outlets
- Dededo Mall, Dededo
- Prestige Automobiles - Dededo
- Les Foods - Dededo
- GTA Harmon
- Coast 360 Main Office
- Service Entrance of Hotels along Pale San Vitores (Tumon & Tamuning)
- Guam Memorial Hospital (GMHA)
- Guam Regional Medical Centre (GRMC)
- National Office Supply - Tamuning
- Amparo's Business Center - Tamuning
- Guam Energy - Upper Tumon
- IT & E Harmon
- Docomo Tamuning
- Guam Legislature - Agana
- Julale Mall - Agana
- GCIC Building - Hagatna
- DNA Building - Hagatna
- Bank of Guam - Hagatna
- The following Senior Centers: Dededo, Astumbo, Yigo, Mangilao, Sinajana, Agat, Santa Rita, Agana Heights, Yona, Asan-Maina, Inarajan, Mongmomg-Toto-Maite, Tamuning-Tumon

If you wish to be included in our weekly complimentary distribution route, please send us an email at [junctionguam@yahoo.com](mailto:junctionguam@yahoo.com) and/or tex /call 858-5974.



**This week's Total Printing:**  
**5,000 copies**  
*So you may know:*

Our printing volume goes hand-in-hand with the number of pages per issue as follows:

Number of pages	Printing Volume
16 pages (min)	5,000 (min)
20 pages	6,000
24 pages	7,000
28 pages	8,000
32 pages	9,000
36 pages	10,000
40 pages	11,000
44 pages	12,000
48 pages	13,000 to 15,000

**We don't make outrageous circulation-distribution claims. We print what we say we print, and we distribute what we print.**

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NCS, Dededo

**Printing Needs?**  
Call us at **858-5974**

**Advertising Rates**

**Janseen Bazaar**  
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Watches, Children's Wear  
Unit ES & D5, Compadres Mall  
Dededo, Guam **Tel: 489-1376**

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**Ritidian Market**  
15607-1 Santana, Dededo  
632-0632

**Cilantro Restaurant**  
Korea Centre, Harmon  
648-0220

**Day Buy Day**  
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Piti 472-3391, 489-1172

**La Familia Mart**  
865 Sengsong Rd, Dededo  
637-7977

**Ypao Market**  
Ypao, Tamuning  
989-3421

**Sta. Rita Store**  
Sta. Rita  
565-9779

**G-Mart**  
698 Pale R. Lagu, Yigo  
653-7972

**Mangilao KNS Market**  
Mangilao  
734-5499

**New Agat Oriental Supermarket, Agat**  
565-5153

**Naomis Bakery**  
H525 CHN R. Haya, Yigo  
653-3363

**Super Mart**  
Route 10, Mangilao  
735-6278

**Agat Water Store**  
Agat  
989-5225

**Hafa Adai Market**  
Marine Corp Drive, Yigo  
653-4594

**JS Store**  
Toto  
472-9779

**Agat Kim Chee Store**  
Route 2, Agat  
565-2568

**White Market**  
260A NCS, Dededo  
637-3777

**San Jose Mart**  
Mong-mong

**Papa Niyoc Store**  
Inarajan  
828-0089

**Town Market**  
Kayen Chando, Dededo  
637-2956

**Sol Market**  
No. 103 Pago Plaza, Chalan  
Pago, 734-6402

**Maes Retail Store**  
Inarajan  
828-8326

**Josies Special Bachoy & Restaurant**  
Ste 105 Servino Comm Bldg.,  
Dededo, 633-4383

**MJ Store**  
Route 4, Chalan Pago  
477-2801

**Inarajan Market**  
Inarajan  
828-5501

**Guam Bakery**  
Kayen Chando, Dededo  
632-1161

**Buenas Market**  
Route 4, Yona  
789-2538

**Merizo Supermarket**  
Merizo  
828-2374

**ERC Hardware**  
231 E. Buena Vista Ave.,  
Dededo, 635-7787

**Day Buy Day**  
Yona  
789-3371

**Papa Niyoc Store**  
Merizo  
828-0088

**Dededo Mall lobby,**  
Dededo  
633-1000

**Ipan Village Market**  
Talofofo  
789-8787

**Tomoge Beach Store**  
Merizo  
828-0049

**New Eden Mart**  
263 Adrian Sanchez St.,  
Harmon, 646-4589

**Paulino Store**  
San Miguel St., Talofofo  
789-1061

**The Donut Tree**  
Fastfood Restaurant  
Julale Shopping Center, Agana  
Tel. 472-8430

**Classifieds section line ads**  
• Personal: \$4/per col. inch • Business: \$5/per col. inch  
**Legal Notices/Gov't Notices/Obituaries: \$11/per col. inch**

**Commercial Ads:**

Size	B/W	Full Color
1/8 page	\$131.00	Not applicable
1/4 page	\$256.00	\$346.00
1/2 page	\$500.00	\$675.00
3/4 page	\$730.00	\$986.00
1 whole page	\$947.00	\$1,278.00

**To save on cost for colored ads:**

- Advertise at our inserts page and share the cost with your fellow advertisers and get a 20% discount from the full color ad rates.
- **NO COST** on your part for the insert (starts at 1 whole page). Page size - 10" x 13".

**For inserts that we print and insert (other than the above), you can choose from Newsprint, Bookpaper, or Coated Paper - ask for printing quotation.**

**Pre-printed Inserts**

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 to 2 pages back to back (all sizes) | 4 to 8 pages (all sizes)       |
| • first 5,000: \$0.06/pc              | • first 5,000: \$0.08/pc.      |
| • 5,000 to 9,999: \$0.05/pc           | • 5,000 to 9,999: \$0.07/pc    |
| • 10,000 and beyond: \$0.04/pc        | • 10,000 and beyond: \$0.06/pc |

**Note:** Inserts should be delivered to our office not later than 5 pm, Saturday.

**OTHER FREEBIES:**

- **Free on-line ads:**

Print ad size	On-line ad duration
1/8 page	2 weeks
1/4 page	1 month
3/4 page	1-1/2 month
1 whole page	2 months
- **Free lay-out design** for ads 1/8 page and up
- **Free press releases and advertorial articles** for regular advertisers

**Special Volume Ads - Freebies**

**One-Fourth (1/4) Page ads \$256.00 per issue. (Same ads freebies sizes with color ads.)**

- 4 issues gets 1 issue 1/4 page ads Free worth \$256.00
- 6 issues gets 1 issue 2/3 page ads Free worth \$384.00
- 8 issues gets 1 issue 1/2 page or 2 issues 1/4 page ads Free worth \$512.00
- 10 issues gets 1 issue 1/2 page ads and 1/2 page advertorial Free worth \$947

**One-Half (1/2) Page ads \$500.00 per issue. (Same ads freebies sizes with color ads.)**

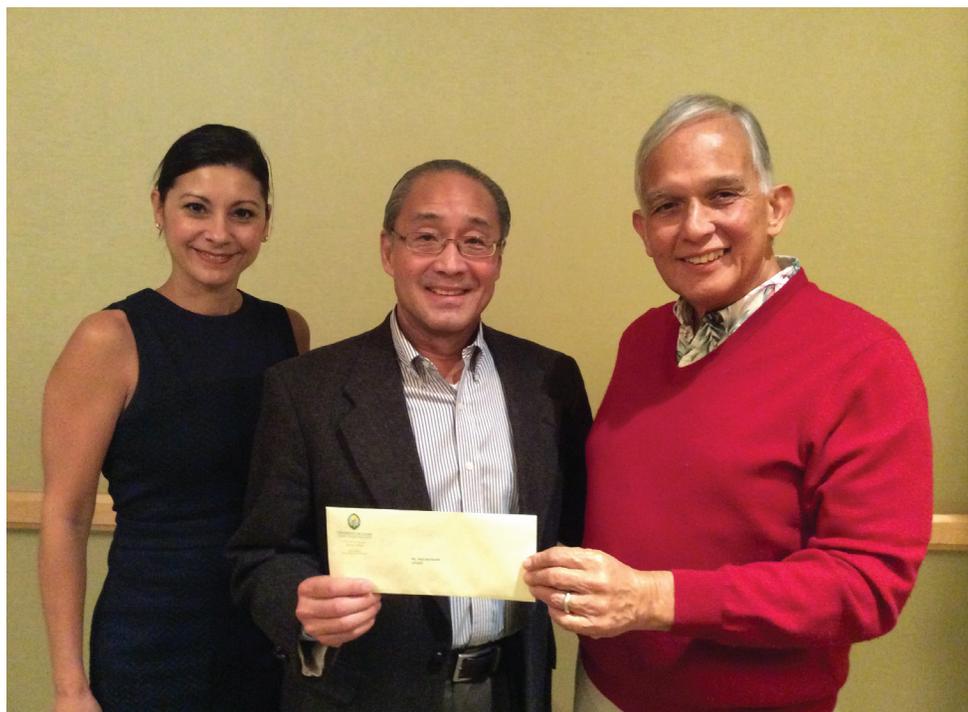
- 4 issues gets 1 issue 1/2 page ads Free worth \$500.00
- 6 issues gets 1 issue 5/8 page ads Free worth \$631.00
- 8 issues gets 1 issue 3/4 page or 2 issues 1/4 and 1/2 page ads Free worth \$756.00
- 10 issues gets 1 issue 3/2 page ads and 3/4 page advertorial Free worth \$1,512

**Three Fourth 3/4 Page ads \$730.00 per issue. (Same ads freebies sizes with color ads.)**

- 4 issues gets 1 issue 3/4 page ads Free worth \$730.00
- 6 issues gets 1 issue 7/8 page ads Free worth \$861.00
- 8 issues gets 1 issue 1 page or 2 issues 1/2 page ads Free worth \$986.00
- 10 issues gets 1 issue 1 page ads and 1 page advertorial Free worth \$1,894.00

**One Whole (1) Page ads \$947.00 per issue. (Same ads freebies sizes with color ads.)**

- 4 issues gets 1 issue 1 page ads Free worth \$947.00
- 6 issues gets 1 issue 1-1/4 page ads Free worth \$1,203.00
- 8 issues gets 1 issue 1-1/2 page or 2 issues 3/4 page ads Free worth \$1,447.00
- 10 issues gets 1 issue 1-3/4 page ads and 1-3/4 page advertorial Free worth \$3,354.00



University of Guam President Dr. Robert Underwood (right) and "Stay at Home" fundraiser co-coordinator Liza Camacho Beighley (left) present a check to Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) President & Executive Director Neil Horikoshi (center) on October 31. The University of Guam and Guam Community College raised \$27,200 through a "Stay at Home" fundraiser for APIASF in May. Read story on Page 9.

**EPA Awards \$12.1-M to Guam for Environmental Protection**

Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo today announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Government of Guam \$12.1 million for environmental protection programs on Guam.

The Guam Waterworks Authority was awarded \$9.2 million in Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for water and wastewater infrastructure design and construction projects. The funds will repair and replace GWA's wastewater collection system and the construc-

tion of wastewater pump stations in Tamuning, Chalan Pago and Talofofo districts. The projects will help reduce sanitary sewer overflows in these neighborhoods and thereby limit contamination to ground and surface water. Additionally, the funds will be used for the rehabilitation of five drinking water wells currently out of service.

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency was awarded \$3 million to support inspections, permit writing, emergency response, education on pesticide use, and program imple-

mentation to ensure clean beaches and safe drinking water.

"We have an obligation to protect our environment and natural resources, which are critical to our economy, culture, and way of life. These funds provide federal investments to upgrade our water and wastewater system; they also support environmental protection initiatives to prevent contamination and deliver clean water to island residents and businesses. I will continue to work to protect federal funding in Congress that support these programs."

## CIDG files charges against arrested Briton for pornography, cyber-crime in Pagadian City

Pagadian City, Philippines – The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) has filed criminal cases on Wednesday against a British national they arrested for pornographic activities in this city.

Chief Insp. Arnold Ventura, CIDG provincial chief, identified the accused as Peter William Cannel, a resident of Rosario subdivision in Barangay Dao, this city.

Ventura said among the cases filed before the City Prosecutor's Office against Cannel included Republic Act 9775 otherwise known as the "Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009," R.A. 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

Ventura said Cannel was arrested in a raid Tuesday afternoon at his residence in

Barangay Dao, this city. The foreigner bought the house and had been staying in the subdivision for almost five years already.

At the same time, he said they have rescued five minors, who are being victimized by the suspect in his alleged acts of pornography.

He said they confiscated from the residence of the suspect firearms and ammunition, assorted sex toys, computers, pornographic videos and photos of his minor-victims uploaded to the internet.

He said the raid was carried out based on a search warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 19 in this city.

The raid was carried out following a week-long surveillance on the alleged illegal activities of the British national. /PNA/FFC/TPGJR/H. Cadion

## Search for Ilocos Norte's lost towns sparks renewed interest

Laog City, Philippines – The recent discovery of the oldest baptismal record in Ilocos Norte has sparked renewed interest to locate the lost towns of the province.

Five years ago, Fr. Ericson Josue, a native of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte disclosed his discovery of the lost towns Bangbang, Adang and Vera in the northern towns of Ilocos Norte during his study trip in Spain where he took Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the University of Navarre.

At that time, Josue said there were pieces of evidence that could show the existence of Ilocos Norte's lost towns. He even brought some copies of documents he found in Spain but due to limited time, his research on the lost towns of the province did not push through when he came back to the Philippines as he was then imme-

diately assigned as seminary formator at the Immaculate Conception School of Theology in Vigan City.

Now that Josue is back in the province as the current Diocesan Archivist, Curator of the Diocesan Museum and Chair of the Heritage Committee since April 2015, he said his longing to find where these lost towns are prompted him to search old records at the Diocesan archives.

Before he left the country for his study in Spain, Josue recalled there was a time when he encountered the "Bacarra box 1" containing 1702 baptismal entries with the towns Bangbang, Adang and Vera in it.

"When I came home, I opted to write an article with the hope that it will become a book later on

continued on p. 13

## THIS WEEK IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY British Conquest of Manila



### FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

On November 2, 1762, Rt. Hon. Dawsonne Drake from the British East India Company assumed office as the first and only British Governor of the Philippines during the British Occupation of Manila. His term was marked by quarrels among the British military officials. The conflict between the European powers during the period of 1756–1763 spilled over to their colonies in Asia. One of the outcomes was a two-year period of British control over the Philippine Islands.

This was after the Age of Discovery and the establishment of European colonies around the world—when the power of the western nations was measured in terms of the colonies they possessed. In the 1700s, the battle for dominance in the “new world,” or current-day North America, was being waged between France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland. In 1756, the two countries formally declared war upon each other, which likewise drew into the conflict their allies: Prussia and Portugal, who were allied with Britain; and the Spanish Empire and Austria, who were allied with France. Although several battles were fought in mainland Europe, the battle for dominance reached the colonies, thus spreading the war across the globe.

When the war broke, both Britain and Spain had a presence in Asia. The British had already established the East India Company—the trading outpost and colonizing authority of the United Kingdom in India. The British were on their way to establishing their empire, which would eventually span the globe.

Two years into the war between the United Kingdom and the Spanish Empire, a British fleet—under the East India

Company—was dispatched from their colony in India toward Southeast Asia to conquer colonies under the Spanish crown. The fleet was under the command of Rear-Admiral Samuel Cornish and Brigadier General William Draper, and its land forces were comprised of Regiments of British Soldiers, Royal Artillery, and Indian Sepoys. The “little army,” as Brig. Gen. Draper described it in his journal, arrived in the Philippine Archipelago on September 23, 1762.

News of a fleet on its way to the archipelago came to Manila the day before, September 22, 1762. This was forwarded to the Archbishop of Manila, Miguel Rojo, who was then the acting Governor-General According to Archbishop Rojo's journal, the Spanish forces in the city were unaware of a declaration of war, but nonetheless made necessary preparations against a hostile fleet. Manila was put in a State of Defense and a force was sent to Cavite to protect the port.

Upon the British fleet's arrival in Manila Bay, an emissary from the Spanish forces was sent to deliver a letter to the Commanding Officer, to ask about their nationality and reason for their arrival. The British replied by sending two messengers of their own, which bore the orders of King George III: Capture the city of Manila and order the Spanish in the city to surrender. At this point, Archbishop Rojo had likewise been informed of the ongoing war between France and the United Kingdom.

The British fleet originally planned to attack the port of Cavite that night in order to confuse the Spaniards, but opted instead to attack Manila, recognizing the likelihood of a domino effect should they take down the capital first. (Cavite would

eventually fall to the British on October 11, 1762.)

On the morning of September 24, Brig. Gen. Draper sent scouts to survey the surroundings for the impending attack on Manila. The British proceeded to deploy their troops on the shore, but met resistance. Archbishop Rojo recounts that the Spanish opened fire at the British to little effect: the British had taken cover in a church in Malate. Malate was taken within the day, but as the Spanish retreated they burned parts of the village in their wake.

The next day, British forces advanced and captured the fort of Polverista, which had been abandoned by the Spanish after the battle of the previous day. According to Brig. Gen. Draper's account, Polverista proved to be good cover for the British repelling the Spanish forces, who had attacked throughout the night. The Spanish had 50 regular troops, some militiamen, and 800 native soldiers.

The fighting continued until the next day, and was marked by increasing violence. According to Brig. Gen. Draper's account, straggling seamen were murdered by “savages” — among other atrocities committed during the skirmishes. On the 26th, Draper sent a letter to Archbishop Rojo, ordering the surrender of the Spanish forces, likewise informing the acting Governor-General that he might not be able to restrain his soldiers from taking revenge for the barbaric acts committed by the Spanish forces to the invaders. The next day, the Spanish sent a flag of truce.

On September 27, 1762, the Spanish sent an emissary to the British commanding officer, to apologize for the atrocities committed by the native soldiers and

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### Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK)

The Baguio, Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, and Kalinga (BBIBAK) of Guam is in the process of organizing. Those from the Cordillera Region (CAR) including Baguio City who wish to help out or join the group are encouraged to please send an email to [bbibak\\_guam@yahoo.com](mailto:bbibak_guam@yahoo.com) with your contact details

# Ballet Philippines Sizzles in Xiamen



In line with its cultural diplomacy efforts to project the Philippines in Fujian province, the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen organized a gala performance of Ballet Philippines on October 29 at the Jinrong Theater Xiamen Little Egret Art Center. Before an excited audience of 600 guests, Ballet Philippines (BP) dazzled with their wide range and eclectic repertoire of classical, neo-classical, modern and contemporary dances, providing a memorable evening of cultural experience. The event is part of Ballet Philippines' China tour in three cities namely Chongqing,

Xiamen and Guangzhou, under the auspices of Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The event was held on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and China; 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Philippine Consulate General; and the First Annual Commemoration of Xiamen-Cebu Friendship Day.

In his remarks at the reception, Philippine Consul General Julius Caesar A. Flores proudly emphasized that Ballet Philippines, being the Philippines' premier classical and contemporary dance company, is the

epitome of Filipino artistry and talent in the performing arts. He further added that BP's visit to Xiamen is a valuable contribution to enhancing people-to-people contacts between Fujian province and the Philippines.

The Chinese officials expressed their sincere appreciation for the Consulate General's efforts in bringing Ballet Philippines to Xiamen to highlight milestone events between the two countries.

The gala performance in Xiamen was organized under the auspices of the DFA Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations - Cultural Division Unit, in

cooperation with Xiamen Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Xiamen Municipal Government, Xiamen People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio-Film-Television, Press and Publication. The Filipino Chinese Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Filipino Chinese Association of the Philippines also provided their support to this event.

The performance was recorded by Chinatown TV (from Manila) and Xiamen TV as well as witnessed by the Consulate General's media contacts./DFA

# Pacquiao brood resigns as GenSan village chair

General Santos City, - Boxing champion and Sarangani Rep. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao's younger brother, Rogelio "Roel" Pacquiao, evaded a possible legal question in his bid for the province's congressional seat in the 2016 elections.

The younger Pacquiao has decided to resign as chair of Barangay Apopong here in a bid to address questions on his residency status after filing his Certificate of Candidacy (COC) last month for congressman in Sarangani.

Ramil Rabanes Sr., top councilor of Barangay Apopong, said Wednesday Roel's resignation was set effective last Monday, Nov. 2, based on a letter that he submitted to the council.

"He decided to resign so he can focus on his campaign for congressman of Sarangani," he said.

Rabanes temporarily assumed on Monday as acting chair of Barangay Apopong to fill the vacancy created by Roel's resignation.

But he said he will wait for its approval by the Department of

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# Search for Ilocos Norte's...

*from page 12*

on these lost towns. So I tried to look again for this 1702-1759 book but even the box was missing. So I had to ask everyone where is the Bacarra box 1 and no one could tell me where it was," he said.

He even went searching at the newly established Museum de Bacarra, where it was earlier theorized that the same box and several artifacts may have been brought for exhibit, but there were none.

"There are old baptismal/canonical books there but those are 1800s. It was not the ones we're looking for," he said.

While searching for these old manuscripts, Josue said he visited the University of Santo Tomas in Manila on October 29 where he knew the microfilms of the Diocese of Laoag are being kept.

"I had to check on the 1702 documents and the information (I was looking for) is there. The copy is there. So, (I told myself) if ever we cannot locate the original anymore, at least the information is restored in the microfilm, including a photocopy of the original," Josue said.

But just after typhoon "Lando" lashed out northern Luzon, janitors at the Bishop's Residence accidentally found the original document at the old warehouse.

Soaked in floodwaters, the 3-inches thick baptismal record shows native names from Bangbang, Adang and Vera.

According to workers at the Bishop's residence, the old manuscripts were partly eaten by termites, hence it was brought out from the Archives section.

With the renewed interest of the Diocese of Laoag led by Bishop Renato Mayugba, the Archives Section of the diocese is now back to its original spacious room and is now being reorganized and systematized to preserve the document's integrity.

"I hope that after drying the old manuscripts, I could proceed with my documentation on the lost towns of Banging, Adang and Vera. This is saving their stories from the Abyss of oblivion and showing 'guideposts' for tomorrow's generation," said Josue, and noted that he had already made an initial research as to where Bangbang is located./PNA

# Lando evacuees return home

Quezo City - As October 29, only 106 evacuation centers managed by local government units (LGUs) in Regions I, III, and CAR remain open, temporarily housing 5,805 families or 25,443 persons affected by Typhoon Lando.

At the height of Lando, close to 900 evacuation centers were opened to accommodate affected families.

DSWD Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman said the decreasing number of existing evacuation centers is a good indication that evacuees are now moving towards recovery.

The Secretary added that

with this development, the department is now transitioning from the relief operations phase to the recovery phase, and will eventually move onto the rehabilitation phase.

The teams that conducted the Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDANA) for affected families by Typhoon Lando in Aurora and Nueva Ecija recommended the continued delivery of food and non-food items.

For the Lando-affected areas to fully recover, the teams also recommended the delivery of repair kits for damaged houses, repair of school buildings and

furniture, replacement of damaged books and school supplies to children, and conduct of clean-up drives in flooded areas, which can be done through food-for-work or cash-for-work program.

The teams also proposed that to ensure the safety of evacuees in times of disasters, the construction of permanent disaster resilient evacuation centers should be undertaken.

Meanwhile, members of the Task Force Ground Zero based in Casiguran, Aurora, continue to reinforce LGUs in disaster operations.

A workshop on Food Security through Gap Analysis and Early Recovery

Planning was held for the local social welfare and development officers, and agricultural officers.

The United Nations-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) conducted an orientation on Information Management with the National Disaster Response representatives, while the Logistics Team updated the stock card inventory to properly account the goods in the warehouse.

The Department of Education in Aurora Province instructed all schools to conduct psychosocial debriefing of students when classes resume on November 2./DSWD

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## Comelec's 'No Bio-No Boto' leaves over 17,000 voters in Nueva Vizcaya

Bayombong, N.V. - The Commission on Elections (Comelec) here has left 17,163 voters in its exhaustive conduct of biometrics registration out of the 251,806 total voters in the province in preparation for next year's national and local polls.

Hilda Padilla, assistant

Comelec chief here, said the remaining 17,163 voters who failed to make it to the deadline represent late registrants, unlocated and or transferred voters, voters who had left abroad and the deceased.

"We have campaigned so much for this but we can no longer extend it because

it will affect our overall schedule in preparation for the 2016 elections," she said.

Padilla also said however that an appeal for the extension of the biometrics registration in the country is yet to be decided by the Supreme Court./PNA/JMC/SCD/BMEBREO



The front of the Mansion House in Baguio City is a favorite shooting location for movies and television shows. Here singer and actress Vina Morales pose for posterity while having a break from a shooting./PIA-CAR

## North Cotabato bans GMO rice varieties

Kidapawan City - Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) in North Cotabato approved Wednesday the banning of all Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) varieties of rice in marketplaces of the province.

The ban came after the passage of SP Ordinance No. 2015-14-005, which directs the promotion and implementation of organic agriculture in the province on efforts to conserve biodiversity of crop growth, particularly rice and corn produce.

"This is to protect the welfare of our farmers as well as the health of our constituents in the province," said North Cotabato 1st District Board Member Loreto Cabaya Jr., concurrent chair of the SP Committee on Agriculture.

Cabaya said North Cotabato is the second province in the country to

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barangay chair and ex-officio member of the city council.

He said Roel is legally allowed to assume his elective positions in the city while maintaining his residence in Sarangani.

"Sarangani is his domicile of origin since the municipality of Glan is his birthplace," said Galal, who is a lawyer.

Before moving to this city years ago, the Pacquiao family resided in Barangay Tango in Glan, Sarangani.

"But we respect his decision. He doesn't want this to become an issue during the campaign period so he opted to just resign," he added./PNA/FFC/AVE

## Pacquiao brod resigns...

from page 13

ment of the Interior and Local Government before fully taking over the post.

With his resignation as barangay chair, Roel has effectively vacated his post as chair of the city's Liga ng mga Barangay and ex-officio member of the city council.

Roel, who is currently attending to a personal business in Manila, has also submitted a resignation letter to the city council.

The younger Pacquiao earlier filed his COC for Sarangani's lone congressional seat to replace the boxing champion, who is seeking a Senate seat under Vice President Jejomar Binay's United Nationalist Alliance.

He is running under the People's Champ Movement (PCM), a local political party founded by Rep. Pacquiao.

Roel's residency status came into question when he filed his COC last Oct. 12 as he was not yet a registered voter then of Sarangani.

But his application for transfer of voter registration records from this city to Alabel town in Sarangani, which officially filed only last September, was approved on Oct. 19 by the town's election registration board.

City Councilor Franklin Galal Jr., a PCM stalwart and close ally of the Pacquiao's, said there was actually no need for Roel to resign as

## Military task group confirms 2 ASG brigands killed in latest Sulu clash

Zamboanga City, Philippines - The military has confirmed that the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) brigands have lost two followers and one was injured in clash that occurred Monday in the province of Sulu.

Monday's clash was the latest so far as the focus military operation continues against ASG brigands in Sulu. Three soldiers were wounded in the clash.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, Joint Task Group Sulu

commander, told the Philippines News Agency on Wednesday that the ASG casualties was confirmed through intelligence gathering.

Arrojado said the slain ASG brigands were identified as Timhar Jauhari, a resident of Barangay Darayan, Patikul, and Munar Abdulhair of Barangay Maligay of the same town.

Arrojado said wounded was Jani Kamlun of Barangay Tanum, Patikul.

The clash ensued around

1:45 p.m. Monday in Barangay Liang, Patikul town while the troops encountered a group of 20 ASG brigands led by Ninok Sapari while on combat mission in the area.

The ASG brigands fled towards Barangay Tugas, Patikul, upon sensing the arrival of government troops' reinforcements.

The government troops have launched FMO (field military operation) targeting the senior leaders of the ASG brigands as well their foreign cohorts in Sulu./PNA

## PHL software industry sees up to 25% growth in 2015

Manila, Philippines - The local software industry is projected to grow by 20 to 25 percent this year with recent developments in the domestic market, Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA) President Jonathan De Luzuriaga said.

Luzuriaga, during the Softcon.ph 2015 in Pasay City on Wednesday, said the strong growth of the industry is driven by expansions of big companies in the sector and the increasing number of digital start-ups in the country.

In 2014, the software sector grew by 20 percent -- the second highest growth among sub-sectors of information technology-business process outsourcing

(IT-BPO) -- to USD2.0 billion from its previous year.

"Definitely 20% growth is already a given... That's the average (growth) we're getting and with all the activities that just happen for 2015, it is safe to assume that 20% is an easy target," Luzuriaga said.

He added that BPO firms are now diversifying to IT outsourcing which will create higher revenue for the sector.

"Everyone is adding technology into the mix. And when you say technology, it's always about software," he said.

"If you remain in the transactional side of things, with all the trends happening globally, it will render you

insignificant (figures) if you're going to remain there as a company," the official further said.

Last year, only the Philippines and India registered a positive growth in the global technology services while other countries experienced 30 to 33% drop in revenue. However, the Philippines' share to the global industry is only at 2.0 percent.

"The more important target would be the global IT market," Luzuriaga said.

Meanwhile, he mentioned that the local software industry expects to close the year with around 100,000 full-time employees from 88,000 in 2014 and from 75,000 in 2013./PNA

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DAVAO ORIENTAL: Replete with songs and dances showcasing the Madaya culture and traditions, the 17th Kalindugan Festival has brought the Mandayas of Sitio Sangab in Caraga a sense of pride and identity over their deep rooted cultural heritage, making it one of the most venerable and well-known festivals in the Province./PIO-DO



Garbage litter the Barangka public cemetery in Barangka, Marikina City after the observance of All Saints' Day. (PNA photo by Joey O. Razon)/lami/jor

## PNoy expresses elation over U.N. Tribunal's decision to hear Philippines' case against China

Eastern Samar, Philippines President Benigno S. Aquino III said Friday he is glad that the Permanent Court of Arbitration has decided to accept the Philippines' case against China on the South China Sea dispute.

During an interview here, the President said that with the tribunal's decision, the Philippines overcomes the initial challenge in its case against China—to determine whether the international arbitral tribunal has jurisdiction over the case.

"Napakatuwa natin na sinabi nitong tribunal na ito na meron nga silang jurisdiction, at doon sa press release na nabasa ko kanina, inaasahan na ang pangalawang mga tanong ay baka magkaroon na sila ng desisyon as early as next year," he said, noting that had the court ruled otherwise, the case would no longer proceed.

"Yung mabilis na kilos, medyo masalimuot 'yung talakayan dito pero masasabi

natin talagang sino baman ang hindi matutuwa na talagang parang umiiral 'yon ngang tinatawag na rule of law."

Asked how the ruling would affect Philippine-Chinese relations, President Aquino said he expects it to clarify things, especially on the rights and obligations of both countries under the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"Kapag wala nang malabo, maliwanag ang ating mga dapat sundin, at hindi ba magiging paraan ito para mas maging maaymagazine ng ugnayan ng isa't isa," he said.

On whether China would respect the recent developments, the President said that although China has refused to participate in the proceedings, the tribunal took into consideration the country's position paper on the dispute.

The President said the tribunal had asked both

parties, who are signatories to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, to obey the convention.

He also said he hopes the ruling would not affect China's participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that is being hosted by the Philippines.

The South China Sea issue is not the entirety of Philippine-Chinese relations, he emphasized.

President Aquino further said that when he attends the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Malaysia next month, he will once again push for the conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

He said he would remind fellow leaders in the ASEAN that after agreeing on the

## This Week in Philippine... from page 12

to negotiate the release of Antonio Tagle, a nephew of the Archbishop who had been captured.

Tagle was released the next day, escorted by British Lieutenant Fryar. Upon their arrival, they were attacked by the native troops, under the command of the Spanish authorities. In his journal, Brig. Gen. Draper mentions that the two were murdered in a "manner too shocking to mention." Archbishop Rojo,

however, details the death of the two men in his logs that the natives cut off the head of the British soldier and stabbed Tagle seven times, mortally wounding him.

Bombardment resumed the next day, the 29th. Shells from British ships were fired at the city of Intramuros, as British soldiers continued their advance on the ground, even through the rough weather at the onset of Oct. The British troops, on Oct. 2, 1762, deployed a battery of twenty-four pounders to continue their siege of the walled city. On October 3, 1762, natives under the command of the Spanish forces launched a counterattack against the advancing British regiment. There were approx. 5,000 native soldiers, 2,000 of which came from Pampanga. This was Spain's final push against the British in the city of Manila, but the British successfully pushed them back. British bombardment continued until the 4th of Oct.

The final siege of the

walled city of Intramuros began on October 5, 1762. Archbishop Rojo recounts that at 6:00 a.m., British troops began leaving the lines to head for the breach. The British seized the foundry and attacked the Royal Gate, which they battered down with axes and iron levers. On the night of the 5th, final preparations were made for the final push into the walled city.

Brig. Gen. Draper's account shows that at 4:00 a.m. of October 6, 1762, the British troops started their offensive by firing mortar shells against the Spanish. At daybreak, a large body of Spanish troops formed in front of St. Andrew's Church. However, the resistance proved futile; the Spaniards eventually surrendered the city to the British.

The British occupation would extend toward the north, including Bulacan, Pampanga, and parts of Ilocos. It would last for two years. Within those two years, the occupation would bring about supporters of British rule manifested in rebellions by local leaders such as Diego and Gabriela Silang.

## North Cotabato bans... from page 14

ban the GMO variety, next to Misamis Oriental.

He noted that GMO rice varieties have not been fully supported by many as safe for consumption.

The GMO process involves the altering of the genetic growth of rice through scientific and engineering methods.

Organisms that have been genetically modified include microorganisms such as bacteria and yeast, insects, plants, fish, and mammals.

Cabaya said North Cotabato is currently the biggest exporter of brown and red organic rice in the country, with rice yields flourishing in vast farmlands of Makilala and M'lang municipalities./PNA/FFC/NYP/J.A. Tabugoc

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## US pledges to continue military patrols in South China Sea

Moscow - Washington will continue its military patrols in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, the US Navy's Pacific Command chief said Tuesday.

Last week, China strongly criticized the United States after the naval destroyer USS Lassen sailed within 12 nautical miles of the Spratly archipelago in waters claimed by several regional powers. Washington responded that the maneuver was not in violation of international law.

"By matching our words and our diplomacy with routine freedom of navigation operations, we're making it clear that the

United States continues to favor peaceful resolutions to ongoing disputes and that our military will continue to fly, sail and operate whenever and wherever international law allows," Adm. Harry B. Harris said at Peking University in Beijing, as quoted by The Wall Street Journal.

He stressed that the South China Sea "is not, and will not, be an exception."

According to media reports, the US Navy intends to patrol the area twice per year quarter.

Over the past few months, Beijing has been constructing artificial islands, some with defense facilities, on the coral reefs of the Spratly Islands — a group of more

than 750 islands and reefs. China claims sovereignty over the land and the 12 nautical mile zone surrounding the islands.

The United States does not recognize the Chinese claims of sovereignty over the man-made islands, and has repeatedly raised concerns over Beijing's activities in the region.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said after the incident that China considered the passing of a US warship within 12 nautical miles of the artificially created islands to be illegal and a violation of China's sovereignty./PNA/Sputnik



Lassen conducts SAR proficiency training. An MH-60R Seahawk helicopter assigned to the "Warlords" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 51 and LASSEN conduct search and rescue (SAR) and medical exercises in the South China Sea, October 2015.

## Japan, US determined to conduct maritime operations in South China Sea

Washington, DC - US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and Japanese Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani confirmed during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur their countries' intentions to carry out maritime operations in the Asia-Pacific region, the US Defense Department said in a press release on Tuesday.

US Navy amphibious assault vehicles with Philippine and US troops on board maneuver in the waters during a combined exercise in the South China Sea.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus, which serves as a platform for member nations to discuss defense cooperation with eight dialogue partners such as the United States.

"The two leaders also discussed the rapidly evolving security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, including the East China Sea and the South China Sea," the press release said. "They affirmed both

governments' determination to conduct maritime operations in accordance with international law."

During the meeting with Nakatani, Carter welcomed the enactment of the Peace and Security Legislation in Japan that allows the country to conduct military deployments abroad, according to the press release.

On Tuesday, Carter also discussed regional security issues with the defense ministers of the Philippines, Singapore, India and Thailand./PNA/Sputnik

## China Urged to stop militarization of South China Sea

Washington, DC - China and other countries must end their quest to take control over islands in the South China Sea, US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter told Chinese Defense Minister General Chang Wanquan in Kuala Lumpur.

"He [Carter] called on all parties to permanently halt reclamation and militarization activities," Defense Department spokesperson Peter Cook said in a release. On Tuesday, Carter met with Wanquan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss the situation in the South China Sea, and reiterated the US commitment to maintain-

ing a power balance in the Asia-Pacific.

China has been constructing artificial islands on top of the coral reef habitats of the Spratly Islands, a group of more than 750 islands and reefs, over the past year. Beijing claimed sovereignty over the land and the 12 nautical mile zone surrounding the islands.

The United States has repeatedly warned it does not recognize the Chinese claims of sovereignty over the man-made islands, and has raised concerns over Beijing's activities in the region.

"The secretary [Carter] affirmed to the minister

that the US will continue to defend the principle of freedom of navigation, and will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows," Cook said.

On Tuesday, Carter and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani confirmed during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur their countries' intentions to carry out maritime operations in the South China Sea and the East China Sea./PNA/Sputnik

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