



BUSES: Several Guam Regional Transit Authority buses were parked Sunday at the Department of Public Works parking lot in Upper Tumon. GRTA is seeking minibuses for its shrinking fleet. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

GRTA to seek 10 minibuses

By John O'Connor
john@postguam.com

The Guam Regional Transit Authority will issue an emergency procurement for 10 minibuses to augment its shrinking fleet of vans and buses.

The procurement will be federally funded and is expected to cost more than \$1 million, according to interim Executive Manager Celestin Babauta.

GRTA has 12 vans and 11 mid-sized buses but, due to constant use and lack of maintenance, the working fleet is down to five vans and five buses.

There are two other buses from Kloppenburg Enterprises Inc. that allow the agency to service the six

para-transit and six fixed routes. Kloppenburg is the bus operations contractor for GRTA.

Babauta said Kloppenburg may have two more buses available for the agency to use.

Maintenance has been a years-long issue for the agency. The agency now has a maintenance contract with Atkins Kroll Guam, Babauta added.

"They are really doing a fantastic job for us," he said.

The 10 new minibuses will allow GRTA to rotate vehicles and avoid overuse, Babauta stated, adding that the agency is finalizing documents that include the specifications and information to send to the Office of the Attorney General, hopefully by Feb. 5.

Mayors wait on recycling funds for cleanup efforts

By John O'Connor
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There is about \$1.3 million waiting in the Recycling Revolving Fund left over from fiscal year 2018. Fund monies are used by mayors to contract recycling companies for the removal and processing of recyclable materials, such as vehicles that are abandoned on the sides of Guam's roads.

The RRF was established to augment the old Abandoned Vehicle and Street-light Fund, which was deemed insufficient for funding junk car removal, according to a 2015 audit from the Office of Public Accountability.

But the Mayors' Council of Guam has not received any RRF funding to use in fiscal 2019, according to MCOG Executive Director Angel Sablan. The council is waiting on the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, which administers the fund.

According to EPA officials, there was a "slight delay" in ensuring the council receives funding.

RRF monies were not appropriated to the council in fiscal 2019. Instead, the current budget law established continuing appropriations on prior year funding.

The RRF was appropriated in two parts in fiscal 2018.

About \$2.9 million from the fund was initially appropriated to GEPA. A chunk of that funding, about \$2.2 million, was handed over to the mayors in the same provision. Mayors expended only about \$800,000 of their portion of RRF in fiscal 2018.

While the MCOG received a continuing appropriation the following fiscal year, the authority to Guam EPA for the \$2.9 million expired at the end of fiscal 2018.

The budget laws for fiscal 2018 and

2019 appeared to contradict each other.

Nick Lee, Guam EPA spokesman, said GEPA is working with the MCOG and Bureau of Budget and Management Research in an effort to comply with both budget acts. This caused an "unintended, slight delay" in ensuring funding could be remitted to mayors, Lee said.

On Jan. 23, the Post confirmed with Lester Carlson, director of Bureau of Budget and Management Research, that leftover RRF funds from 2018 should be available to the MCOG based on continuing appropriations.

While mayors wait on funding, Guam EPA stated it would work with the MCOG to ensure funds are available. A memorandum of understanding has to be approved before funds are remitted. Guam EPA does not expect delays developing the MOU with the MCOG, Lee said.

Contractor availability

However, funding isn't the only issue affecting mayors' ability to collect recyclables around the island.

According to Dededo Mayor and current MCOG President Melissa Savares, contractor availability also weighs on mayors' progress in doing things such as clearing the roadsides of abandoned vehicles.

By law, any company contracted by mayors to perform recycling work must be permitted by Guam EPA. Only a small pool of contractors are available to work on all villages on Guam, Savares said. For example, there are only three contractors licensed to accept abandoned vehicles.

She said, when funding is made available, all 19 mayors will try to get their villages cleared up but they are all working with the same three contractors. "So it takes more time for us to get things done in the village," Savares said.

Savares also hoped RRF funding could be issued earlier. In 2018, the MCOG did not get recycling funds until the end of June, about three months before the end of the fiscal year.

HAFA ADAI BINGO

AT THE GUAM GREYHOUND PARK
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

DOORS OPEN @ 4 PM, SESSION STARTS @ 7:00PM | TEL. NUMBER: 969-3673 | ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

HAFA ADAI BONAZA \$12,000 <small>IN 54 #'S OR LESS \$1,000 CONSOLATION</small>	JUNIOR BLACKOUT \$5,000 <small>IN 50 #'S OR LESS \$500 Consolation</small>	LETTER X \$5,000 <small>IN 14 #'S OR LESS \$500 Consolation</small>
EARLY BIRD \$500	HALFTIME \$500	INDIAN STAR \$5,000 <small>IN 27 #'S OR LESS \$500 Consolation</small>
INITIAL BUY-INS 1 PACKAGE (6-ON-1) \$10 3 PACKAGE (3 SETS OF 6-ON-1) \$25		7 PACKAGE GAMES \$1,000
NEW BUDGET BUY-INS		PAPER PACK \$10 BONANZA \$4 LETTER X \$3 EARLY BIRD \$2 JR. BLACKOUT \$3 HALFTIME \$2 INDIAN STAR \$3

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THE GUAM BOARD OF
BARBERING & COSMETOLOGY

Regular Board Meeting

on Monday, February 11, 2019,
9:00 AM at the Health Professional
Licensing Office Board Conference
Room, Terlaje Professional Bldg, 2nd
Floor Suite 209 Hagatna.

For more information contact Board office at 735-7410 thru 12, Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7102 or the Telecommunication Device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801.

Opposition lawmaker: Venezuela funds transfer blocked

CARACAS (Reuters) - A bank in Portugal has blocked Venezuela's attempt to transfer \$1.2 billion to Uruguay, a lawmaker said on Tuesday as the opposition to President Nicolas Maduro warned of the theft of public funds, while the United States sent food and medical aid to the Venezuelan-Colombian border.

Pressure is building on Maduro, a socialist, to resign amid an economic crisis marked by widespread shortages and hyperinflation, with the United States and a growing number

of other nations recognizing opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate president.

Pope Francis on Tuesday expressed willingness for the Vatican to mediate Venezuela's mounting crisis if both sides seek it. Russia, which along with China has backed Maduro in the crisis, underscored its view that the crisis can be resolved only with negotiations between the government and opposition.

Guaido, who declared himself interim president last month, is



GAUIDO: Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido talks to the media before a session of the National Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, on Feb. 5.

Manaura Quintero/Reuters

scheduled to meet later on Tuesday with business leaders at Venezuela's main business group, Fedecamaras, to discuss an economic recovery plan under a future transition government in the OPEC-member South American country.

Maduro's adversaries have warned

that Venezuelan officials are seeking to drain state coffers ahead of a potential change of government.

Portugal-based Novo Banco halted the \$1.2 billion transfer of Venezuelan government financial assets to Uruguayan banks, legislator Carlos Paparoni said during a congressional session, a day after Guaido said authorities were trying to move funds.

"I'm pleased to inform the Venezuelan people that this transaction has until now been halted, protecting the resources of all Venezuelans," Paparoni said.

Venezuela's Information Ministry, which handles all media inquiries, did not immediately respond to a request to comment.

Lisbon-based Novo Banco, which is 75 percent-owned by U.S. private equity firm Lone Star Funds, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

60K data breaches reported under new EU rules

LONDON (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Almost 60,000 personal data breaches have been reported to Europe's regulators since the EU adopted a landmark privacy law, according to figures published on Tuesday that campaigners said should spur people to think twice about what they share online.

The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires organi-

zations holding personal information, such as a person's name, address and religion, to notify authorities when they suffer a breach - or face a hefty fine.

Leaks reported since the law was adopted in May 2018 included anything from major hacks to minor incidents such as an email sent to the wrong address or lost USB stick, according to a study by global law firm DLA Piper. "The GDPR is driving personal data

breach out into the open," said Ross McKean, a partner at the firm specializing in cyber and data protection.

Of the 26 countries analyzed, the Netherlands, Germany and Britain reported the most breaches, while Italy, Greece and Romania had the lowest per capita rate of reporting - something that suggested varying levels of compliance, said McKean.

Francisco Vera, an advocacy officer

at campaign group Privacy International, said it was hard to tell whether the total number of breaches was unusually high, as it was the first time such figures were available.

"That alone shows how important breach notifications are," he said. "They reinforce accountability of those who are processing our personal data and make consumers aware of the risks they might be facing."

GUAM BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 14, 2019
at 3:00 PM

at the Terlaje Professional Building,
194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Suite 209 Health Professional
Licensing Office Board Conference
Room, Hagatna, Guam.

Persons with disabilities needing
special accommodations may call
Jimmy Sian at 735-7172.

THE GUAM BOARD OF BARBERING & COSMETOLOGY

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GHURA
Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority
Atridat Gininua' Yan Rinneban Siudad Guahan
117 Bien Venida Avenue • Sinajana Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 472-9831 • Fax: (671) 320-7365 • TTY: (671) 472-1301

Joshua F. Torres
Lt. Governor of Guam

Invitation For Bid

Renovation of Seven Public Housing Units at Various AMP's

IFB # GHURA-01-16-2019-AMPs

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by GHURA

Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA) will receive sealed proposals to renovate seven vacant GHURA units in AMP2-Yona, AMP3-Agat and AMP4-Toto and Dededo until **2:00 pm on February 13, 2019**, in the Board Room located at Main Office in Sinajana.

On **January 29, 2019 at 10:00 am** GHURA will conduct a prebid conference at GHURA office in Sinajana. Site and unit review will be arranged by GHURA staff after the prebid conference to anyone who desires an onsite visit. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required for each set of bidding documents. Copies of the bidding documents will be on file and available for inspection beginning on **January 16, 2019** between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except on holidays at GHURA Main Office.

A Bid Guarantee in the amount of 5% of the total base bid must accompany each bid, which exceeds \$100,000.00. Bid guarantee shall be a Bid Bond secured by a surety company authorized to do business in Guam and listed in the latest Department of Treasury Circular 570 published in the Federal Register, or as permitted by state law, a certified check, bank draft, or U.S. Government Bond at par value. All Bid Guarantees must be made payable to GHURA. Personal checks will **not** be accepted. GHURA reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. Failure to submit a bid properly shall result in rejection of the bid.

For all contracts, which exceed \$100,000, the successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory Performance and Payment bonding for 100% of the contract price. The Contractor must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin in employment or the provision of services. Restriction Against Contractors Employing Convicted Sex Offenders from Working at Government of Guam Venues. (§5253 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated).

The successful bidder will be required to the best possible and greatest extent feasible accomplish the following:

1. A goal of awarding at least 50 percent of the dollar value of construction contracts to Minority and/or Women Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) or General Contractors with MBE/WBE participation.
2. In accordance with Section 3 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, all construction contractors, to the maximum extent feasible, shall provide training, contracting, and employment opportunities to low income residents residing in GHURA.

GHURA intends to award a contract on the basis of the lowest and most responsible bid for the work described in the bid documents. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the prior written consent of GHURA.

GHURA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Ray S. Topasna
Executive Director

GHURA does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. The Chief Planner has been designated as Section 504 Coordinator. The Coordinator can be contacted at the above address and telephone numbers.