

5 day

# Guam Guard's medevac training opposed

The Guam Army National Guard medical evacuation unit's annual training this week is to ensure the readiness and safety of local guardsmen in the event of an emergency, the Guard stated Wednesday.



**ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE:** Guam Army National Guard training will involve use of a helicopter hoisting a simulated patient and a simulation of a downed aircraft. Photo courtesy of the Guam National Guard

"Should any area or a mission pose unmitigated risk to the public, our soldiers or the environment, the location will not be used and the mission will be modified or canceled," the Guard stated in a release from Maj. Josephine Blas, in response to concerns raised by activist group Prutehi Litekyan.

Sabina Perez, spokeswoman for Prutehi Litekyan, said the organization is concerned because the exercises are being conducted over residential areas and the public has not been

given adequate advance warning.

"Putting the public in the middle of this is not appropriate," said Perez, especially "considering some of our manámko' have been through war. This will bring back trauma for them."

The annual exercise started June 6 and ends June 11 with an exercise at Adelup.

The unit will conduct touch-and-go landings, which involve landing on a helicopter landing zone and taking off again without coming to a full stop, the Guard stated. The unit will also conduct test hoisting of

a simulated patient. The training will be conducted throughout the island at various sports fields including the Malesso Baseball Field, Yigo Baseball Field and Eagles Field, and at Adelup.

Training will conclude with a simulated downed aircraft to exercise the unit's pre-accident plan and the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the Guard stated.

### Exercises come with 'risk'

"Touch-and-go exercises come with a bit of risk," Perez said.

She recommended the Guam National Guard utilize designated areas with buffer areas and provide impact studies to the public with more than one day's notice.

(Daily Post Staff)

# Mayors' council requests reduced budget, will continue cutting grass at schools

By Louella Losinio  
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The Mayors' Council of Guam is requesting a reduced budget of \$12.7 million for fiscal year 2019, which is a \$1.3 million decrease from the council's prior year's request.

The council presented its reduced request on Wednesday during a budget hearing before the Legislature at the Guam Congress Building.

During the budget hearing, council Executive Director Angel Sablan also said after consultation with the officers of the council, the education superintendent and maintenance staff, they have agreed that the mayors will continue handling grass-cutting for public schools.

In March, the council stated it wanted

to give up the grass maintenance duties at the schools. It also offered to remove \$481,957 from its budget for schools' grass maintenance in fiscal 2019 and move it back to the Guam Department of Education schools.

Sablan said the council is fully aware of the financial conditions of the government.

"We will not ask for more than we need," he said.

At \$8.8 million, including \$2.5 million worth of benefits, personnel costs rank high on the council's requested budget. The council has 206 unclassified employees spread out in the 19 villages. These include administrative personnel, plus the 19 mayors and seven vice mayors.



Angel Sablan

The council is also requesting an appropriation of \$240,000 to support the repair and renovations of the 12 senior centers under its purview.

"The longer we do not attend to this matter of our centers, the more costly it will be to fix them," Sablan said, adding, "We look for any unused funds in our current budget to take care of problems like leaks, air-conditioning failure, broken tables and chairs."

### Street maintenance, beautification

For the village streets and maintenance budget, the council requested the same level of appropriation as the previous year. According to Sablan, the \$1.036 million request will be divided among the villages, based on

the Department of Public Works' road pavement inventory.

The village of Dededo gets a chunk of the budget, at \$160,586 while Umatac gets the smallest allocation at \$23,936.

"We are fully aware that the villages all vary in land size and population and the 'one size fits all' distribution of funds does not seem fair or justifiable to the larger and more populated villages of Dededo, Yigo, Tamuning and Mangilao," Sablan said, adding that the funding distribution has been a "bone of contention" for many years.

The council also requested a separate funding of \$470,921 for "island-wide village beautification projects." The funds will be used for the maintenance and repair of recreational facilities, and repair of village roads.

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform you that **Thomas Santos Reyes Jr.** is no longer employed by TITAN Imports Effective May 24, 2018.

As a consequence of Mr. Reyes' departure he is not able to conduct business on behalf of TITAN Imports and we will not honor any transactions made with him after May 24, 2018.

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## GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**Regular Board Meeting,**  
Wednesday, June 13, 2018  
at 4:00 PM

at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Board Room, 850 Carlos G. Camacho Road, Tamuning, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

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# JFK grads look to new opportunities



“I learned that there is always a solution. There is always support from your peers, and things will eventually work out. ... With hard work and determination, we have the ability to accomplish our goals and overcome obstacles.”

— Darlene Ferrer, valedictorian, John F. Kennedy High School



**ISLANDERS:** John F. Kennedy High School students smile for the camera during graduation. The Class of 2018 held its commencement ceremony Saturday at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post



“I believe that each and every one of us has the power to foster positivity in the world and change it.”

— Seanna Bataclan, salutatorian, John F. Kennedy High School

## Judiciary, AG: Budget cuts threaten services

By Kevin Kerrigan  
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The Judiciary of Guam appealed to the Legislature's appropriations committee Friday to provide sufficient funding to support its already reduced services, and officials warned that any further cuts to the current budget may lead to reduced work hours, which means a reduction in pay for court employees.

John Lizama, the administrator of the Judiciary, said the 10-percent across-the-board spending reductions ordered by Gov. Eddie Calvo earlier this year has cut the Judiciary's budget from \$34.6 million to \$31.3 million.

That amount has been reduced even further by shortfalls in the Judiciary's weekly allotments, said Lizama.

"Any further reduction to our biweekly allotments will call for extreme measures to be taken," he warned.

Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice Katherine Maraman said, "The continued underfunding will force us to prioritize case processing by focusing on criminal cases at the expense of civil disputes."

In addition, she said, the Judiciary soon will have to start giving notice to non-federally funded vendors that their contracts may be discontinued.

At its current allotment rate, Speaker Benjamin Cruz noted that the Judiciary is on track to end up with just over \$28 million when the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, \$6 million less than the \$34.6 million appropriated by the Legislature last year.

"Could you live with that?" asked Cruz.

No, said Maraman. "If we're reduced and continue at this \$28 (million) rate, we can't sustain it," she said. "We're getting close to the point where we may have to cut hours for personnel."

The Judiciary has submitted a budget request for \$36.4 million in fiscal year 2019, a 5-percent increase over its current year's budget.

### Attorney General's Office

The Guam Attorney General's Office also expressed concern about its reduced budget during its presentation Friday before the appropriations committee.

Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson said the department's current budget of \$16.5 million has been cut down to \$14.8 million as a result of the austerity measures imposed by the governor.

Eighty-two percent of the budget is devoted to cover the personnel costs for its staff of 206.

Seventeen vacancies remain unfilled, said Barrett-Anderson, and

six of those positions are for assistant AGs.

"They continue to be the most difficult positions for us to recruit," said Barrett-Anderson, because of the low pay being offered. Half of the off-island candidates reject offers of employment, but "the on-island candidates, we get them in," she said.

The attorney general said she has appealed to the governor to release \$400,000 to help fill some of those positions. "If we get that \$400,000, we will make it through this budget year, but we will not be able to make it in FY '19," she said.

Barrett-Anderson said \$16.4 million is what the office hopes it can operate with. "But I would hate to strap the next attorney general with anything less," said Barrett-Anderson, who is not seeking re-election.

### Office of Public Accountability

Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks, on her last day in office Friday, made a pitch for a 5-percent increase in the

fiscal 2019 budget for the Office of Public Accountability.

The OPA is seeking \$1.4 million to pay the salaries of its 17 employees, and an additional \$278,544 in operational costs for a total budget request next year of \$1,696,347.

However, the focus of the OPA's budget hearing was on the use and misuse of special funds.

Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje asked, "Can the government restrict the use of special funds? Is it really an accounting principle that they can transfer in and out of these special funds at will?"

Brooks said, "It's a situation of damned if you do, damned if you don't."

Brooks asked rhetorically, "Why are we doing this? Why are we transferring funds out of special funds for general fund expenses?"

"It's because we have a deficit," Brooks said. In years past, "we overspent to the tune of \$80 million to \$100 million dollars," she said.

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### GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION

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### GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

The Guam Election Commission has scheduled its monthly meeting for **Thursday, June 14, 2018, 5:30 p.m.**, at the Guam Election Commission Conference Room 200, 414 W. Soledad Ave., GCIC Building, Hagåtña, Guam.

The public is invited. For individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services please contact the Guam Election Commission. For more information, you may call Helen M. Atalig at (671) 477-9791 or send an email to vote@gec.guam.gov.

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