



FROM CAPITOL HILL ACROSS THE AGENCIES

“TO ADVANCE OUR PEOPLE’S QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH STABLE, COMPASSIONATE GOVERNANCE”



CNMI STAKEHOLDERS MEETING: CNMI LEADERS DISCUSS MILITARY PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Governor Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, and CNMI officials met with Rear Admiral Gregory Hoffman, Commander of Joint Task Force Micronesia, to discuss ongoing and upcoming military projects in the region. Rear Admiral Brent DeVore, Commander of Joint Region Marianas, was also in attendance. Topics included updates on the Tinian Divert Airfield, airport and road infrastructure improvements, and private sector engagement in military initiatives. The meeting, part of CNMI’s ongoing collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense, was attended by legislative leaders, mayors, and members of the Governor’s Cabinet.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF MOST REVEREND ROMEO D. CONVOCAR, DD

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa joyfully welcomed Most Reverend Romeo D. Convocar, DD as its 3rd Bishop in a solemn and historic Episcopal Ordination ceremony. The ordination was graced by distinguished guests, including Governor Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, Senate President Dennis C. Mendiola, Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, and Guam Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, along with esteemed bishops from the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific and the Philippines. Among them were the new Apostolic Nuncio to Aotear, New Zealand, Archbishop Gabor Pinter; Archbishop of Manila, Jose Advincula; and Archbishop of Agana, Ryan Jimenez, all witnessing this profound moment of spiritual leadership.



SAIPAN MARATHON 2025: A GLOBAL GATHERING OF RUNNERS

The Saipan Marathon 2025 saw 591 runners from around the world. The event began with the Full Marathon at 4:00 a.m. (135 runners), followed by the Half Marathon at 5:00 a.m. (116 runners), the 10K Marathon at 6:00 a.m. (205 runners), and the 5K Marathon at 6:15 a.m. (135 runners). Runners from Korea (208), CNMI (125), USA (84), China (75), Japan (46), Philippines (16), and Poland (5) contributed to this global event, further solidifying the Saipan Marathon as a key athletic highlight in the region.



COTA LAUNCHES FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR INTER-ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

COTA has launched a feasibility study, funded by an FTA grant, to assess a sustainable inter-island ferry service connecting Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, with possible expansion to the Northern Islands. Over seven to nine months, the study will evaluate financial and operational feasibility, economic impact, and environmental sustainability. **Community input is encouraged, ensuring transparency and stakeholder involvement.**





FROM CAPITOL HILL ACROSS THE AGENCIES

"TO ADVANCE OUR PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH STABLE, COMPASSIONATE GOVERNANCE"



COMMISSIONER MACARANAS LEADS FIRST PICP EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING OF 2025

Commissioner Macaranas, elected Deputy Chair of the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) during the 51st PICP Annual Conference in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, last September, has officially begun his leadership role in 2025.

He chaired the first Executive Leadership Team (ELT) meeting of the year at the Pinkenba Hub, where key discussions focused on PICP's new Strategic Plan (2025-2029), Operating Model, the Pacific Transnational Crime Network, and the Pacific Policing Initiative. These efforts aim to tackle the increasingly complex challenges faced by law enforcement across the region.

MR. BARTLEY A. JACKSON APPOINTED TO COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY BOARD

On February 14, 2025, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang swore in Mr. Bartley A. Jackson to the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board, filling the unexpired term of Jose C. Ayuyu. With a strong background in hospitality and tourism, including leadership roles with the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and the Guam Visitors Bureau, Mr. Jackson brings valuable expertise to the CPA. His experience in hotel management and economic development will support the CPA's mission to enhance the Commonwealth's air and sea transportation infrastructure.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14th - 16th, 2025
2025 Saipan Mayor's Youth Softball Cup
Capitol Hill Field

- Friday, March 14 (Opening Ceremony)
- Saturday March 15
- Sunday, March 16 (Championships)

March 15th, 2025
Rota Community Relief Distribution
NMI Museum
8AM - 6PM

March 22nd, 2025
Women's Awesome Walkathon
Eloy S. Inos Peace Park



CELEBRATING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH: "WE ARE HERE ALL YEAR - MEET US, KNOW US, INVOLVE US"

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Disability Network Partners (DNP) are preparing for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) this March under the theme "We Are Here All Year—Meet Us, Know Us, Involve Us." Events kick off with a Proclamation Signing and Awards Ceremony on February 28 at Saipan World Resort. Throughout March, OVR will host a Transition Conference (March 1), Proclamation Signing in Tinian (March 3), student presentations (March 4-6), and a Family Transition Symposium in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan (March 10, 12, and 14). OVR remains committed to promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities.