

ment contracts and free resources for their family and friends. This has caused recent educational objectives to be compromised and our health requirements to be neglected.

I believe that the feds will continue to help our people in their time of need regardless of political maneuverings by a few.

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Road to freedom is never lined with roses

Pat Duque's recent article deserves a response. In his "dream" he believes that independence, a status that brings with it the ideals of self-respect, self-worth, liberty, dignity, pride and equality with other nations of the world, should not be the goal or aspirations of Chamoru people.

Instead, he suggested that Chamorus should continue to be subservient and assume a subordinate role to other nations. The bottom line is that Pat is content on being governed by an outside power 10,000 miles away.

Why is it always that whatever is good, just and beneficial for other independent nations,

is bad or not appropriate for Chamorus? Palau, for example, like all independent nations has a president, ambassador and a delegation in the United Nations. But when it comes to Guam, somehow, we are not worthy to take our place in the world arena and be treated equally with other nations.

We boast that Guam has three times as many doctors, lawyers and other professionals, compared to other independent island nations, but we lack the faith and courage to grasp our own destiny as a distinct group of people.

The transition from colonial setting to ultimate freedom is never lined with roses. All nations undergo the same hardships. Even the United States struggled after it attained independence and prior to prosperity!

Decolonization begins when we no longer believe that Chamorus are born failures. When we can accept that we deserve justice, we have taken a great step. When we accept that we are the guardians of our land rights, culture, language, education, economy and our children's future, we will no longer possess the fear of the unknown, fear of losing, fear of change and our distrust.

ED POCAIGUE
Yona