

FSM President Mori visits Guam this week

By Zita Y. Taitano
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Variety News Staff

FEDERATED States of Micronesia (FSM) President Emmanuel "Manny" Mori is expected to be on Guam this week to meet with FSM residents.

According to Sinajaña Vice Mayor and Mayors' Council Vice President Rob Hofmann, the council received a call from the FSM Consul-General's Office about the meetings, which are going to address concerns such as education and the recent stabbing incidents in Dededo.

Hofmann said that after the stabbing incidents happened, the consulate mentioned he would speak with the FSM government about having officials come out to Guam to talk to the communities from the islands.

"We really appreciate all the work they're putting into this.

Unfortunately, there's only a few bad apples who do this. It's really to address some of the social issues that have been raised," Hofmann said.

He added that the mayors were given fliers for FSM residents living in their respective villages.

"They'd like to have the mayors go door-to-door and speak to residents that their state government is coming," he said, adding the fliers are also being distributed to the schools.

"It's great to see the president is taking a serious look at this," said Hofmann. Also expected to be on-island are FSM state government officials.

The first meeting is expected to be held on Oct. 19 for the FSM communities of Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae. On Oct. 20, there will be a meeting with the Chuukese community. Both events start at 6 p.m. at the Dededo Senior Center.



Senator Ben Pangelinan said removing leased and licensed Chamorro Land Trust land from the debt-ceiling calculation eliminates any potential legal implications. Variety file photo

Bill would protect legal status of Chamorro Land Trust lands

By Therese Hart
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SENATOR Ben Pangelinan has introduced Bill 345 to protect the legal status of the Chamorro Land Trust and its lands by restoring the original language of its enabling legislation, which was changed in the law that authorized the \$240 million bond issue.

The other objective of the bill would ensure the legal debt limit and the authorized bond amount agreed to by both Republican and Democrat senators of \$240 million can be sold.

Removing leased and licensed CLT land from the calculation of the debt ceiling eliminates any potential legal implications and issues related to CLT property on the tax roll, which might delay the bond issue or reduce the amount available to borrow

\$212 million, according to the lawmaker.

During the bond discussions in the Legislature, Governor Eddie Baza Calvo's chief policy advisor, Arthur Clark, mentioned it was "impossible" to validate if the identified CLT properties on the Department of Revenue and Taxation's tax rolls were in fact leased or licensed to an individual or business in time to go out for the bond issuance.

"The fact that this process may not be completed in time is concerning to the committee. Bond counsel informed the senator that CLT land without a specific lessee or licensee or assessed a tax cannot be included in the debt limit. This may present a problem in the issuance of an 'unqualified' opinion by the bond counsel, which may impede the sale of the bonds," said Pangelinan.

Shielded

"We want to ensure that there will be no legal or qualifying implications in the process of borrowing these funds to pay back past-due income tax refunds, cost of living allowances, and the government's Retirement Fund obligation," he added.

As a result of the changes in Bill 345, the Chamorro Land Trust will be shielded from any unintended changes or negative implications due to Public Law 31-76.

"The changes to include the Trust property in the appraised value calculation for the debt ceiling turned out to be very messy and had the opposite effect to what the Legislature intended. Bill 345 simplifies our calculation of public debt limitations without compromising the \$240 million bond authorization," said Pangelinan.

Pro Bono program to hold lecture series

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THE Pro Bono program the Supreme Court of Guam recently adopted will present the first of a series of lectures. "Will, Probate and Alternatives to Probate," to attorneys on Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Guam Territorial Law Library.

Attorney James Baldwin of Blair Sterling Johnson &

Martinez P.C. will present the lecture free of charge. Seating is limited to 20 and attorneys are encouraged to call the library to reserve a seat.

The Supreme Court adopted the Pro Bono program to recognize the many volunteer efforts and free or reduced-rate legal services performed by active members of the Guam Bar Association.

Earlier this year, Chief Justice F. Phillip Carbullido

appointed a committee made up of practicing attorneys to create a program to more effectively implement a provision of the Guam Rules of Professional Conduct governing the conduct of attorneys.

"The rule requires attorneys to aspire to provide at least 50 hours of free legal services annually to members of our community who cannot afford legal services," stated a press release from the court.

ATTENTION FARMERS

Northern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
U.O.G. College of Natural & Applied Sciences
Rm. 228

ADA Coordinator: Roland J. Quitugua: 777-2519

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JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Guam Judicial Center
120 West O'Brien Drive
Hagatna, Guam 96910

INVITATION FOR BID NO. 12-01

The Judiciary of Guam is accepting bids from qualified vendors for **brand new Computers, Laptops, and Battery Back UPS**, for the Judiciary of Guam.

Interested and qualified vendors may pick up copies of the bid documents at the Procurement Office located in the Guam Judicial Center, 1st floor, 120 West O'Brien Drive Hagatna, Guam beginning Tuesday, October 11, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Guam Standard Time, except holidays.

All bids must be submitted to the Procurement Office no later than **2:00 p.m., Guam Standard Time, October 25, 2011**. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on the said date and time at the Administrator of the Courts Conference Room, 1st floor, Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagatna Guam 96910.

For more information, please contact Mr. Raymond L.G. Taim-anglo, Procurement & Facilities Mgt. Administrator at 475-3393/3175.

/s/ PERRY C. TAITANO
Administrator of the Court

This project is funded by FY 2009 Department of Justice Recovery Act Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement Grant Program

Marianas Variety-Guam Edition is circulated by home and office delivery, consignments, and vending machines throughout Guam, as mail delivery to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, South Pacific, Hawaii, Japan and the continental U.S. Daily coverage can also be read from our website www.mvguam.com.

Marianas Variety-Guam Edition (ISSN 1541-7093) is published daily except Saturday and Sunday. Annual subscription rates are \$150 on-island; \$375 off-island; and \$1,095 foreign. Published by Younis Art Studio, Inc., Ixora Industrial Complex, 215 Rojas Street Suite 204, Tamuning, Guam 96913. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Marianas Variety-Guam, P.O. Box 6338, Tamuning, Guam 96931.

GDOE running out of money

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BEFORE Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo decides to move Untalan Middle School to the interim Tiyan campus, funding for the move will have to be identified;

but another concern is the Guam Department of Education running out of money in June. If this were to happen, GDOE will have no option but to shut down all operations, interim GDOE Superintendent Taling Taitano said. Last week, the Governor's

Office cancelled a press conference that was to be held regarding Untalan Middle School. No reason for the cancellation was given by the Governor's Office. Taitano said she has already written to the governor requesting that the funds be released.

Sen. Ben Pangelinan has also written several letters to Calvo, urging him to release the funds.

The reserved funding amounts to approximately \$30 million, Taitano said, which includes the salaries and benefits of all GDOE

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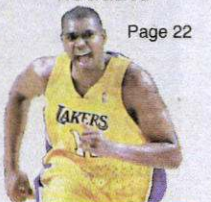


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Fireworks light up the sky above Tumon as part of the annual New Year's fireworks display held this year near Gov. Joseph Flores Memorial Beach Park. Matt Weiss / Variety

Brief supports motion to dismiss Davis lawsuit

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GUAM attorney Julian Aguon has submitted a motion on behalf of University of Guam professor Anne Perez Hattori as "amicus

curiae" to dismiss the plebiscite case filed in the District Court of Guam by Arnold "Dave" Davis. Named in the lawsuit are Guam, the Guam Election Commission, GEC members, and Attorney General Lenny Rapadas.

Davis claims his voting rights were violated when he tried to register for the Decolonization Registry but was denied because he is not a native inhabitant of Guam.

According to court documents,

Hattori, who meets the definition of a "native inhabitant of Guam" due to being a descendant of residents who gained U.S. citizenship via the Guam Organic Act, has a "direct personal interest" in

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