



**Re: Calvo appoints new members of his Cabinet**  
6.4.2013

**JRSablan commented:**

Manny Duenas a staunch advocate for sustainable fishing? More like a staunch advocate for resource exploitation through any means possible. Although it won't happen, Mr. Duenas should remove himself from the coop while in this position, as there is a clear conflict of interest with his ongoing advocacy against marine preserves, while tasked with managing the agency that implements them. Another questionable move from the governor's office. Ag has suffered through inept leadership for long enough under this administration, and this move already stinks.

**JoShuakid commented:**

Fantastic news for Agriculture! Finally...the Governor hires an extremely qualified person like Manny Duenas! The naysayers, especially TNC, Vange Lujan and some federal NOAA folks DO NOT want to give up their FEDERAL TAKEOVER of our Guam oceans! Manny, you need to kick butt! No matter what! Last two Governors failed our local fishermen! We will support you! Don't give in to stupidity and kick the Director's butt to get to working!!! She is incompetent and should be replaced!!!! Governor Calvo.....you got Manny Duenas, Lorilee Crisostomo and Joe Cameron....these people are all helping to restore oceans back to local hands... CONGRATS TO GOVERNOR CALVO!

**Re: Governor backs Rodriguez bill to borrow for hospital**  
6.4.2013

**Mathew commented:**

This should not be controversial or have any opposition: borrow and raise fees for GMH's benefit. Apparently, it is only raising taxes on something or somebody that will have folks up in arms.

**Re: Tiyan Parkway bill dissected**  
6.4.2013

**JosephAGuthrie commented:**

Land purchases will be for naught, as the GARVEE bonds necessary to fund the construction of the Tiyan Parkway will not sell. They will not sell because their sale would violate the borrowing limit of Section 11 of the Organic Act, insofar as GARVEE bonds are not revenue bonds. The Tiyan Parkway will never be built, and gridlocked traffic in Central Guam will be Pepsi's enduring legacy.

**Re: Bill will fine businesses employing illegal aliens**  
6.4.2013

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**Mathew commented:**

Apparently, it is not just Gov. Calvo who has started the campaign for 2014 with his retroactive increment plan, but also Sen. Ada with these sorts of legislation. Sen. Ada is no friend of labor, legal or otherwise. I remember him yelling at then Sen. Rector at one hearing, "I know what you are trying to do." Well, I know what you are trying to do when the rest of the nation is moving away from this strain of legislation. You are trying to carve out some votes on the fringe, votes that will not go your way, anyway.

Businesses that do these things will move their 'abuse chain' from illegal labor to legal labor. Look at the abuses directed at the FAS community, for instance, who have publicly stated in the media that they have filed complaints at the DOL, and to no avail.

Here is my testimony ahead of time since not very many will be an advocate for folks affected by this legislation: Let them work. It is better to work than to sit in prison or on the couch, collecting welfare. Plus, those jobs that Sen. Ada mentioned are jobs that local folks do not want or cannot do. Remember that the illegal immigrant population is small here, not large like in some border states, because of the heavy Fed presence. If it is large, there are political consequences for targeting them. (Hence immigration reform on the national scale.) If it is small, there are probably none, except to burnish your law-and-order credentials for higher office.

**Re: Nothing comes easy**  
5.31.2013

**RAPCON commented:**

You can't swing a dead cat without hitting a controversy in Guam procurement process and law. Add to that the less than obvious lean towards a 'choice' company. Whichever way you move in this tiny closet of inner circle movers and shakers you're bound to find some sort of connection, either directly or indirectly (or inadvertent). This backdrop will always present chum for competitors to feed on. Let's face it, when it comes to procurement and acquisition, here on Guam there's always a back story, ALWAYS!

**Journalist Ian Bevacqua**

**The moon waxes**



**'Decolonization Stagnation'**

CHAMORROS and representatives of Guam have been traveling to the United Nations to testify in support of Guam's decolonization for more than 30 years now. I became one of them in 2007 when I traveled to the UN in New York to testify before the 4th Committee. It can be both an inspiring and frustrating experience.

For those who come from colonies or Non-Self-Governing Territories like Guam, we don't get regular representation at the UN as sovereign nations do, but we do get several chances a year to have our cases heard. The 4th Committee is also known as the Special Political Committee and it oversees the decolonization mandate of the UN. It is the most auspicious of the limited number of occasions that people from the colonies can speak to the world community. You sit before a microphone in a large room surrounded by delegates from the entire world.

But the potential for the moment means little in terms of its actual effect. The day I testified it was like moving through an assembly line. Names were called. Testimonies given. Thanks were given for the testimony. Move on, next name: It went on like that for hours. No questions asked while I was there. No comments, no dialogue. Nothing. I worked hard on my testimony, crafting it as best as I could to say as much as I could within the short seven-minute time frame they had given me. After I was done, I felt strangely cheated. Why did I work so hard on this statement when the only purpose it served was to be recorded? This wasn't a forum where reality was actually effected. I felt I could have gone up there and simply described Dick Cheney and George W. Bush in different Kama Sutra-inspired positions, and no comments would have been offered and I would have received a "thank you" for my intervention.

The United Nations has done a very good job overall in terms of helping move colonies toward decolonization, but in the past 30 years they have stalled significantly. One reason for this is due to the fact that most of the remaining colonies are small islands. As I have written about before in this column, islands function differently in relation to the rest of the world. They are seen as being fundamentally different because of the way they are "isolated," "cut off" or "distant."

Islands are ideal places for testing missiles, for hiding bases, and simply escaping from the world and enjoying potent tourist fantasies. Because of their alleged disconnect they are in general treated differently, and if they are small, they are naturally treated as less important and even invisible.

Most people understand themselves as land/

continent-based, they see islands as being a lesser form of existence. The water is seen as something that does not connect, but something that blocks and inhibits; it makes them in their very nature less sustainable. This is why even though we can all agree that colonization is wrong, people can still calmly and rationally argue that it should still exist or can still exist since the remaining colonies in the world cannot survive on their own. Because of the nature of their geography and reality, they can never make it on their own, so colonialism may be necessary to take care of the world's remaining "dependencies."

Dependency is a dangerous euphemism for colony. It has the ability to define a place not through its subordinate, immoral status, but rather a naturalized need to be dominated or controlled. The true difficulty for islands is that even prior to someone knowing anything about you, they most likely have already made several assumptions about what you must be like because you are an island. As an island, people already imagine that you have to be dependent because of your status as an island. If you refer to an island as a dependency, it makes perfect sense since islands are cut off from the world and need those who live on solid and dependable continents to help them out.

Another reason why decolonization is so stagnant at the UN level is because the colonies that are left in the world primarily "belong" to large countries that don't want anyone else telling them what to do. The United States holds Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The United States however doesn't even try to make the usual dependency arguments at the UN, it just doesn't participate and claims the UN has no right to interference in what it does to its possessions.

It is already tough enough to decolonize small places that everyone assumes have no vitality and no ability except to suck social programs from the teat of their colonizer. But to mix in recalcitrant colonizers makes it impossible for anything to take place. The UN has always played a dual role of being an arbiter meant to protect the sovereignty of nations, but also an interloper who can sometimes infringe on the right of nations in the name of something universal and just. But with decolonization the UN has shown little willingness to interfere with colonies if their colonizer is not engaged with the UN process. This is a recipe for oblivion for Guam since it could remain in this status forever, since the United States hasn't given any indication that it wants to change Guam's political status.

