

# Mood of Guam

## Should lawmakers postpone the status plebiscite until Nov. 7?

### Sunmi Kang

For Pacific Daily News

The majority of residents said island lawmakers should postpone the July 1 Chamorro-only political status plebiscite until the Nov. 7 General Election in an informal poll conducted by the Pacific Daily News.

Earlier this month, the Commission on Decolonization voted to ask for the delay, citing numerous administrative problems that have affected the commission's ability to be prepared for the July 1 plebiscite. The commission cited an inability to hire adequate staff because of the hiring freeze as one of the problems it has encountered.

A month after a Pacific Daily News poll that asked readers the same question, residents still agreed with postponing the plebiscite. In last month's poll, 60 percent of those asked said the election should be delayed. In this week's poll, that number rose to more than 70 percent.

Barrigada resident Thomas Dent, 53, said although the commission should have been more thoroughly prepared, they should be given more time.

"You can't talk yourself out of something you (got) yourself into, so they should go ahead and postpone," Dent said.

"In the long run, it will be bet-



Dent



Camacho



Ku

ter if the vote is postponed," he said. "It's important for the future of the island."

Michael Camacho, a 19-year-old resident of Yona, also agreed with the idea of postponing the plebiscite. Even though he agrees with the postponement, he said the commission should have been more prepared.

"They should have been sure of everything before they even set up a date," Camacho said.

While most island residents agree with the postponement, some are still questioning the plebiscite itself.

Yigo resident Rona Delacruz said she still doesn't agree with the idea that only those indigenous to the island may vote in the political status plebiscite.

"As residents of the island, it's everybody's right to vote on something like this," Delacruz said.

Nancy Ku, an 18-year-old student, said the commission should be given more time because they have valid reasons for requesting a postponement.

"They seem to be justified ... because they do need people to organize the event," Ku said. She said that although postponing the plebiscite is understandable, in the future, more steps should be taken by the government to ensure that this sort of thing doesn't happen again.

"This is something that affects the future of the island," Ku said. "They don't even seem to have a backup plan."