

204<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
Guam Council Members  
Isla Informe'



Guam Council Member Frank Perez

## **Malesso Mentored Boat-based Kid's Derby**

Saipan celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lagoon Mafuti Kid's derby on Saturday, August 23. A very successful event. So, I thought I'd work with the Council, DAWR and the Malesso Mayor and the Malesso Municipal Planning Council to host something similar and have wholesome activities for the community and especially kids and fishing.

With the support the Greg D. Perez Foundation, NOAA and the USCG Auxiliary, we hosted the 1st Annual Mentored Boat-based Kid's Derby inside Cocos Island Lagoon. 14 vessels and about 30 kids 5-16 years old participated. It was a successful event and look forward to next year. The Malesso mayor wants to link the event with the Malesso Fiestan Tasi (water festival) usually held in November.







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### **Guam's Economy**

Guam's economic state is close to 'desperate'. Businesses continue to suffer from lack of spending by tourists. The Rolex and luxury goods retailer have closed. Tony Roma's restaurant, in operation for more than 40 years has closed. Most hotels are experiencing low 20%-50% occupancy. Without the spending by the military, with lodging and exercises, many more would have shut down. This impacts the local fishery as fishermen try to find ways to sell their catch to offset their costs. Use of social media to vend catch has become commonplace. Fishers also sell roadside, at the flea market, at fish markets, and to a few restaurants.

The government needs to do what it can to reverse this dire situation and help our fishermen provide sustainable and safe seafood to their families and the community, especially during times of hardship. Find viable alternative industries, including a fishing industry, to help the economy grow for a better quality of life for the people.

### **Military and the Community**

Recently, the military held its largest exercise to date in the region called REFORPAC from July 9 to August 8. More than 400 joint and coalition aircraft and more than 12,000 members trained in Guam, all along the Marianas and the region. They filled hotel rooms, restaurants and bars, and took all available rental vehicles. They also kept fishing charters busy.

Pacific Vanguard returned August 24 – September 23 with ships from naval forces of the U.S., Japan, South Korea and Australia and more than 1,500 personnel. RR for the crews will see another boost to Guam's struggling economy. Numerous carrier and large navy vessels made port visits as part of the exercise.



Guam Council Member Jesse Rosario

### **Guam Fishermen's Coop Status:**

- Construction has stopped while the design is being vetted to ensure there is enough space to accommodate the fueling station, loading/offloading area, retail space, and parking
- Timeline to completion: Pending updates on the building footprint

### **Guam Fishermen's Coop Status:**

The U.S. military plans to spend \$12m to rehabilitate the Republic of Palau's dock to accommodate military vessels, large commercial vessels and smaller boats while in Guam, the military has no plans to spend any amount to improve marine infrastructure to offset the massive military expansion and DoD population growth.

### **Derbies:**

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Greg D. Perez Fishing Tournament: Saturday and Sunday, August 9-10  
out of Agat and Agaña marinas

- 92 boats participated.
- Heaviest marlin: 158.5 lbs
- Heaviest wahoo: 24.0 lbs
- Heaviest yellowfin: 92.9 lbs (AP James Borja)
- Heaviest skipjack tuna: 19.4 lbs
- Heaviest mahimahi: 14.9 lbs
- Catch was small due to unusual flat and warm seas
- The Council had an outreach table at the Agat Marina where the Council staff, together with DAWR's Brent Tibbatts, was the weighmaster.



Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

