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M&C Fwd: Letter to Speaker Muña-Barnes

1 message

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: Clerks Office <clerks@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Rennae Meno <rennae@guamlegislature.org>

04-30-20	9:41 AM	04-30-20	Letter to Speaker Muña-Barnes.*	Guam Youth Congress Representative D'Marco Thomas Quinene

Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910
T: (671) 477-2520/1
speaker@guamlegislature.org

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensâhi. Solo espesiâtmente para hâgu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespâtcha. Yang mensâhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todu siha I kopian mensâhi. Si Yu'os ma'âse'.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **D'Marco Quinene** <repquinene@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 30, 2020 at 9:41 AM
Subject: Letter to Speaker Muña-Barnes
To: <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Amanda Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, <office.senatorkelly@guamlegislature.org>, <senatorbiscoelee@guan <rose.senatorsa@guamlegislature.org>, <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, <sen.cridgell@teleguam.net>, <clsenatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, <office@senatorperez.org>, <sen.wilcast <senatorlouise@gmail.com>, <senatortelot@gmail.com>, <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, <marycamachotorres@gmail.com>

Hafa Ådai Madame Speaker,

Since the beginning of this outbreak there has been a lack of unity amongst the Legislature and the Executive. For the people of Guam to believe in the governm we need to show governi transparency especially with $120 million set to be spent. Attached in this email is my letter to the Speaker regarding the issue and the open letter I wrote to the governor in the same spirit. I h in good stand and I would like to thank you and your staff for your dedication to the people of Guam during this time.

Si Yu'os Ma'âse,

Representative D'Marco Thomas Quinene (D)
Chairman, Committee on Taxation and General Government Operations

Municipality of Ordot-Chalan Pago
32nd Guam Youth Congress
I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Kongressun Manhoben Guahan

Tel: (671) 486-8154
Email: repquinene@gmail.com

2 attachments

Letter to Speaker Muna-Barnes.pdf
1565K

Letter to Gov. Leon Guerrero regarding Federal monies.pdf
1558K

REPRESENTATIVE D'MARCO THOMAS QUINENE
Chairman, Committee on Taxation and General Government Operations
Municipality of Ordot-Chalan Pago
I Mina'Trentai Dos na Kongressun Manhoben Guahan
32nd Guam Youth Congress

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Tina Muna Barnes
Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santo Papa Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Hafa Adai Speaker Muna-Barnes,

In recent events unfolding in the last couple of days, I would not be doing my elected duty as a Guam Youth Congress representative if I also did not stand up for the institution after we are modeled, the Guam Legislature. It has become apparent to myself and the people of Guam that Governor Leon Guerrero has no intention of working with the Senators in a meaningful way during this pandemic. Several bills that were vetoed by her, especially Bill 333-35, which provides for open government transparency will go a long way with the people. We want to see the money handled efficiently and not go to frivolous costs, such as the current situation at the Pacific Star Hotel and the support of a private hospital over the current public option. An override of Bill 333-35 (COR) should be in order. Even during times of emergencies, the Legislature is a co-equal in the operation and oversight of the government. Senators were elected to represent the people and our ideas and it should be the Legislature not the Governor making the laws and rules. I want to continue to applaud those senators that have been active and vocal since the beginning of this pandemic, especially to Senator Therese Terlaje, Senator

REPRESENTATIVE D'MARCO THOMAS QUINENE
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Regine Biscoe Lee, and Senator James Moylan. I would also like to implore you as a fellow Democrat, please continue to work with the Republican caucus, some of their legislative policies and bills could really benefit the people. Good ideas do not belong to the party but we have a duty to bring those good ideas forward.

I would like to thank you and your office, and all of the Senators and their staffs for their hard work and dedication during these difficult times. As Speaker of the Legislature, even if the Governor is of the same party, you have a responsibility to fight for the people, not the government. The Guam Legislature truly needs to be the "People's House" in order for us to get through this pandemic still trusting of our government and its spending. Your leadership may steer this island in the right way after the dust settles.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase,

Representative D'Marco T. Quinene (D)
Chairman, Committee on Taxation and General Government Operations
32nd Guam Youth Congress

CC: All Senators of the 35th Guam Legislature
Governor Lou Leon Guerrero

REPRESENTATIVE D'MARCO THOMAS QUINENE
Chairman, Committee on Taxation and General Government Operations
Municipality of Ordot-Chalan Pago
I Mina'Trentai Dos na Kongressun Manhoben Guahan
32nd Guam Youth Congress

April 24, 2020

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'Hagan Guåhan
The 9th Governor of Guam

DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Hafa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero,

Government oversight is one of the most essential functions of the Legislative branch of government. As a college student majoring in Political Science and as a Guam Youth Congress representative, I was disturbed by you saying the legislature has no oversight over federal funds. The Guam Legislature has oversight over all local agencies, and it will be through those agencies that monies will be disbursed.

It is imperative that with a large influx of federal funds, $129 million to be exact, we have a sense of government transparency and accountability with the money that was sent to help the people of Guam during this COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot allow this money to just disappear by showing the people it was well spent. There are a myriad of items that need to happen before we are out of the woods with this virus. (1) More testing needs to be done, (2) people need economic relief now, they have been out of work for almost two months, (3) an unemployment program needs to be set faster, not late May, and (4) pay all government frontline workers hazardous and overtime for the sacrifices of working during this pandemic. All this must be done with receipts, because without the light of public awareness, corruption can easily be bred.

Guam Legislature Bill 333-35 (COR) was designed by one of the most thoughtful and thorough senators, Sen. Therese Terlaje. This measure to bring transparency and nothing in the Bill can or

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should be interpreted as slowing down the process, to the contrary it gives the Department of Revenue and Taxation and the Department of Labor a written law to point to in setting these programs up. And nowhere in the Organic Act of Guam does it say that the Executive Branch of government can spend money without being accountable to anyone, especially the Legislature. You lead the island of Guam and need the residents to support in order to govern, the federal government will not provide you with the political and leadership capital needed. Part of this support will have to include being open about the spending of the Government.

To conclude this, I want to thank you for your continued work during the pandemic. It is unprecedented times but it does not mean the government can shrink in its responsibilities to the people of Guam. The Legislature controls the purse strings and as such should receive any and all information of money being spent by the Government of Guam, federal or local.

Sincerely,

Representative D'Marco T. Quinene (D)
Chairman, Committee on Taxation and General Government Operations
32nd Guam Youth Congress