

# Indigenous Affairs Office

## Citizen-Centric Report for FY 2019



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### Article III Section 23 of the CNMI Constitution

b) Responsibilities of Resident Executive. The duties and responsibilities of the resident executive for indigenous affairs shall include but not limited to:

1. Coordinate the development, distribution, adoption and translation of a comprehensive history of the Marianas.
2. Ensures local participation in executive managerial decision-making in the government and private sector.
3. Assist and promote local entrepreneurial development.
4. Establish a community foundation for the advancement of the indigenous people.

5. Coordinate the translation and distribution of such official documents as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Covenant and the analyses thereof.

6. Plan for the establishment of the Indigenous Cultural Center and the Indigenous Hall of Fame.

7. Coordinate an annual cultural festival.

8. Develop and implement a long-range plan to assist and promote the entry of the indigenous people into professional and technical institutions of higher education.

9. Serve as an advocate of positions taken by indigenous people on issues brought before them.

c) The office of resident executive for indigenous affairs shall commence immediately upon ratification of this section.

d) The resident executive is authorized to hire staff and promulgate rules and regulations in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the office.

e) The governor shall include in the budget of the executive branch the funding necessary to fully implement the provisions of this section.

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# IAO Programs pursuant to Article III Section 23(b) of the CNMI Constitution

Serve as an advocate for position taken by indigenous people on issues brought before them

Ketungo' Chamorro or Let's Learn Chamorro available at [www.mycnmi.com](http://www.mycnmi.com). As a co-sponsor for many episodes, Resident Executive Roman M. Tudela, strongly believes the importance of the survival of the indigenous language of the CNMI. A project so important, he invested on seven (7) laptops and distributed to youth and community centers to encourage the study and practice of Chamorro language using the various episodes. Language was a subject raised during the Chamorro and Carolinian Identity Conference.



## Amut Natibu/Native Medicines



For the past two years on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September, IAO and Chamorro traditional healers conducted workshops on the processing methods of local medicines and the variety of medicinal plants and names. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres proclaimed this week as Simanan Amut Natibu or Native Medicinal Week. This year, we extended the workshop to Tinian and Rota. Traditional medicine was a subject raised during the Chamorro and Carolinian Identity Conference in 2017.

## Seafaring Tradition

In 2017, one of the major subjects discussed during the Chamorro and Carolinian Identity Conference was the revival of the Chamorro seafaring tradition. Our office in collaboration with 500 Sails commenced the construction of one Sakman and two canoes for IAO's youth seafaring program. In 2019, IAO received its Sakman and partnered with 500 Sails for the first youth Summer Canoe Camp. We anticipate to activate the youth sailing program in 2020 with 500 Sails.



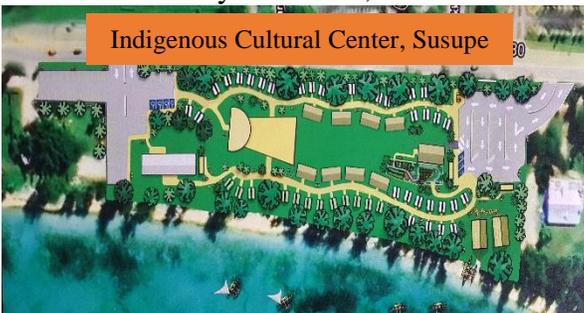
## Coordinate an annual festival



In 2017, IAO established the Indigenous Cultural Expo. The Expo provided a venue for the community to re-visit, observe, learn and interact with the cultural practitioners. The Expo is conducted every Commonwealth Cultural Day holiday. The demonstration emphasizes on seafaring traditions, usage of the coconut tree, traditional food, traditional performances, local medicines and agricultural practices.

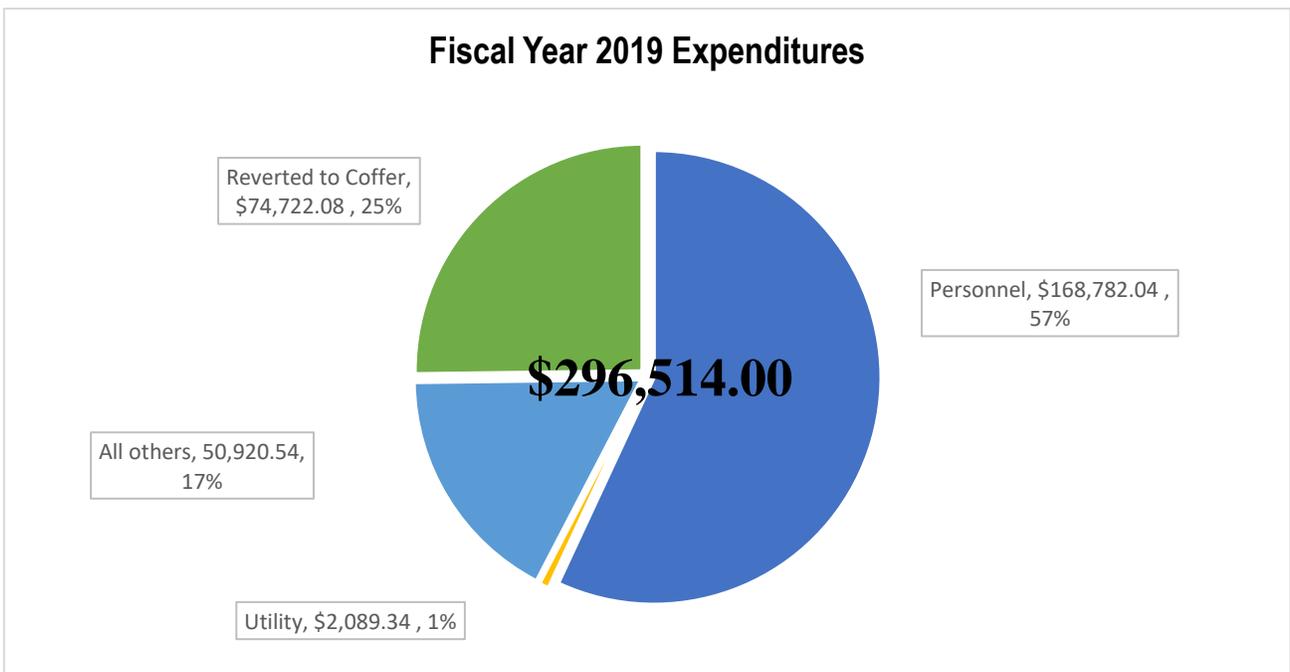
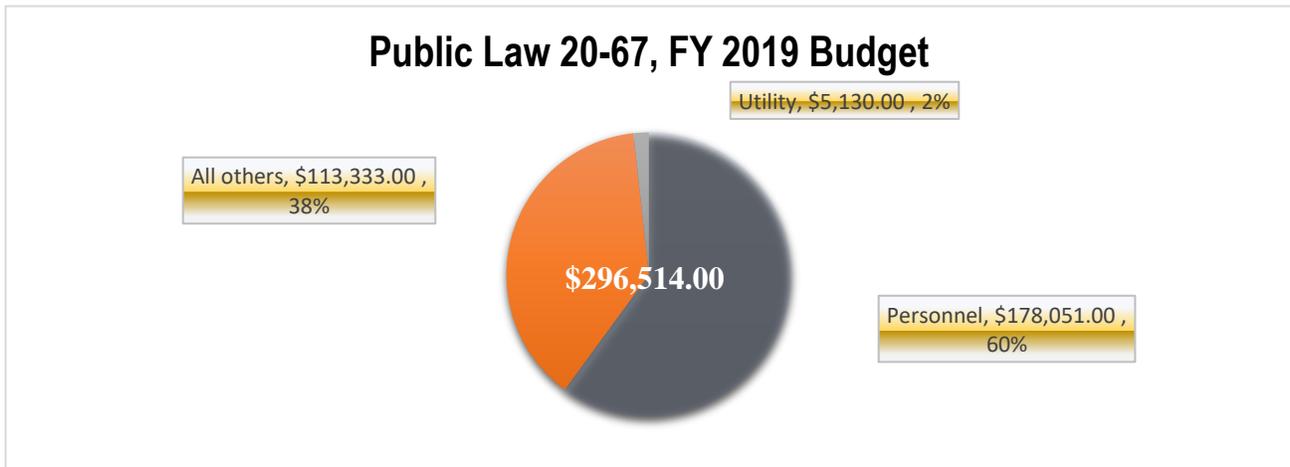
## Plan for the establishment of Indigenous Cultural Center

On May 29, 2019, Department of Public Land (DPL) designated 11,025 square meters of public land from Lot number 053 H 01 in Susupe, Saipan to the Indigenous Affairs Office. In fiscal year 2019, we're in completion of one traditional thatch house and began a sketch lay out of the area. We envision more traditional houses to create an Indigenous Cultural Center for the community and visitors to learn about indigenous culture. IAO met with the Secretary of DCCA, 500 Sails and others to partner in showcasing cultural activities.



# IAO's Annual Budget

The appropriation through Public Law 20-67 from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature for fiscal year 2019 was \$296,514.00. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 2019-003, Cost-Containment Measures, Resident Executive Roman M. Tudela, Jr. took necessary steps to carefully reduced expenditure for operational needs. Although these measures were in place, Resident Executive Tudela was able to address important matters pursuant to his constitutional mandates for the Indigenous Affairs Office. There are six (6) personnel for the Indigenous Affairs Office.



Fiscal year 2019 expenditures reflect personnel, utility, all others and funds reverted to coffer. Funds reverted to coffer was due to the implementation of austerity measures. Personnel expenditure was less than appropriated due to resignation of personnel and non-hiring of personnel pursuant to Governor's Directive 2019-003. For this reason, \$9,268.96 from personnel reverted to general fund. \$3,040.66 for utility reverted to general fund due cost-cutting measures and \$62, 412.46 reverted to general fund from all others. Therefore, the amount of \$74,722.08 was reverted to the general fund at the end of fiscal year 2019.

# IAO's Key Initiatives

## 1. Program expansion to Tinian and Rota

- a) Chamorro language studies through media platforms
- b) Indigenous Cultural Expo and mini-expo
- c) Traditional medicine workshops
- d) Native medicinal garden
- e) Seafaring traditions
- f) Chamorro and Carolinian Identity Conference

## 2. Structures

- a) Traditional thatch houses at Latte sites
- b) Community kitchen for demonstrators of traditional practices

## 3. Beautification and Accessibility

- a) Partner with HPO & MVA to develop an educational area at Latte sites on Saipan
- b) Partner with DPW & OGM to seek funding for Maga'lahi statues with interpretive device

## 4. Monitor re-internment of Chamorro ancestral remains

## 5. As mandated in Article III Section 23(b) of the CNMI Constitution:

- a) Seek funding for professional service to coordinate the development, distribution and translation of a comprehensive history of the Marianas,
- b) Advocate for more hiring of indigenous people in government and businesses
- c) Seek funding for future entrepreneurship workshops and training
- d) Establish another festival

## 6. Continue partnership with non-government entities and government departments

