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Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council Citizen Centric Report 2019



COUNCIL'S MISSION:

The 15th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council members are (left to right) Ana Demapan Castro, Debra Tenorio Camacho and Antonia Manibusan Tudela. Our leadership comes in with a plan to continue the work of the former members such as the rebuilding of the Council building destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015, the start of the library of the Kiosku that will house the history of Chalan Kanoa that was a historical site during the Japanese and Naval administration as a gathering place. To continue to work together with the Mayors of Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Strategic goals

- New Council Building - Complex
- Revitalization - Chalan Kanoa
- Kiosku - Implement History
- Marianas Memorial - Ancestral
- Village Identity - Beautification
- Municipal Building - Restoration



WE THE COUNCIL:

The Council shall have powers conferred to it by the Constitution Article IV and VI, and extended to all matters of a pre-dominantly local nature not pre-empted by the Commonwealth Legislature. The Municipal Council is supposed to be the Law Making Body for the Municipality of the 3rd Senatorial District. Since there are no powers given to the Council during the creation of this law through the Legislative Initiative the Council has to depend on the Legislative Delegation for revenue generating local laws. In this case, all revenues generated locally are controlled by the delegation as well as for both Mayors.

With the lack of powers to generate revenue, the Council can only start programs that will benefit the community historically, educationally, health wise and economically by working with both Mayors of the 3rd Senatorial District. Start programs through available grants to start the beautification project ideas that have been planned since the 10th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal members.

What the Council is working on now

New Council Building

Municipal Complex

- FEMA funded project
- Saipan Mayor & Council together
- Relocation of building site



Revitalization

Restoration of Chalan Kanoa

- Identifying old Japanese Buildings
- Installation of interpretive Signs
- Restoring old Japanese Buildings

Village Identity

Signage at every village entrance;

- Identifying each village location
- Useful for visiting tourist map
- Community involvement
- Beautification of village signs

Kiosku (Round house)

Community gathering facility;

- Install elected leadership names
- Visitor Center for tourists to CK
- Keeping the roundhouse history
- Place for PSS Field Trips



Old Municipal Building

Restoration to its ruins;

- Old Japanese historical building
- Installation of interpretive signs
- Additional visiting tourist site
- Revive Old Municipality



Neighborhood Watch

Task Force ;

- Watching out for each other
- Help minimize burglary
- Community Outreach & Involvement
- Education on being a Group Leader

Marianas Memorial

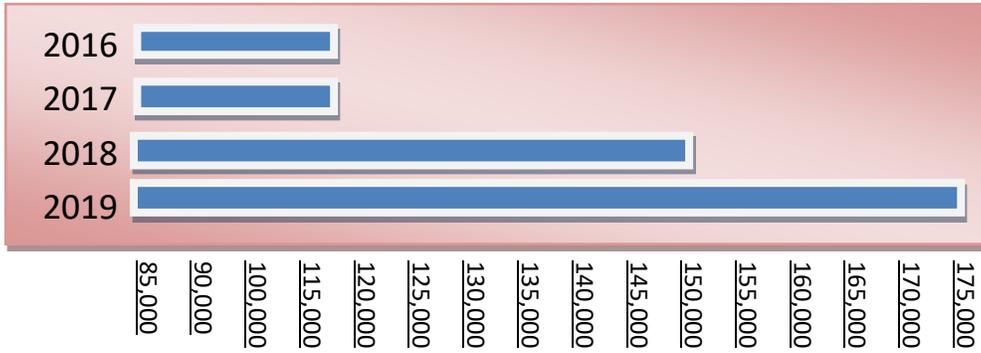
Remembering our ancestors ;

- Holding annual blessing
- Installation of Cultural Rites
- Wreath laying of dearly departed
- Candles for remembrance

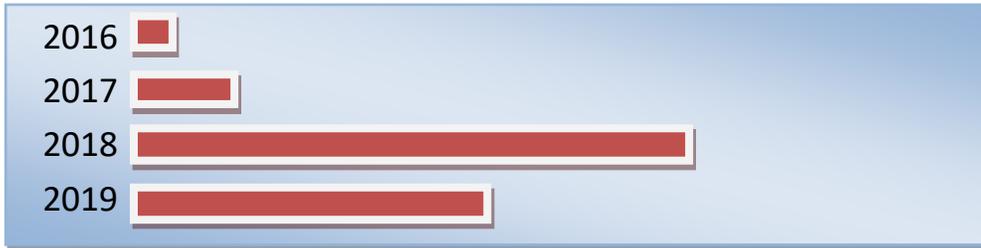


OUR FINANCES

From the
General Fund



To the
Expenses



The Council is not authorized by any law to generate revenue under local government. The Council then survives on the annual budget it receives from the general fund. If the Council's annual budget is reduced due to low revenue the CNMI Government anticipates for the coming fiscal year then the Council along with other agencies rely on the local funding through Local Laws. FY2019, the Council had an approved annual budget as per PL20-67 of \$135,714 for Personnel (5FTE) and Benefits; \$35,937 for Operations and \$4,275 for Utilities at a total budget of \$175,926.

CNMI was on a financial austerity of 15% across the board and freeze in hiring and increases. Leaving the Council with \$42,498 lapse funds. Since the Council was not able to hire a position funded for this one FTE, the Council staff were able to continue working a full payroll of 80 hours during the austerity since funds were available from this one FTE that was enough to cover payroll during the austerity even with the 15% reduction.

PROJECT GRANTS

In 2016 the Council applied for a Small Block Grant from the Humanities Council to introduce to the community the art of Blacksmith and its historical nature in the 1950's . Mr. Frank Lizama a Blacksmith and Dr. Mike Bevacqua the son of a Legendary Blacksmith from Guam presented their art to several interested community members. At scheduled school events, and the local Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The grant received was for \$8,500 for the grant period from May to September 2016. Mr. Lizama wanted to start a small group to teach the art of blacksmith on Saipan but it would be too costly for the Council to bring all his equipment to Saipan for a short time.

Master Blacksmith Saipan Heheju

Where is the village blacksmith? Understanding the role and history of the Salamankero (blacksmith).

Mr. Francisco Lizama has been practicing as a blacksmith as an apprentice and was deemed a Master Blacksmith in 2012 by the Council of Arts and Humanities (CAHA). Mr. Lizama has had 27 years of experience. In the 1980's Mr. Lizama became an apprentice under Yun Jack Lujan, a Master Blacksmith. This apprenticeship under the tutelage of Yun Jack Lujan took place over a 4 yr. period.

The overall goal of the Blacksmith cultural awareness educational series is to preserve and perpetuate the art of blacksmithing that is almost extinct in Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Increase awareness and understanding of the history, languages, and indigenous cultures of the NMI. Exploring the role and history of the village blacksmith in Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The art of blacksmithing in Saipan, Rota, and Tinian are almost extinct. By sharing the history of blacksmithing and the values around it, it could create a resurgence of an interest in blacksmithing in the community.

Your welcome to meet Mr. Lizama on Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 10:00am at the Marianas High School Room Room J-101

This project was made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Council's Continued Plans

Since the member of the Council are elected every two (2) years. It is still not enough time for the new members to actually plan a project and have it ready for it to take off. By this time, new members are elected and the incumbents are not sure if they will be re-elected. Hoping that their plans and ideas will be carried over. There are only two (3) major projects that are currently still in the researching stages and a year has already passed.

The Revitalization of Chalan Kanoa:

The Council has future plans to start a project called the "Revitalization of Chalan Kanoa", this project would be in collaboration with several agencies such as the Saipan Mayor's Office, HPO, the Council, National Park Service and the Community of Chalan Kanoa. Part of this project idea is to restore the old ruins of the building built during the Japanese Administration with HPO. The Kiosku will be operated as the main start of the project where visitors or tourist may receive materials and information on the village of Chalan Kanoa. In the planning would include the "Heritage Tour of Chalan Kanoa", visitors would be taken to certain Chalan Kanoa homes that still stand that were built during the Japanese Administration. Each stop to certain ruins would have an interpretive sign with information on the significance of each building. The Old Council building would be the last stop of the tour. The area where the old Council building remains was formerly the Municipality of Saipan during the Naval Administration. This project contains a lot of research, planning and funding before it is ready to start.

The Village Identity:

The Council plans to start a research on implementing a Village Identity for each village entrance. This would be useful to visiting tourist to know and understand what area of the village they are in. Our maps that tourist is use indicate the village but certain villages do not have an entrance sign showing the location. This can be in collaboration with MVA, Legislature, Saipan Mayor, HPO and the Council.

The MUNICIPAL Library:

The last plans on the Council's list would be the Municipal Library that may be added to the new Municipal Complex if the Kiosku would not have any space. The complex is also planned for a second floor to house the Saipan Mayor and his staff. The Council and the Saipan Mayor plans to bring back the Municipal Government together that was once located in the heart of Chalan Kanoa. Where most, if not all, of our Government Officials and Governors were from. From the first Governor to the last. The Council will reach out to the community to assist in the providing any historical photos of Saipan and our elected leaders. This information or photos will be put together to start a catalog that will become available reading material in the library that will be the first.

MAP OF CHALAN KANOA

