

STATE OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT MESSAGE  
FOURTH MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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by

THE HONORABLE FRANCISCO C. ADA  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, MARIANA ISLANDS  
FEBRUARY 5, 1973 - 6:00 P.M.

At the outset, I shall like to congratulate and welcome the newly-elected members to this body. Gentlemen, welcome to the club. Also, I shall like to congratulate and welcome back the veteran members of this body. And last, but certainly not the least, I shall like to congratulate the leadership of this body with best of wishes.

It is always a privilege for me to appear before this august body especially when my appearance here tonight is one in which I come to report to you and to the people of this District, the State of our District, a review of the year which just transpired and an assessment of our goals and objectives of the years ahead, a review of our accomplishments as well as the recognition of our problems, frustration and all the impediments which are inherent in running an institution known as a government.

Let me reiterate as I have always done in past in similar event, that while it is the inherent duty and a tradition for the chief executive to report on the affairs of our District, the responsibilities of implementing our goals and objectives are equally in your hands as well as ours in the executive branch. For an institution consisting of three separate branches must make every concerted effort to work together so that the root on which such institute rests must be nurtured in order for its three branches to continue to flourish and bears the fruits of success for the benefit of the people we so dearly are working for.

The year 1972 was indeed a trying year, filled with hardship particularly the prolonged water ration and the unfortunate loss of our power plant. The year was, also, filled with historical culmination and momentum. It was the year in which we chose to begin talks which may lead to some form of more identifiable political status. While we have begun to chart our course in political status, let us all be not unmindful that the journey is no easy task and that the goods we are about to sell must not be bargained lightly, but at the same time let's be flexible in our approach to this question. Let us not bargain the life of our future generation, but at the same time let us not fail to seek the best possible status for us and the generation to come. Gentlemen, it is now my humble privilege to report to you on the State of our District.

Despite the annoyance uttered by our perennial critics, it is with pride for me to eloquently state that we made strides and progress in the year 1972. You will recall that when the seven classroom building in Chalan Kanoa accidentally caught fire, this body responded generously by appropriating funds for the replacement of the building. The building was completed before the opening of the school session. While we are still faced with shortages of classroom in most of our elementary schools primarily on Saipan, we have taken a step in assigning a high priority to meet this need by departing from the permanent structure concept to a less permanent but yet adequate structure. By this approach, we can build more adequate classrooms, thus reducing the acute problem of holding double sessions. On Rota we instituted an eleventh grade on the school system. With all candor I rather doubt whether we could complete our goals in adding a twelfth grade on Rota next school year. This primarily because of the budgetary constraint that we have been placed on. In our plan last year, we developed our goals and objectives based on a \$70 million ceiling or at least \$60 million. We have since been advised that all that will be possible is a \$55 million ceiling. This cut truly has an impact on our goals, but we are understandable of the constraint placed on all Federal agencies throughout the United States and that Federal expenditures will have, out of necessity, to be curtailed.

Of a particular interest to note is our economic growth. One interest that is essential to mention is that in the year 1972, a total of 26,357 tourists visited this District bringing a cumulative revenue, of tourist alone, in the amount of \$2,372,130.00 for the year. In 1971, revenue from tourist was \$1,675,275.00. The 1972 revenue from tourism is an increase of 42% over 1971. Our agricultural production continues to increase but the demand has not been met. We are long way from meeting the requirement, but we are steadily getting to it. I cannot help but to reiterate the hope and dreams which I conveyed before this deliberative body more than three years ago in turning the Marianas District into the breadbasket of Micronesia. I look forward to the day when our visitors and our own selves can proudly sit at a table where the vegetables, beef and other products are served which are locally produced. Let us all hope that our youngsters will take pride in becoming farmers. After all somebody has to grow crops to feed the office workers and that there are not enough offices for everyone.

It may be of interest to you that in 1972 Marianas District produced 1,200,000 lbs. of agriculture produces at a cash value of \$171,560, beef and pork productions at 141,687 lbs, at a cash value of \$90,190.00 with 30,000 dozens of eggs at a cash value of \$36,000 or a cumulative production of a cash value for agriculture at about \$300,000 for 1972. This is a marked increase over the last three years. It should be noted that the Congress of Micronesia appropriation for agriculture and production loan is very helpful. This body, also, assisted and I shall like to urge that this body appropriate \$30,000 for small loans to farmers. While the statistics

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that I mentioned above is quite impressive, we are far from meeting our demand. One of the most constructive criticism of some of our tourists, and rightfully so, was the fact that he flew all the way from the States hoping to eat locally grown produce only to be served pineapple that is canned in California.

We have the land to cultivate. We have the strength to do it. Let's all coordinate our effort and encourage and help our farmers.

No one is blind that the tempo of progress in our overall economic development, more than ever before, is stepping at a faster speed. It is particularly satisfying to note that the private sector is progressing at a faster rate in economic development. A modern and luxurious resort hotel consisting of 50 rooms has recently been opened for business here on Saipan, a much welcomed addition to our shortage of hotel accommodations. Two other luxurious hotels consisting each of 250 and 100 rooms, respectively are currently under construction. Within 18 months or so, Saipan will have about 500 rooms and possibly more. In addition, there are five other proposals being presently reviewed for resort hotels and related recreational and other facilities.

I am optimistic that with well-coordinated plan and development, we can move forward in our economic development without any appreciable loss or disruption to socio-economic lives. I shall like to reiterate, as I had stated before this body on similar occasions, that this Administration shall continue to nurture and push forward for economic development with equal vigor against those who oppose it. We owe it to our people and to the generations to come. Let's us not fear economic development and progress. Let's nurture it with careful plan and foresight.

Because of our concern of the acute problem of our water and power and our recognition that we must continue to improve our infrastructures to induce economic development and above all to provide adequate services to our people, we have in our plans for the next five years a total of \$2,880,000.00 exclusively for water and power. This amount represents what we can put in priority based on the extreme budgetary constraint that we are confronted with and it may be increased as the level of ceiling appropriation increases in the next five years. As I stated, power and water have been given a very high priority for I shall never look for a day again to experience what we went through in the months of August to October of last year. We shall continue to give these two important infrastructures our utmost attention as additional funds may be made available. It should be noted that our new power plant has been in operation since late last year.

One important item which I know concern us quite so much is on our youth. I urge this body to appropriate funds not only to strengthen our recreational programs but to plan for other activities in which we can encourage our

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youth to participate. I urge this body to strengthen our laws especially in the area of alcoholic consumption so that the welfare of our children is protected. I call upon the parents to attend to the need of our children. I call upon our youth to convert your youthful energies to constructive means. I call upon you as future leaders of our beloved islands to prepare yourselves now so that when that solemn call comes to you to assume a role in our government and community in general, you are prepared to embark on whatever role.

You as our future leaders are our greatest asset, and investment for a brighter future. Youth is a time for imaginative thinking, a time for dream of distant future and most of all a time for preparation for the future. I call on every segment in our community to help in one fashion or another in guiding our youth to a right path before it is too late.

Earlier, I touched briefly on perhaps the most important question that confronts Micronesia, the question of future political status. We have chosen, despite mixed feelings, to hold a separate negotiation with representatives of the United States Government. Even though the initial round touched merely on preliminary and procedural matters and no substantive discussion shed to light, it is clear that our aim is for a closer ties and certain permanency in our relation.

We shall be watchful on the many talks ahead of us. Let us hope that the outcome of whatever status we so choose is one which provides for mutual benefits and mutual interests are sincerely and equitably protected. I, for one, as I am sure a greater majority, look for the day when I feel that I belong to an entity and hold allegiance to a flag and that my identity is firmly embedded rather than the present uncertain status.

I shall like to assume that deep in the conscience of most Micronesians, across this vast area of ours, there is the feeling that we shall never replace the United States of America with any other nation. I must reiterate that this is only my assumption which I dearly hope to be true. Micronesians have served in the United States Armed Services, many are still serving and I am sure many will serve.

A few had met their deaths in battlefield bearing allegiance to the flag of the United States, fought a war to free the oppressed. Many had been injured. I am proud that these Micronesians paid our share in a small measure of devotion.

I hope that the day will come when a Micronesian no matter what island origin he is from, no matter what clan he belongs, will proudly say that I am a Micronesian American with ancestral bloods consisting of Chamorro, Carolinian and Marshallese, and that I am proud of what I am. I know that we, Micronesians proudly enjoy our rice, yam and taro with equal vigor as that of our bread and steak.

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So that I may not be construed or purposely be misinterpreted by those who love to do the latter, all of those sentiments are merely my wishes, my hopes and my aspirations so that Micronesians will truly be bound in hands across the territory. I certainly do not want to convey an impression that I am advocating that our brothers and sisters across all Micronesia follow our path. I am merely wishing with all sincerity that they do.

About 16 days ago, the President of the United States conveyed a message to the American people as well as to the people of the world to start doing something for themselves and stop asking what the government should do for them. He reminded them that America was not built by Government but by people. The distinguished President of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, a few days ago exhorted the same message. He called for Micronesians to wake up and start doing something for ourselves. I agree wholeheartedly to these messages. The time is long due for each one of us to start doing something for ourselves, to start giving our shares rather than be always dependent upon the government.

There is an inherent thinking that as a tax-payer one ceases to care for his responsibility when he paid his taxes. This is an erroneous philosophy. A strong government becomes a reality when its people labor tediously, when its people become more independent rather than dependent on the government. The picture ahead in terms of fund allocations may look rather bleak. We must contribute our share.

There are a few Americans in our midst here in Micronesia who eloquently proclaim themselves as the champions of Micronesian interests. Yet in fact, these same Americans are against developments in Micronesia. They have made themselves, unilaterally, opponents of the government and it seems to me that they truly take pride in their role. These are the Americans with unknown frustration which they brought into Micronesia to further their cause of social reform by using Micronesians. They are even against their own government.

These are the people who typify the characters mentioned in a book, "The Ugly American." In my opinion they are doing more harm for progress in Micronesia than good. They are only not doing a disservice to Micronesia, to their own government, to themselves but to the many dedicated Americans who have come here with a solemn mission to help. I have every confidence in my fellow Micronesians that they will soon reject these people. I am confident that Micronesians want what they desire and know how to use their wisdom.

The "Zoo Theory" of some twenty-five years ago on Micronesia held by some Americans is a shame not to the Micronesians but to the advocates

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and believers of that theory. Micronesia is not a museum for anthropological study. Micronesia possesses its own cultures and we are proud of them. We are proud of our heritage. We hold so dearly our own cultures and are capable in adapting foreign influences which are suitable for us. What is wrong about a Micronesian driving a sedan rather than riding a bull cart? What is wrong with luxurious hotel being built to accommodate our visitors who bring in revenues? What is wrong for a Micronesian to enjoy all the goods which the twentieth-century civilization can bring? Why are a few Americans so concerned of these? This is my message and before parting I call upon this august body to exercise judicious judgement in the discharge of your responsibilities. We must uphold the public trust and confidence. We must be responsible because we are vested with responsibilities.

I always welcome the many eloquent oratory criticism from this body which can mutually be helpful. I must, however, shun criticism for criticism's sake. You will, as in the past, hear the friendly and cooperative voice for this administration. Yet, more than ever before you will equally hear firm, candid and bold echoes from across the street. You have four years to serve. I cannot be sure whether I have an equal tenure. However, so long as we are in the same team in the days ahead; I ask that mutual cooperation be extended to one another. We are working for the same goals. We are servants of the same people. We are co-equal partners in our solemn venture as public servants.

The year is only 36 days old. Your four-year tenure as servants is hardly one day old. It is a new year, a new legislature, there are diverse and new dimensions of challenges ahead of us. Let us start anew, let us think anew, let us act anew, because as one poet said, "New occasions teach new duties; time makes ancient good uncouth; They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth."

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