

(BENAVENTE ON ESG)

TRUK, NOV. 13 (MNS) 24-MARIANAS DISTRICT PRESIDING JUDGE IGNACIO M. BENAVENTE WAS THE GUEST FOR ONE OF A SERIES OF "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA" PROGRAMS WHICH IS TO BE PRODUCED IN TRUK DISTRICT DURING THE CURRENT MEETING OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. R/S

SUBJECT AREAS DISCUSSED IN THE INTERVIEW INCLUDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ROLE OF THE MARIANAS IN THE MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL CHIEFS CONFERENCE, THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, AND THE ISSUE OF THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS. 11

REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE MARIANAS IN THE MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL CHIEFS CONFERENCE, JUDGE BENAVENTE EXPLAINED THAT HIS PRESENCE IN TRUK DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE ACTUALLY REPRESENTS MARIANAS DISTRICT AS A TRADITIONAL CHIEF. HE SAID THAT HE ONLY CAME TO TRUK IN RESPONSE TO MOEN MAYOR FUCHITA BOSSY'S INVITATION.

ASKED WHETHER OR NOT MARIANAS DISTRICT PLANS TO TAKE PART IN THE CONFERENCE, THE JUDGE EXPLAINED THAT THE MARIANAS DOES NOT HAVE TRADITIONAL LEADERS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT BECAUSE THE MARIANAS PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO PURSUE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THEY WILL BE SEPARATED FROM MICRONESIA, "I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR MARIANAS TO TAKE PART," HE STATED.

ON THE POLITICAL STATUS QUESTION, JUDGE BENAVENTE INDICATED TO THE PANEL MEMBERS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE MADE UP THEIR MINDS TO ENTER THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT HAS BEEN THE DESIRE OF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE FOR A LONG TIME.

IN REGARDS TO THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, JUDGE BENAVENTE POINTED OUT THAT SOME PEOPLE IN THE MARIANAS HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR LANDS FOR U.S. MILITARY USE. HE EXPLAINED THAT ONE WAY FOR MONEY TO COME IN TO THE DISTRICT IS TO HAVE THE U.S. MILITARY LEASE THE LAND.

WHEN ASKED HIS VIEWS ON THE TERRITORIAL PARTY VICTORY IN THE RECENT MARIANAS CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION, BENAVENTE NOTED THAT THE ELECTION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ISSUE OF LANDS GIVEN TO THE U.S. MILITARY. HE SAID THOSE WINNING THE ELECTION ARE "PERHAPS MORE CAPABLE AND POPULAR LEADERS" IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT.

JUDGE BENAVENTE WAS INTERVIEWED TUESDAY MORNING (NOV. 12) BY TWO PANEL MEMBERS, TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER NOHA RUBEN AND DECHUO JAIN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, WSZC RADIO. DAIZIRO NAKAMURA, HEADQUARTERS ESG TASK FORCE MEMBER, WAS THE MODERATOR. THE PROGRAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FOR BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE TT.

(JUDGE SUES JUDGE)

SAIPAN, NOV. 13 (MNS) ---MARIANAS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JESUS A. SONODA HAS FILED SUIT AGAINST TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD W. BURNETT, SEEKING TO PREVENT BURNETT FROM REMOVING SONODA FROM HIS POSITION, AND ASKING \$10,00 IN DAMAGES AS WELL.

ALSO NAMED AS DEFENDANTS IN THE SUIT, FILED TUESDAY (NOV. 12) ON SAIPAN, ARE HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.

JUDGE SONODA, A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SINCE AUGUST, 1971, TOOK THE LEGAL ACTION AFTER HE WAS NOTIFIED ON NOVEMBER 7 THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WAS NOT BEING RENEWED, AND HE WAS BEING TERMINATED. THE PERSONNEL ACTION WAS SIGNED BY CHIEF JUSTICE BURNETT.

NO REASON WAS INDICATED FOR THE TERMINATION ACTION. JUDGE BURNETT WAS IN TRUK WEDNESDAY AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

THE LEGAL ACTION WAS FILED ON SONODA'S BEHALF BY BENJAMIN ABRAMS, OF THE ARRIOLA, CUSHNIE AND STEVENS LAW FIRM OF GUAM AND SAIPAN. ABRAMS IS A FORMER MARIANAS DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER.

"PLAINTIFF'S SUDDEN REMOVAL FROM HIS JUDGESHIP BY DEFENDANTS WITH NEITHER NOTICE NOR HEARING CONSTITUTES: A VIOLATION OF STATUTORY LAW, AN OUTRIGHT DENIAL OF DUE PROCESS OF LAW, AND A DENIAL OF EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAW," THE SUIT CONTENTS.

IT SAYS THAT SONODA WAS ASSURED, BY JUDGE BURNETT AMONG OTHER, THAT HE WOULD BE RETAINED IN HIS POSITION AS RECENTLY AS AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. THE SUIT CONTENTS THAT SONODA HAS BEEN REMOVED "WITHOUT CAUSE OF ANY KIND," AND THAT THE ACTION WAS "...ARBITRARY, DISCRIMINATORY, UNJUST AND INIMICAL TO THE BEST INTEREST OF MICRONESIA IN GENERAL (AND) THE MARIANA ISLANDS IN PARTICULAR."

THE ACTION FURTHER CONTENTS THAT JUDGE SONODA WILL SUFFER "IRREPARABLE AND IMMEDIATE INJURY, LOSS AND DAMAGE, IN THAT HIS INCOME WILL CEASE CAUSING SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP..." IF THE TERMINATION ACTION IS ALLOWED TO STAND. AND, SAYS, THE SUIT, THE PLAINTIFF WILL SUFFER A "UNIQUE STIGMA" IF HE IS REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION, THROUGH DAMAGE TO HIS REPUTATION. "MOREOVER," THE ACTION CONTINUES, "REMOVAL OF A JUDGE USUALLY OCCURS ONLY UPON DISCOVERY OF THE MOST SERIOUS AND FOUL CONDUCT ON A JUDGE'S PART." EVIDENCE OF SUCH CONDUCT HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN, IT IS CHARGED.

MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE HAS LEARNED THAT MARIANAS DISTRICT PROBATION OFFICER FELIPE A. SALAS IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE THURSDAY MORNING AS REPLACEMENT FOR SONODA. THE OATH IS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY DISTRICT PRESIDING JUDGE IGNACIO M. BENAVENTE.

NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR A HEARING ON THE LEGAL ACTION FILED BY SONODA, PENDING A REPLY BY THE DEFENDANTS, WHICH IS TO BE MADE WITHIN TWENTY DAYS.

(MARITIME ACADEMY GRADUATE)

SAIPAN, NOV. 13 (MNS)---A 27-YEAR-OLD YAPESE STUDENT RECENTLY COMPLETED A 10-WEEK COURSE IN MARINE DIESEL CATERPILLAR ENGINE TECHNOLOGY AT THE PACIFIC MARITIME ACADEMY IN HONOLULU.

VICENTE NAMOLIGH, ONE OF THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE TWO SATAWALESE CANOES THAT RECENTLY LEFT SAIPAN, BECOMES THE SIXTH MICRONESIAN TO GRADUATE FROM THAT SCHOOL. HE WAS SENT TO THE SCHOOL UNDER THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ACT, (MDTA) ACCORDING TO ABEL A. OLOPAI, MDTA COORDINATOR.

CAPTAIN R. L. ALVERSON, DIRECTOR OF THE PACIFIC MARITIME ACADEMY, PRESENTED THE DIPLOMA. THE PREVIOUS TRAINING GROUP WHO GRADUATED AT THE ACADEMY WERE SENT BY THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION.

THE SATAWALESE SAILORS, WHO TRAVELLED TO SAIPAN USING TRADITIONAL NAVIGATIONAL TECHNIQUES TO CHART THEIR 500 MILE COUSE, LEFT SAIPAN LAST WEEK AFTER A FOUR MONTH STAY. NAMOLIG WAS WITH THE GROUP BEFORE HE WENT TO HAWAII.

ACCORDING TO OLOPAI, THE SATAWALESE SAILORS ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS EARLY NEXT YEAR IN APRIL TO PICK UP A 60 FOOT TUNA FISHING BOAT. HE STATED THAT THE BOAT WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS MODERN FISHING EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES. BUT THE MAY STILL USE THEIR TRADITIONAL NAVIGATIONAL TECHNIQUES IN

BRINGING THE BOATS FROM SOLOMON ISLAND TO SATAWAL ISLAND. THE 60 FOOT TUNA FISHING BOAT IS EQUIPPED WITH A CATERPILLAR MARINE DIESEL ENGINE AND NAMOLIGH WILL MAKE USE OF HIS NEARLY ACQUIRED SHILLS FROM THE PACIFIC MARITIME ACADEMY IN HONOLULU. HE WILL BE THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE BOAT.

(LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE WEEK)

SAIPAN, NOV. 13 (MNS)---MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA HAS PROCLAIMED THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19TH THROUGH THE 24TH AS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE WEEK DUE TO THE HOLDING OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF LEGISLATORS (PCL) ON SAIPAN THAT WEEK.

ADA NOTED IN THE PROCELAMATION THAT THE PCL WAS FORMED IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMON SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN THE PACIFIC BASIN, AND THAT SINCE ITS FIRST MEETING IN 1968, THE PCL MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SIX LEGISLATIVE BODIES; THOSE OF AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, THE MARIANAS, PALAU, TRUK AND YAP.

SAIPAN WILL BE HOSTING THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL FEATURE WOEKSHOPS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ALIEN INVESTMENT, DRUG ABUSE LEGISLATION, POLITICAL STATUS, THE ENERGY CRISIS IN THE PACIFIC, AND DISCAL REPONSIBILITY.

(NEW MARIANAS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER)

SAIPAN, NOV. 13 (MNS)---A NOW WEEKLY NOWSPAPER CALLED THE MARIANAS TIMES WILL BEGIN PUBLISHING ON TINIAN ON NOVEMBER 21, ACCORDING TO WEDNESDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

THE PAPER'S EDITOR, JOSE R. CRUZ TOLD PDN THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR NEWS COVERAGE FROM TINIAN AND ROTA AND THAT HE WILL PUBLISH THE "NEWS AND VIEWS" FROM ALL THE MARIANAS.

THE MARIANAS TIMES WILL HAVE OFFICES ON TINIAN, ROTA AND SAIPAN. THE STORY SAID.

CRUZ IS A FORMER CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATOR, FORMER MAYOR OF TINIAN AND IS PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS POLIITAL STATUS COMMISSION FROM TINIAN.

"WE NEED AN IMPARTIAL PAPER AND THE EXISTING PAPERS LEAN TOWARD THE TERRITORIAL PARTY," CRUZ CLAIMS. HIS PAPER, CRUZ ADDED, WILL "NOT BE POLITICAL."

CRUZ ALSO IS A FROMER EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF A PAPER ON SAIPAN CALLED THE FREE PRESS, WHICH CEASED PUBLICATION SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

SAIPAN PRESENTLY HAS TWO WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS--THE MARIANAS VARIETY PUBLISHED BY ABED AND PAZ YOUNIS, AND I GASETA PUBLISHED BY VICTOR M. PANGELINAN.