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(TINIAN MAYOR ANSWERS TINIAN COUNCILMEN'S CHARGES)

SAIPAN, JUNE 5 (HNS)---FELIPE MENDIOLA, MAYOR OF TINIAN, ISSUED A STATEMENT WEDNESDAY, (JUNE 4), WHICH SAID THAT A RESOLUTION PASSED AGAINST HIM LAST WEEK BY THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL "WAS AN ATTEMPT TO COVER UP UNPAID DEBTS NOW OWED BY FOUR PAST AND PRESENT MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN."

ACCORDING TO A RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF TINIAN, MENDIOLA SAID IN MAY 1973, THREE TINIAN COUNCILMEN AND A FORMER MAYOR BORROWED 6,000 FROM THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND EACHED SIGNED A PROMISSORY NOTE TO PAY BACK THE MONEY BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 1974.

MENDIOLA SAID SO FAR "NOT ONE CENT OF THE MONEY HAS BEEN REPAID."

HE NAMED THE BORROWERS AS: COUNCILMEN HARRY CRUZ, SILVESTRE CRUZ, LEONARDO DIAZ, AND FORMER MAYOR OF TINIAN ANTONIO BORJA.

MENDIOLA SAID EACH MAN BORROWED EXACTLY 1,500 AND THE PROMISSORY NOTE WAS DATED MAY 13, 1973, "ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO," THE MAYOR ADDED.

MENDIOLA SAID WHEN THE BORROWERS FOUND OUT RECENTLY THAT HE INTENDED TO COLLECT THE DEBT TO THE MUNICIPALITY, THE FOUR MEN GOT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO PASS A RESOLUTION AGAINST HIM TO "DISCREDIT AND CRITICIZE" THE MAYOR'S VIEWS ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND FOR ALLEGED BUSINESS INTERESTS.

MENDIOLA ALSO STATED THAT THE FOUR MEN PLAN TO RUN AS CANDIDATES IN NEXT WEEK'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION. HOWEVER, THE MAYOR SAID THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL CHARTER FORBIDS PERSONS WHO OWE THE MUNICIPALITY MONEY FROM RUNNING FOR OFFICE AS CANDIDATES.

MENDIOLA SAID THE RESOLUTION PASSED AGAINST HIM WAS BASED ON "CONTRIVED AND UNFAIR REASONS" AND SAID THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THE 6,000 DEBT WHICH HAS NOT BEEN PAID.

"I HAVE BEEN UNFAIRLY CRITICIZED ONE WEEK BEFORE AN ELECTION BECAUSE I OPPOSE A MILITARY TAKE-OVER ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN. THE PRO-MILITARY NEWS MEDIA ON GUAM, THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, AND THE GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION, RECEIVED THE RESOLUTION PERSONALLY HAND-CARRIED BY A BORROWER, FORMER MAYOR BORJA, AND ANOTHER FORMER MAYOR, JOSE R. CRUZ, A PRO-MILITARY MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION WHO REPRESENTS TINIAN. I ONLY HOPE THESE MEDIA WILL NOW BE FAIR AND TELL 'THE WORLD'.

AS THE RESOLUTION STATES, THE TRUE SIDE OF THIS FALSE ATTACK AGAINST ME."

MENDIOLA SAID HE HAS ASKED THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY ON SAIPAN TO DECIDE IF THE BORROWERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION.

ACCORDING TO MENDIOLA, DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICER, JACK TORRES SAID SUCH BORROWERS SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED.

THE TINIAN MAYOR SAID HE HAS LEARNED THAT THE RESOLUTION AGAINST HIM WAS WRITTEN BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION (MLSC) AND THAT HE INTENDS TO EXAMINE THE LEGAL SERVICES' INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

MENDIOLA ALSO STATED HE HAS LEARNED THAT THE FOUR MEN WHO BORROWED THE 6,000 NOW INTEND TO USE MUNICIPAL FUNDS FROM MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 02-73 TO REPAY THEIR LOANS BEFORE THE ELECTION. ACCORDING TO MENDIOLA, THIS MONEY WAS TO BE USED FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC PROJECTS ON TINIAN AND WAS ORIGINALLY PART OF A GRANT IN AID FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN.

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