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CONTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN
EMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY
(LAND MISMANAGEMENT)

SAIPAN, AUG. 25 (MNS)---CONGRESSMAN OSCAR C. RASA TODAY (MONDAY) ACCUSED THE DISTRICT LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF "IMPROPER ISSUANCE OF HOMESTEAD PERMITS" TO SOME 120 HOMESTEADERS. IN A STATEMENT TO THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE, RASA INDICATED THAT HE HAS "SOLID EVIDENCE" OF BRIBERY MADE TO SEVERAL LAND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE THE ALTERATION OF DATES FOR HOMESTEADS APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED LATE.

"THE PRACTICE OF NEPOTISM COUPLED WITH ADMINISTRATIVE MISMANAGEMENT EITHER DELIBERATELY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY HAD PRODUCED THE PRESENT PROBLEM," THE JUNIOR CONGRESSMAN SAID.

"RECIPIENTS OF HOMESTEADS SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED," HE CONTINUED, ADDING, THAT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MISMANAGEMENT OR NEGLIGENCE MUST BE PENALIZED IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER.

"SINCE ADMINISTRATIVE RECTIFICATION MAY SEEM UNLIKELY TO AFFECT HOMESTEADS ISSUED DURING THE MISMANAGEMENT PROCESS," RASA EXPLAINED, "THE LEAST THE ADMINISTRATION COULD DO IS TO EXPEDITE THE PRESENT HOMESTEADING PROGRAMS AND SEE TO IT THAT PROPER MANAGEMENT IS FOLLOWED."

PRODUCING A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS HOMESTEAD PRIORITY REVIEW BOARD WHICH MENTIONED POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF ESTABLISHED POLICY CONCERNING ASSIGNMENT OF AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEAD PROGRAMS, RASA SAID THAT IF THERE'S NO ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY TO RESOLVE THE HOMESTEADING PROBLEM, "THE ONLY REMAINING CHANNEL IS TO BRING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST INVOLVED LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS."

ANTONIO R. SABLAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOMESTEAD PRIORITY REVIEW BOARD, IN A JULY 7 LETTER TO THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICER, SAID THAT THE BOARD DISCOVERED THAT MANY APPLICANTS ARE NOT LISTED IN A MEMORANDUM PROVIDED BY THE LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICER FOR REVIEW AND ASSIGNMENT OF THE BOARD. SOME OF THE APPLICANTS WHO APPLIED EARLIER THAN THOSE LISTED IN THE SUBJECT MEMORANDUM HAVE NEVER BEEN REVIEWED OR ASSIGNED PRIORITY RATING BY THE BOARD.

"...YET, THEY WERE ALREADY BEING ISSUED AGRICULTURAL PERMITS WITHOUT THE NECESSARY STEPS AND THE REQUIRED APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR," SABLAN LETTER READS.

"THIS TYPE OF PRACTICE IS A TOTAL ABUSE OF THE ESTABLISHED DISTRICT POLICY AND SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED," THE LETTER STATED.

(EDUCATION RECEIVES NINE GRANTS)

SAIPAN, AUG. 25 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, DAVID RAMARUI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION HAD RECENTLY MADE NINE GRANT AWARDS FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA.

THE GRANTS ARE TO FUND BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROJECT IN ALL SIX DISTRICTS.

03-023491

EIGHT GRANT AWARDS, EACH FOR A SINGLE DISTRICT PROJECT, WERE MADE UNDER THE ELEMENTARY SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF TITLE VII. ONE GRANT AWARD, FOR A TRUST TERRITORY-WIDE PROJECT, WAS MADE UNDER THE EMERGENCY SCHOOL AID ACT OF TITLE VII.

ALL DISTRICTS HAVE PROJECTS WORKING AT THE LOWER AND UPPER ELEMENTARY LEVELS. THE LOWER ELEMENTARY BILINGUAL PROJECTS (GRADES 1 THROUGH 5) ARE FUNDED UNDER TITLE VII-ESEA. THE UPPER ELEMENTARY PROJECTS ARE KNOWN AS THE MICRONESIAN CULTURES AND LANGUAGES PROGRAM OR MICAL. TWO DISTRICTS, YAP AND PALAU, HAVE ALSO STARTED HIGH SCHOOL BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROJECTS. THESE ARE FUNDED UNDER TITLE VII - ESEA.

THE BILINGUAL/EDUCATION PROJECTS ARE PLANNING AND PRACTICING WAYS IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CAN HELP TO TEACH MICRONESIAN CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC HERITAGES. CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE BILINGUAL PROJECT CLASSES LEARN AND DEVELOP BASIC SKILLS IN THEIR NATURAL LANGUAGES. AT THE SAME TIME THEY WORK ON IMPROVING THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS.

ALL OF THE BILINGUAL PROJECTS HAVE ADVISORY COUNCILS MADE UP OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. THE COUNCILS ADVISE THE PROJECT STAFF AND HELP TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM, PROGRAM PLANNING AND PROJECT AFFAIRS IN GENERAL.

RAMARHI ENCOURAGED PARENTS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE BILINGUAL PROJECT IN THEIR DISTRICTS. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN BILINGUAL EDUCATION. "RAPID CULTURAL CHANGE IS SOMETHING WE MUST ALL DEAL WITH," HE SAID, "AND THE BILINGUAL PROJECTS REPRESENT ONE OF THE WAYS WE CAN HELP OUR CHILDREN COPE WITH IT." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST BE INVOLVED IN ALL PHASES OF THE PROJECTS AND THAT INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
(TARKONG RECEIVES LAW DEGREE)