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Rec'd 10/16/95

Tax Task Force allocates funds

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

A BULK of the funding for the Tax Task Force will go to the consultancy firm that will

review the CNMI's tax system, task force vice chairman David Hawkins said yesterday.

The task force started fi-

nalizing its budget allocation advice after being notified it would finally get its long-awaited fund from the Department of Finance.

The task force is to get \$165,000 based on the allotment advice issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

Of the amount, \$120,000 would be paid to the tax consultancy firm Barents Group, Hawkins said.

The firm, which Hawkins said "has a worldwide knowledge of tax system," will be commissioned to study the local tax law.

The task force, however, has yet to close the deal with the Barents Group.

Hawkins said the task force will await the DOF's approval of the fund allocation advice.

It requires five signatures from officials of the DOF's procurement and supply division, Hawkins said.

"We expect everything done by Friday," he added.

Hawkins said at least \$30,000 is allocated for a full-time staffer who would be in charge of the task force's clerical works.

The staffer's job would cover recording of minutes of meetings, getting telephone calls as well as filing and copying of documents.

The remaining \$15,000 will be used to pay office rent and purchase of office supplies, computers and other equipment.

The task force was set to meet at the governor's conference room on Capitol Hills yesterday, but of 13 members, only six made it.

Present at the meeting other than Hawkins were Mike



David Hawkins

Sablan, John Manglona, David Berger, David Welch and a representative from the DOF.

Despite a lack of quorum, members present at the meeting proceeded with the allocation process lest the task force forfeit its budget.

"What we just did was to commit the money and define how we are going to spend it," Hawkins said.

The funding, he said, is only available until the end of fiscal year 1995 which ends on Sept. 30.

The task force has until Sept. 29 to finalize the budget allocation.

If not spent, the \$165,000 fund will find its way back to the CNMI coffer.



Raymond S. Concepcion: Cub Scout is a 'peacenik'

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

RAYMOND S. Concepcion, 11 years old, is a sixth grader at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

He looks no different from the average schoolboy, but scouting has made him extraordinary in more ways than one.

Scouting, he says, has taught him values like "being clean, not saying bad words, and going to church."

In other words, being a good boy, a good member of society.

At his young age, he knows the importance of peace.

"I'm a peace maker," he

wants to point out. If he sees boys fighting, he tries to stop them.

His determination to stay away from troubles is such that if somebody dares him to a fight or even hurts him, he says he just walks away.

Concepcion enjoys the camp trips, games, and other activities that go with cub scouting.

But hand in hand with fun, scouting taught him such survival skills as tying a rope, cooking and making fire, basket-weaving, fishing, and swimming.

He even practices these skills in his everyday life. For example, when he needs

a bag to put his stuff in, he makes one for himself.

He fishes once in a while with his cousin who owns a boat.

He also cooks at home when his mom is sick or is not at home or "when I'm hungry."

And what does he cook? "I cook bacon, eggs, pork chop, and rice. I barbecue sometimes."

Scouting has also made Concepcion to become thoughtful. For example, if someone assigned to do a certain chore like washing the dishes and the person cannot do it for some reason, he volunteers to take his or her place.

Such little acts done with kindness and considerateness become heroic.

Concepcion is the son of Arlene Concepcion and Vincent Santos, who, he acknowledges, had divorced.

A member of Cub Scout Pack No. 920, which is sponsored by William S. Reyes Elementary School, Concepcion has this advice to his schoolmates: "Keep up your good work, listen to your teachers, don't do anything bad, and stay clean."

Quite a mouthful from an 11-year-old.



Raymond Concepcion

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Hit-and-run survivor speaks

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A 38-year-old man who survived during a hit and run incident that killed his friend in San Vicente last year, told the court that after they were struck by a vehicle the driver kicked him before running away from the scene.

Francis Brioso took the witness

stand and narrated how he and his late buddy, Danilo Morales, were hit by a truck last Oct. 31, during the start of a jury trial in the Superior Court yesterday.

Brioso and Morales, both from the Philippines, were employed with the Tropex Garden in Dandan when the accident happened.

The alleged driver, Ben P. Kintun,

was arrested. He was charged with vehicular homicide, driving under the influence, leaving the accident scene, reckless driving, over speeding, failure to drive on the right side of highway, and failure to exercise due care.

Brioso said he and Morales were walking on their way to the barracks on the grassy side of the road when a car rammmed them from behind near

Flora's Store.

Brioso said he was thrown away while the car swerved into the tangantangan area.

He said the driver reversed the car, got off and approached him.

Brioso said he held the driver on the hip and asked for help.

Instead, the driver kicked him on the shoulder and ran away.

He saw the bloodied Morales near the car.

Emergency medical technicians brought them to the Commonwealth Health Center where Morales was pronounced dead.

Brioso suffered injuries to the left foot. He is still limping due to the injuries.

Two other witnesses—Suta Suta



Francis Brioso

and Mariano Lizama Aldan testified they saw Kintun standing at the scene before leaving when police officers arrived.



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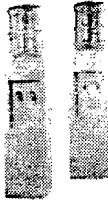


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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is soliciting proposals for financial and compliance audit of the Marianas Public Land Corporation (MPLC) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1994. Proposals shall be submitted to the Public Auditor, P.O. Box 1399, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 20, 1995. Proposals must be stamped "Confidential" and labeled "MPLC FY 1994 Audit Proposal." The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-128
2. Government Auditing Standards
3. Other applicable Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

Proposal must at least have the following information:

Title Page:

- a.) Request for Proposal subject
- b.) Name of CPA or CPA firm
- c.) Local address and telephone number
- d.) Name of contact person and submission date

Transmittal Letter:

- a.) Briefly state your understanding of the audit work to be performed. Include an affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period specified.
- b.) State a comprehensive fee for which the audit will be performed.
- c.) State the scheduled dates for the entrance and exit conferences, and the submission of draft and final audit reports.

Your Company's Profile:

- a.) Provide a brief description of your company which includes your personnel's educational background and experience, number of staff, level of staff (partners, managers, supervisor, etc.), and a listing of clients.
- b.) The description must also include an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.
- c.) Name and profile of staff members to be assigned to the audit, should your firm be awarded.

Awards will be based on four evaluation factors: price, technical competence, prior experience, and ability to meet the deadline.

The contract for this audit will be awarded not later than October 27, 1995. The audit work shall commence thereafter and final audit report shall be completed and delivered by 4:30 p.m. on February 9, 1996.

All inquiries may be directed to Ms. Bertha T. Camacho, Director of Division of Public Lands, at telephone numbers 322-6914/6915/7142. Audit reports from previous years are available at the Division of Public Lands main office in Capitol Hill.

OPA and MPLC reserves the right to reject any proposal in the interest of the CNMI government.

BENIGNO M. SABLAN
Secretary
Department of Lands and Natural Resources

New RP consul on Jon Anderson Live

SUSUPE: Susupe Are high getting better or worse? That is the question that newly appointed Philippine Consul General Celso C. Longe will have to find out. He replaces outgoing Consul General and host of Consulate Press, Yusef L. Villanueva. Both entered the foreign service the same year and were the only two to receive honorary posts from their home country. Graduated in 1964, Longe only had spent two years in foreign service in Washington D.C. What will be his agenda? And what are some of the issues he may have to tackle for the Filipino in

bor situation in the CNMI? He is the guest on tonight's Jon Anderson Live. Join Jon as he takes a look at the road ahead for Filipinos working in the CNMI with Consul General Celso Longe. Your phone calls and questions are encouraged for this edition of Jon Anderson Live. Jon Anderson Live is a live talk show where viewers can call in with their comments and questions on the issues that matter in the CNMI. Jon Anderson Live airs Wednesday night at 7:00 on KMCV Channel 7.

Inmate...

Continued from page 1

known cause, gobbled the interior portion of the former Island Snack Bar Fastfood Restaurant on Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa yesterday morning.

Firefighters immediately extinguished the fire.

The unoccupied building was

reportedly for lease.

Investigators were still looking into the cause of fire.

In Afetnas, Dae Won Kim, 42, of San Antonio, was arrested for allegedly punching and kicking several times a 32-year-old man for still unknown reasons yesterday before dawn.

Kim also resisted arrest, police said.

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Babauta hails funding approval

ALL major provisions of the 1992 Manglona/Guerra agreement on Covenant funding have been approved by the conference committee working on the FY96 Interior Appropriation bill.

When the bill becomes law, the CNMI will be entitled to receive \$77 million in federal grants for infrastructure over the next seven years.

This was from Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta who in a statement yesterday expressed his satisfaction with the US Congress' decision.

"After three long years, we are extremely close to winning final approval for the terms of the Manglona/Guerra agreement," said Babauta.

"We will lock in \$77 million - the remainder of the covenant funds called for in agreement - and we will no longer have to fight this funding battle year after year."

Congress has already given

the CNMI \$43 million out of the original \$120 million in the agreement that was negotiated in 1992 by Interior Assistant Secretary Stella Guerra and Lt. Governor Benjamin T. Manglona.

"The next step is to get this bill passed by the House and the Senate, and signed by the President," said Babauta.

"Then, the CNMI will have a significant amount of money to develop our economy and raise our standard of living - money we truly need, especially on Rota and Tinian."

The bill is expected to move quickly. Congress wants the President to sign before the start of the fiscal year on October 1.

The bill also includes \$3 million for the northern Marianas College, another project of Babauta has been working on for several years.

In 1992 he succeeded in getting an authorization for the endowment passed into law. Now,

he's gotten the money.

"As a former college regent, this particular project has been close to my heart," Babauta said. "It means a permanent source of funds for research into plans and farming techniques that will be a boost to the agricultural sector of our economy."

The College money becomes available next year.

Although the bill keeps the \$77 million total required under the Manglona/Guerra agreement, the schedule of funding is slightly different.

The money will come to the CNMI over a seven year period, rather than the five years remaining under the Manglona/

Guerra. And each year's amount will be the same: \$11 million.

"I'm satisfied with this arrangement," said Babauta. "In the first place, we have over \$28 million in covenant money from fiscal year 1995 that we haven't even earmarked for projects yet."

"Besides, the Governor told Congress that he didn't want covenant funds. Under the arrangement approved this week, we will see more of the money becoming available in later years."

"But the bottom line is this: we go the total amount of funds called for in the Manglona/Guerra agreement. Getting the terms of that agreement ratified has been the

goal for most CNMI leaders all along and I'm very, very pleased we have succeeded."

Babauta also reminded the leaders of the importance of having an elected official in Washington who has the authority to represent the CNMI's interests.

"It is so important that the CNMI participate in the national governing process. And, of course, an elected official has the credibility to do that. Ideally, that official should be in Congress. Now that the covenant funding issue has been put to rest I intend to turn my energies once again to getting CNMI representation in Congress. I'll be counting on your continued support," he said.



Acting Governor Jesus C. Borja signs proclamation declaring October as CNMI Arts and Humanities Month. Flanking him are Commonwealth Council for the Arts Executive Director Maggie Wonenberg (left) and CNMI Humanities Council official Ron Barneau.

Art contest slated for this weekend

SHELL MARIANAS will be hosting the preliminary judging for its 1996 Calendar art contest this Saturday Sept. 30th and 4pm at the Pacific Islands Club.

A panel of judges, including Lt. Governor Jesse Borja and Arts Council Executive Director Maggie Wonenberg will have the task of selecting the top 30 entries to be entered into the final judging in Guam on Oct. 10th, and compete against students from Palau and Guam during the final judging on Thursday Oct. 26th. The public is invited to view the art work between 7pm and 4pm that same day.

The judging will be based on the theme "MICRONESIA, OUR ISLAND, OUR HOME" and compete against students from Palau and Guam during the final judging

on student art work must be submitted on all 11 inches (WIDE) by 14 inches (LONG) white poster board and must be delivered with information sheet attached to the Shell Marianas office by 5:00pm on September 29th.

30 entries will be selected to represent Saipan in the final judging and compete against student artists from Palau and Guam during the final judging on Thursday, October 5th on Guam.

The 12 winners chosen in Guam will have their art work displayed in Shell's 1996 Calendar. 1st through 4th place winner in the final judging will win prize for their respective schools.

For more information contact Jim Azenovsk at Shell Marianas 372-3847.

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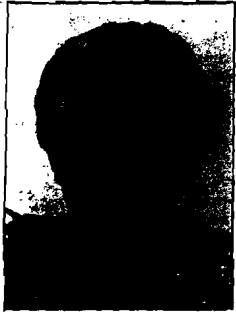
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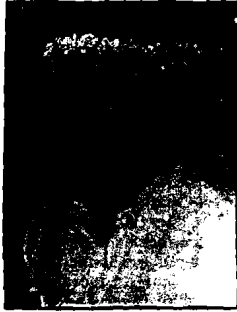
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PSS: No need for add'l funds



Daniel Quitugua



William Torres

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System would not need additional money for the restructuring of teachers' salaries, according to education officials.

In a letter dated Sept. 18, PSS Commissioner William Torres and Board of Education chairman Daniel Quitugua told Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio that the PSS would make do with its available budget to meet its needs.

"Based on our projection, we will be able to meet these liabilities from our existing level personnel funding," the letter stated.

The agency's "new" statement was inconsistent with its earlier pronouncement that the agency was in critical

need of money to fund personnel costs and new projects.

Quitugua earlier asked Congress to expedite the passage of budget appropriations for PSS because it was already facing difficulties in making both ends meet.

The board of education has proposed a 20-percent increase in teachers' salaries and 10 percent for non-teaching personnel. The board has also sought funding for renovation of dilapidated school buildings estimated to cost \$2.09 million.

The PSS has "frozen" the salaries of some teachers at the current pay level, Torres and Quitugua informed the governor through the letter.

But the teachers didn't mind, they said. "These staff truly have put 'Children First,'" the two PSS officials said.

The number of children enrolled in public schools has increased by hundreds without a corresponding increase in the number of teachers, the two education officials said.

But the existing staff, they added,

"have willingly worked more diligently for longer hours to insure the best possible education for our youth."

"The PSS will also not require additional funding to assist these worthy teachers and staff," the letter stated.

Some of the teachers, the officials said, have been certified "and thus may no longer make use of their

accrued annual leave."

On the other hand, the governor was told, some teachers who have obtained higher education will have to be given salary increases as a policy of the education board.

But salary increases "will also be funded without the need for PSS to ask for any additional allotments," Torres and Quitugua said.

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Borja defends boat purchase

By Hazel H. Amayo
Variety News Staff

ACTING Gov. Jesus C. Borja defended the administration's purchase of a luxury charter boat for the CNMI fisheries program, saying it was not meant to be funded by local funds.

Opponents of the purchase in response to questions leveled by members of the House of Representatives on the boat purchase.

Senators Diego Benavente and Rex P. Reyes this week met with the administration's chief of marine affairs when the board announced its purchase of a luxury charter boat.

The boat, priced at \$1.4 million, is being acquired by government-owned SAIBCO and is to be turned over to the CNMI government by the end of this month.

The boat's purchase, which has been a major controversy, will be used as a research vessel for the fisheries program in the Department of Lands and Natural Resources as well as other marine purposes.

In a news conference Wednesday, Borja explained that the boat purchase is not essentially being funded by local funds and that an application for federal funding had been made by the government.

At the time of the purchase, the \$1.4 million funds authorized for the boat was not added when the state purchasing the boat because the federal funds will be available by the end of the month.

The state government added that it was not to be federal government in the amount of \$300,000 has been authorized since more than a month ago by the boat.



Jesus Borja

The DLR is very optimistic that the boat will be awarded so the funds will be paid by the federal government ultimately, he pointed out.

Asked specifically and he told me that the chances were even better than good that we will get the funds, he said.

Earlier this week, Reyes said the administration "let" when it said it had no more money for medical referrals. He said the boat purchase fortified such an observation.

Responding, Borja said he disagreed with Reyes' statement.

"The federal program exceeds our budget by millions of dollars. Now if we've been finding hundreds of thousands of dollars because of these projects that didn't go through and used them for other projects that came up, I don't think we can be accused of lying."

"In order to make the referral program really viable, we need more than \$2 million that's been budgeted," said Borja.



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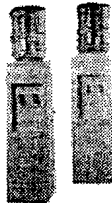
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