

Tanapag successfully fought to keep hotel development from its shoreline. It would be ironic to see that same shoreline continue to be defiled by unrestricted, uncontrolled access by tourist dive shops. Not only should limits be placed on the number of SCUBA divers allowed in the water per day, but just as a "head charge" is allowed those who ferry tourists to Managaha, the village of Tanapag should be allowed to charge a "head charge" for each tourist who uses its village shoreline for entry into the lagoon.

The head charge would then be used to benefit the residents of Tanapag. An immediate high priority need that could fittingly be met by those fees is the construction of a youth center for Tanapag in particular, and for use by the youth from rest of the northern part of the island in general. There is not now such a center in northern Saipan, though middle and southern Saipan have at least five such centers.

The Department of Finance has released statistics on rental expenses, indicating that the government has reduced expenditures by, among other things, placing government offices in houses on Capitol Hill, where, presumably, they don't have to pay rent since government owns the land and the houses.

The land on Capitol Hill, on the other hand, must be some of the most valuable government-owned real estate on island. It offers stunning views. It is cooler than most of the rest of the island. The wide roads, large lots and gently-rolling terrain are ideal for residential occupancy. The infrastructure is all in place.

Government offices, however, do not need spectacular views. They do not need a cooler climate - all their work will be done indoors. The privacy of buildings scattered on large lots and separated by rolling hills offers no benefits to government offices either. Placing government offices on Capitol Hill - toward the northern part of the island, requiring navigation of the gear-wrenching hill - makes access to government services more difficult.

It would make more sense, it seems to me, to refurbish the houses on Capitol Hill as luxury homes, and to rent - or lease - them to the wealthy.

Don't forget extra - Tanapag beach use

.

Just as clothing fashions seem to be constantly changing, so, it seems, do ways of doing business. At one time "quality circles" were all the rage. I don't even remember the names of the many management styles that went before, or have followed since. But just as in clothing, where some styles are considered "classic" - because they wear so well, and are so versatile - there are some management styles that one could consider "classic" - because they work so well, in so many settings.

One of these is the concept of "stake-holder" - defined in my dictionary as "one who has a share or an interest, as in an enterprise" involvement. Whatever the undertaking - from getting a law

passed or changing procedures in an office to organizing taxi drivers or establishing a conservation area - goes the theory - the project is much more apt to be successful if the stake-holders - those with an interest in the project/those affected by the project are involved in the process.

That is not always as easy as it sounds. Often a considerable amount of information sharing must first take place, before stake-holders achieve an understanding of all the issues, all the alternatives, all the consequences. Fishermen, for example, are often reluctant to accept limits on the size of permitted catches until they are shown that/realize that taking fish that are too small will reduce future catch, because fish were not allowed to mature enough to reproduce. They may be reluctant to accept limits on where they fish, until they realize that fish need safe areas to spawn and to grow to edible size. Once fishermen come to understand the rationale and the ultimate benefit, they often become the strongest supporters and enforcers of imposing limits.

This, apparently, is the lesson that federal Fish and Wildlife officials on Rota do not seem to have learned. The tale of the endangered crows, arbitrarily seized from the private zoo on Rota by federal fish and wildlife personnel when the crows were only being housed there long enough to be nurtured back to health is a case in point. Those involved in housing the crows - the stake-holders, if you will - were not consulted.

This also seems to be the problem with other projects in which federal Fish and Wildlife officials are involved. Presumably, the intent is not to make Rota a zoo, as its mayor, Benjamin T. Manglona, fears. But clearly noone has taken the time, made the effort, to share with him and other affected Rotanese just what the feds are trying to do and why - how their plans will benefit the island and the people of Rota.

Small island issue - small, but in proportion, not so!
active stake-holder involvement would have helped

<center>* * *</center>

There's a billboard in the Gualo Rai area of Middle Road that keeps changing. The message is always the same: use your seatbelts! But the imagery used on the billboard to get that message across doesn't stay the same. Though the message isn't always that clear - I remember one that left me puzzled for weeks - at least it attracts attention, which is, after all, the point.

My guess is that the messages have been designed and are being made available through the efforts of some national organization - that it isn't the local DPS that is spending the money for them. But DPS is to be congratulated, nonetheless, for making the effort to keep the billboard interesting - and the message fresh - by seeing to it that every so often, the message changes shape and color.

<center>* * *</center>

N.Y. trial.....