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NEWS RELEASE

Port Authority of Guam Supports Customs' Mandate and Ongoing Border Security Efforts

Piti, Guam, December 19, 2024: The Port Authority of Guam remains steadfast in supporting the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) as they fulfill their critical mandate to inspect cargo and protect our island from illegal drugs, contraband, and invasive species. Recent discussions about container inspections highlight the need to remain vigilant and focused on Customs' essential role in securing Guam's borders.

Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio clarified the reason for the rescheduled meeting: "Today's meeting was rescheduled due to my unexpected unavailability. I apologize if this created the impression that the Governor is 'slow-walking' efforts to address Attorney General Moylan's claims. The Governor, Lt. Governor, and all of us at the Port share a collective drive and mission to support Customs' mandate to inspect cargo and interdict contraband."

Respicio emphasized that the Port's role is to provide access and logistical resources necessary for Customs to perform their duties effectively.

Actions Taken to Support Customs' Mandate:

- Infrastructure Enhancements: At the Governor's direction, the Port completed a feasibility study for a dedicated Customs Inspection Facility, including the provision of a four-acre property to streamline and enhance inspection capabilities.
- Operational Support: Since day one of this Administration, Customs Officers have been granted unimpeded access to terminal areas to ensure thorough cargo inspections.
- Security Upgrades: The Port secured federal grants to implement advanced surveillance systems, scanners, and additional security personnel.

Respicio added, "Our role is to support Customs' work, and while this goes beyond our core mission, we willingly embrace this responsibility for the greater good of our island community. We have consistently provided the necessary resources, access, and infrastructure to enable Customs to carry out their mission. We are committed to preserving the strong relationship with Customs, ensuring they can perform their duties effectively, unlike the challenges they faced in the past under previous Port management."

The Port Authority remains dedicated to collaboration and accountability, supporting all efforts to strengthen border security. "Protecting Guam requires each of us to fulfill our responsibilities, and we remain focused on doing exactly that."

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