



# NEWSLETTER

## PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

June 2023

### Board of Directors

**Dorothy P. Harris**  
*Vice Chairperson*

**Dr. Judith P. Guthertz**  
*Board Secretary*

**Conchita S.N. Taitano**  
*Board Member*

### Port Management

**Rory J. Respicio**  
*General Manager*

**Dominic G. Muna**  
*Deputy General Manager Operations*



### Typhoon Mawar Recovery Continues



The Port Authority of Guam continues to show the true Port Strong support with recovery efforts exceeding everyone’s expectations.

Typhoon Mawar left a massive path of destruction across the island and the Port was not spared. Estimates reveal \$8 million dollars in damages to the island’s only commercial seaport.

“Despite millions of dollars in damage, we were able to get the Port open and fully operational only 3 days after the storm passed,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “This was possible because of the amazing Port Strong spirit of our employees as well as the support of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio and our Board of Directors.”

#### **Cargo and fuel processed since reopening**

The following fuel and cargo commodities have been processed and released into our island community since May 28, 2023:

- 3,199 containers with dry goods and 488 reefers;
- 2,204 bundles of rebar; 2 boxed steel pipes; 75 bundle steel plates;
- 1,265 vehicles and 230 units of general cargo;
- 2 excavators, 4 backhoes, 4 trucks, 6 tractors; 2 dump trucks, 3 fuel trucks, 1 drill rig; 3 school buses; 1 bucket truck, 1 flatbed truck, 2 office trailers, 1 trailer, 1 air burner, 5 water tankers, 1 truck screener; 1 modified container; 1 boom lift; 1 fork lift; 1 telehandler; 1 boom truck; 1 water truck; 1 boat with trailer
- 1 bundle of chassis and 5 barges – fuel operations.

### Inside this Issue

- **Recovery Continues**
- **Family Beach Opens**
- **GM writes to FCC**
- **Federal port tour**
- **Port donates masks**
- **FEMA intake center**
- **Retirement DB 1.75**
- **Snake on ship**
- **AAPA donation**
- **Employees at forefront of recovery**
- **PUGG meeting**
- **Photo Highlights**
- **July Birthdays**

## Family Beach reopens to the public

The Port Authority of Guam's Family Beach reopened to the public on June 24, 2023.

"Typhoon Mawar damaged not just our main terminal yard and key facilities but also many of our recreational areas such as Family Beach," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "The results of an assessment determined that the beach was unsafe for recreational use so we deployed teams to begin clean-up efforts to reopen."

Port employees have been working since June 9, 2023 to ready the beach for recreational use. Clean-up initiatives included tree cutting, clearing the site of debris and fallen trees, and moving all green waste to the nearest green waste disposal site. Soft sand deposits that remained were pushed inland to prevent motorists from getting stuck.

"The Port's recovery from Mawar's destruction is a result of the dedicated Port Strong employees and the tremendous amount of support received from Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor



Josh Tenorio, our Board, our federal and local partners, and industry partners," Respicio said. "Our Port Strong Spirit is what enables us to continue to push through all the challenges to ensure that the Port remains 100% operational while also focusing on beloved recreational areas such as Family Beach."



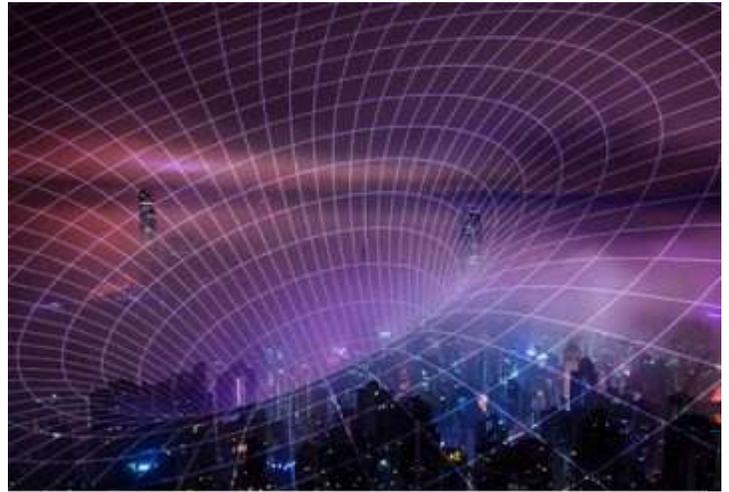
The General Manager of the Port Authority of Guam has written to the Federal Communications Commission requesting that the Emergency Petition filed by GTA TeleGuam be rejected or amended.

“GTA TeleGuam knows or should have known at the time of that filing that despite the damage done to the Port, the island’s only commercial seaport was able to open up 100% operational only 3 days after the storm passed with normal operations and normal vessel sequence within 4 days,” Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio stated in his letter sent to FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. “As such, the importation of goods and supplies into the island was not impeded. This was reported daily to all the media, on all social media accounts and via the Government of Guam’s Joint Information Center.”

Respicio is responding to GTA TeleGuam’s Emergency Petition WC Docket No. 10-90, WC Docket No. 11-42 and WC Docket No. 21-450 In the Matter of Petition of TeleGuam Holdings, LLC for Waiver and Certain Other Relief filed with the Federal Communications Commission on June 20, 2023. Specifically, the filing states, “The local commercial port that imports 90 percent of all goods entering Guam was hobbled by physical and structural damage from the storm, which has impeded the transportation of goods and supplies onto the island.”

“The statements by GTA TeleGuam are irresponsible as they create a false narrative about what really happened and this can have an extremely negative impact for the Port Authority of Guam in the bond markets,” Respicio said, adding that the false statements are an insult to the hard work of the men and women of the Port Authority of Guam who showed their true “Port Strong” spirit and their dedication to public service and commitment to our island community by getting our Port fully operational in only 3 days.

Respicio further told the FCC chairwoman that GTA TeleGuam’s FCC filing provided more false information about the overall recovery of our island that has been remarkable and swift under the leadership of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio.



“When this Emergency Petition was filed on June 20, 2023, GTA TeleGuam stated that half of our island residents were without power and water,” Respicio wrote. “This is also a false statement as nearly 80 percent of our island residents had their power restored prior to the filing and the Guam Waterworks Authority had 80 percent of operable wells on-line and was producing approximately 33.8 million gallons of water per day which is approximately 99 percent of pre-typhoon production.”

Respicio asked the FCC to reject the GTA TeleGuam Emergency Petition or to require them to amend their filing and remove the false and misleading statements. Respicio also sent a copy of his letter to Paul Huntsman, the President & CEO of Hunstman Family Investments who also is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of GTA TeleGuam.

GTA TeleGuam later filed a supplement to their petition.

“GTA’s swift action to amend and supplement the Emergency Petition shows their willingness to submit accurate information to the FCC,” Respicio wrote today. “We truly thank them and appreciate their efforts to provide a more accurate description of the tremendous work the government, private-sector, and non-profit organizations have to recover from Typhoon Mawar.”

## Federal visit to the Port



Steven Chung, Pacific Readiness Senior Project Manager from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), formerly Office of Economic Adjustment, paid a courtesy visit to the Port Authority of Guam on June 6, 2023.

General Manager Rory J. Respicio shared the Port's story of pursuing grant opportunities and updating the Port Masterplan which lays the groundwork for the upgrade of facilities and acquisition of new gantry cranes.

A tour of the port facilities was conducted with port staff and Mr. Chung. He was impressed of how fast the port was able to reopen its facilities after the typhoon, as he was on-island during Mawar. He observed the cargo operations, saw which facilities were damaged and noted the Port's quick recovery and resiliency.

Mr. Chung stated that he looks forward to working with the Port Authority on future grant opportunities and building the port's resiliency. He replaces Gary Kawabata, former Project Manager who was instrumental in helping the Port obtain numerous grants through the Office of Economic Adjustment since 2009.

Mr. Steve Chung joined OLDCC in 2023 as the Pacific Readiness Senior Project Manager in support of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. Prior to joining OLDCC, Mr. Chung served as the Navy's Encroachment Program Director for Navy Region Southwest and the Department of Defense.

## Port donates masks to Red Cross



## FEMA's Port intake center assists 175 workers

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Satellite Registration Intake Center at the Port Authority of Guam assisted 175 in the five days it was open.

"FEMA was able to assist 151 Port employees and 24 Cabras Island tenants in the five days they were here at the Port," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "We are grateful that FEMA was here to

help our employees and tenants which enabled them to continue working to keep Guam's commodities flowing into the community. I also want to thank Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, our Board, and our federal, local and industry partners for the tremendous amount of support they have given us on this road to recovery."

Thank you FEMA!

## Retirement Plan DB 1.75 Election Window

Effective June 1 through December 31, 2023, the Government of Guam Retirement Fund has opened up an election window for active employees under the Defined Contribution Plan ("DC Plan") to transfer over to the Defined Benefit 1.75 ("DB 1.75 Plan").

Based on the schedule below, a virtual seminar will be conducted that provides valuable information on both the DC Plan and DB 1.75 Plan. You will be able to ask questions with a Retirement representative during the seminar. Should you decide to transfer to the DB 1.75 Plan, you are encouraged to meet face-to-face with a Retirement representative on their scheduled site visit below.

July 17, 2023 9:00 a.m. Port Training Room Virtual Seminar

July 24, 2023 10:00 – 12 noon Board Conference Room On-Site Representative

August 14, 2023 9:00 a.m. Port Training Room Virtual Seminar

August 17, 2023 10:00 – 12 noon Board Conference Room On-Site Representative

August 21, 2023 10:00 – 12 noon Board Conference Room On-Site Representative

Please take the time to attend this seminar to gain detail knowledge and information about both plans. This way, you are able to make an



**DEFINED BENEFIT 1.75 PLAN**  
("DB 1.75")

**ELECTION WINDOW**  
FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN ("DC PLAN")  
**JUNE 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023**

PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION WITHIN YOUR DEPARTMENT NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2023

**ZOOM EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

informed decision beneficial to you and your family at time of your retirement.

Employees eligible to switch should have received a letter personally signed by the General Manager regarding this matter.

You are encouraged to contact the Port Human Resources Division should you have any questions.

## Snake found on ship coming to Guam

Port employees found a snake inside a cargo hold on a container ship that was being discharged on June 29, 2023.

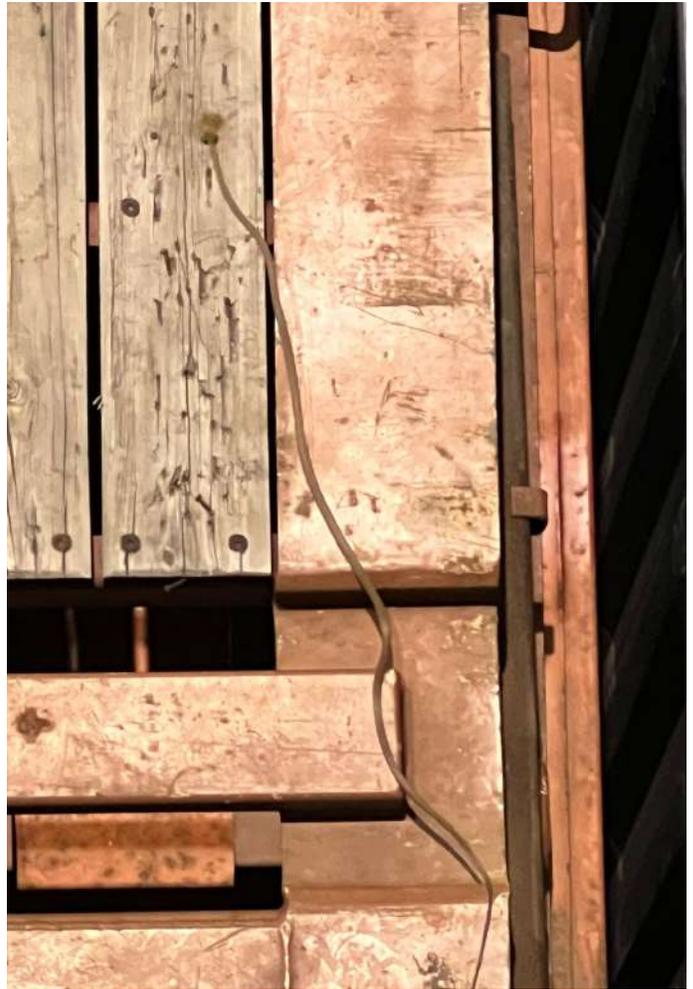
At 8p.m. that night Port stevedores were below deck on Bay 18 of the container vessel CMA CGM Herodote when they discovered a snake. The vessel arrived on Guam that day from Saipan.

“Our Port employees immediately notified officials at Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture of what they had found and sent photos and video of the snake,” said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio.

Guam Customs and USDA arrived at 10:05 p.m. and brought their dogs to try and locate the snake but were unable to find the snake.

Respicio noted that vessel operations continued except for a pause in Bay 18 as Guam Customs and USDA were trying to locate the snake.

Guam Customs and USDA officials left the Port at 1:15 a.m. the next morning and indicated that although the snake could not be located, they were able to identify the snake through the photos and videos as a brown tree snake.



## AAPA donation

Thank you to the American Association of Port Authorities for your generous donation to our Port employees affected by Typhoon Mawar! We truly appreciate your support!



## Employees at the forefront of recovery

Our employees at the Port are at the forefront of our concerns, especially their health and welfare, according to General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "We were able to reopen the Port in just three days after Typhoon Mawar because of our dedicated workforce and the tremendous amount of support received from Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, our Board, our federal and local partners, and industry partners," he said.

"I reached out to the Port's Employee's Association to find ways to ease the road to recovery for our employees to include providing a hot meal for them while at work," Respicio said.

PAGGMA leadership has been assisting Port employees in ways to ease their road to recovery. In addition to providing daily meals for day and night shifts, PAGGMA has coordinated the distribution of FEMA water to employees and washers and dryers for employee use.



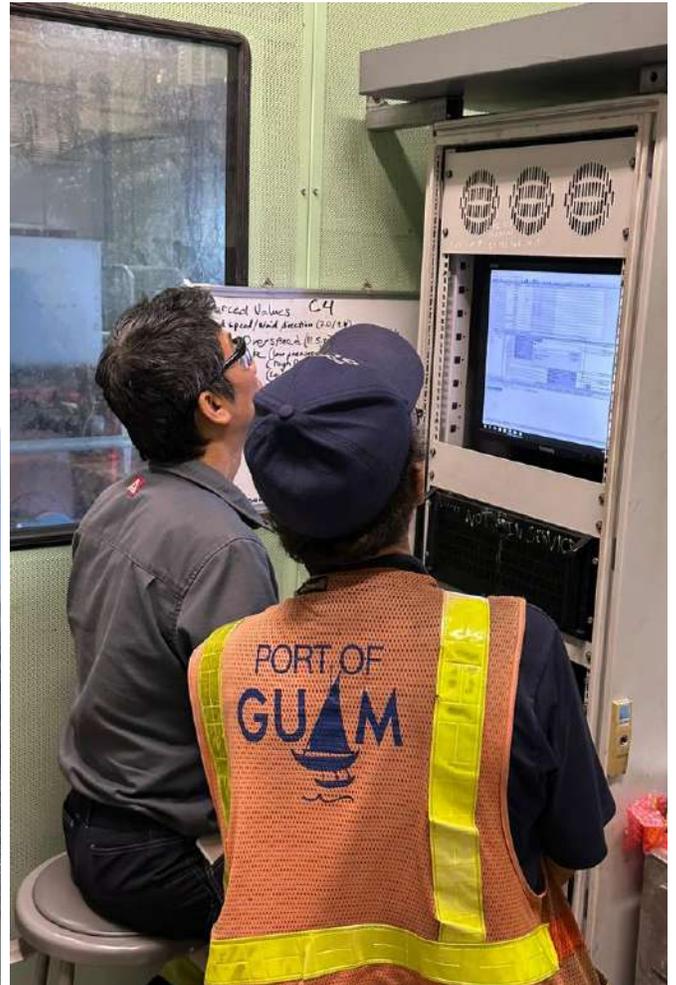
## Port holds monthly PUGG meeting



Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio met with members of the Port Users Guam Group (PUGG) during their monthly industry meeting on June 28, 2023. Discussions were held on the Port crane demolition project, Tariff simplification and Hotel Wharf. The group also talked about Typhoon Mawar recovery. The meeting was held in the Port Board Room.



# June Photo Highlights



## June Photo Highlights Continued



## July Birthdays



TASS, JOHN E.  
 HATTIG, HERBERT G.  
 CEPEDA, SHAWN B.  
 YATAR, ANTHONY J.S.  
 HUDSON, WILLIAM M.  
 PEREDO, FRANKIE S.  
 SANTOS, GILBERT G.  
 NEDEDOG, CARMELITA C.  
 PIOLO, GEORGE E.  
 AGUON, JOSEPH J.  
 CASTRO, EVANGELINE O.  
 SANCHEZ, MATTHEW Q.  
 CAMACHO, MARY JANE G.  
 BAMBA, VINCENT C.  
 BENITO, CHRISTOPHER J.  
 GUERRERO, PETER F.  
 SANTOS, HENRY M.  
 BLAS, KILO R.  
 ECLAVEA, JACQUELINE M.  
 AMADO, GILBERT C.

SAN NICOLAS, EDWIN G.  
 MAURER, KYLLIE R.  
 CONWAY, JATHAN J. B.  
 IRIARTE, JACOB Q.  
 NEDEDOG, ANDREW F.  
 WRIGHT, EDWARD K.  
 AYUYU, RONALD JR. C.  
 BABAUTA, ANDREW R.  
 PALOMO, NICHOLAS M.  
 CRISOSTOMO, RIKO SN  
 CRUZ, RONNIE D.B.  
 CRUZ, RONALD J.J.  
 FERNANDEZ, GLEN C.  
 SANTOS, RYAN J.  
 NAPUTI, JR., DAVID F.  
 CAMACHO, VICTOR M.  
 EBER, DRAKE L.  
 DUENAS, NIKO A.  
 YOSHIDA, JUAN D.  
 MCDONALD, AIDAN M.B.