

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'hågan Guahån
REMARKS
6th CMCC Meeting
November 6, 2019

Good Morning Admiral Menoni and team as we kick off our first joint CMCC meeting of 2019. I think it is important to recognize just how much work has gone into understanding the various needs of the Military buildup, and its impacts on our community since our administration was sworn into office. I recognize the many collaborative efforts between the Government of Guam and the Department of Defense and we thank you for your continued partnership.

The CMCC operating charter was developed to facilitate our discussions and make recommendations to DoD to revise the Buildup's current and future construction tempo via the sequencing of construction activities. This is because these activities directly influence workforce population levels. Also considered in setting the construction tempo are other mitigation strategies that impact Guam's environment and socio-cultural/economic wellbeing.

I have been very transparent and consistent with my message that our administration supports the buildup as long as it is balanced, responsible and responsive to the needs of our people and the protection of our environment and our culture. I have also made it very clear that my support for the buildup is not focused on economic prosperity alone, far more important to me is the safety of our people from growing threats in this region. As Governor, I am also responsible for the day to day operations of our government and the public services that we provide to our community, and although the Department of Defense has its national security agenda, my agenda is relentlessly focused on the daily needs of Guam's people.

Today we will discuss impacts but I do want to take a moment and touch on our collaborative successes. For example, our teams have been working on the Programmatic Agreement for the Marianas Island Training & Testing project. While it is still a work in progress, I believe our teams have come up with an interim PA allowing all parties an additional six months to develop a 10 year PA that will satisfy all stakeholder parties. We have also made progress on the construction of the new Cultural Repository which will be an important part of our historic and cultural preservation efforts.

Today, I would like to prioritize discussions and find solutions for the staffing challenges faced by Guam EPA, and our office of Alien Labor Processing. Our administration is looking to partner with JRM and Department of Defense to address this challenge. Without this partnership, we are forced to confront the possibility of unprocessed permits and even longer compliance reviews.

We look forward to engaging today and we look forward to continued collaboration as we face these impacts together. Thank you.

