

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HĀGA • GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SIGUNDO MAGA'LĀHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (eicalvo@tpiguam.com)

February 17, 2020

EJ Calvo

President – Guam Basketball Confederation
P.O. Box 3346
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: DENIAL OF REQUEST TO HOST THE HONG KONG MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Dear Mr. Calvo,

Thank you for understanding my position regarding the use of the University of Guam's Calvo Field House for the proposed competition between our Guam National Basketball Team and the Hong Kong Men's National Team. As you know, I am proud and highly supportive of Team Guam. In fact, just a few days ago, then-Acting Governor Josh Tenorio signed Public Law 35-62, so that the Calvo Field House could be renovated and improved to FIBA competition standards. However, that support cannot give way to my responsibility to do all I can to keep the coronavirus from our island.

The effects of COVID-19 have been and continue to be devastating. Just this past Saturday, the head of the World Health Organization urged all governments to step up their efforts to prepare for the virus, saying "it's impossible to predict which direction this epidemic will take." While I am confident that DPHSS is prepared to handle the threat of coronavirus, I also believe that it is my duty to affirmatively minimize any risk to our people. I believe that FIBA was concerned about the prevalence of the coronavirus in Hong Kong and its people. And while I agree that it acted appropriately to move this game from Hong Kong, I do not agree that it should have been moved to Guam.

Guam is fortunate that it followed its instinct and refused port to the MS Westerdam days ago. We have recently learned that, contrary to what was reported to us at the time, at least one of its occupants was infected. I cannot risk exposure to our people, including our Guam National Basketball Team. Therefore, I must disallow this competition at this time.

Senseremente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Maga'hāgan Guāhan
Governor of Guam

cc via email: *HONORABLE Joshua F. Tenorio, Sigundo Maga'lāhen Guāhan*