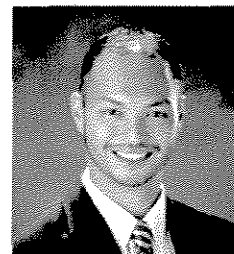




Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Chairman - Committee on Finance & Taxation,
General Government Operations, and Youth Development
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 33rd Guam Legislature



APR 24 2015

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Rory J. Respicio

VIA: The Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Chairman
Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs,
Human & Natural Resources, Election Reform, and Capitol District

RE: Committee Report on the Nomination of Anthony C. Blaz

Dear Speaker Won Pat,

Håfa adai! Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report for the nomination of Anthony C. Blaz to serve as Director of the Department of Administration, at the pleasure of the Governor.

Committee votes are as follows:

- 6 TO DO CONFIRM
- _____ TO NOT CONFIRM
- 2 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- _____ TO ABSTAIN
- _____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Respectfully,

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

2015 APR 24 PM 4:29

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Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Chairman - Committee on Finance & Taxation,
General Government Operations, and Youth Development
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 33rd Guam Legislature



COMMITTEE REPORT

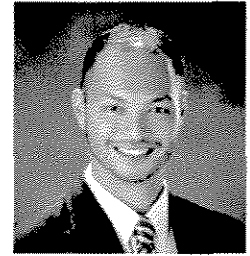
Nomination of **ANTHONY C. BLAZ**

As Director of the Department of Administration to
serve at the pleasure of the Governor



Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Chairman - Committee on Finance & Taxation,
General Government Operations, and Youth Development
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 33rd Guam Legislature



APR 24 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members
Committee on Finance & Taxation, General
Government Operations, and Youth Development

RE: **Committee Report on the Nomination of Anthony C. Blaz**

Håfa adai! Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on the nomination of Anthony C. Blaz to serve as the Director of the Department of Administration.

This report includes the following:

- Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Appointment Letter to the Speaker
- Copy of Appointment Packet and Supporting Documents
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Written Testimonies
- Copy of COR Referral of Appointment
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Related News Reports

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

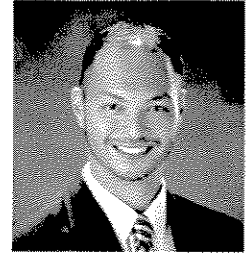
Respectfully,


MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS



Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Chairman - Committee on Finance & Taxation,
 General Government Operations, and Youth Development
 | *Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 33rd Guam Legislature



COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Nomination of
ANTHONY C. BLAZ

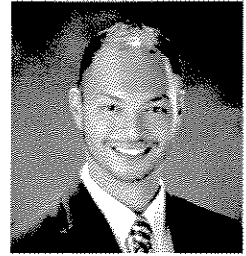
POSITION: Director, Department of Administration
LENGTH OF TERM: Serve at the pleasure of the Governor

	SIGNATURE	TO CONFIRM	TO NOT CONFIRM	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas Chairman	<i>[Signature]</i> 4/24/15	✓				
Senator Mary C. Torres Vice Chairman	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓ 4/24/15				
Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz Member	<i>[Signature]</i>			✓ 4/24/15		
Senator Tina R. Muña Barnes Member						
Senator Rory J. Respicio Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓ 4.24.15				
Senator Thomas C. Ada Member	<i>[Signature]</i>			✓ 4/24/15		
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓ 4/24				
Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. Member	<i>[Signature]</i> 4/24/15	✓				
Senator Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D. Member						
Senator James V. Espaldon Member						



Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Chairman – Committee on Finance & Taxation,
General Government Operations, and Youth Development
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 33rd Guam Legislature



COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

The nomination of Anthony C. Blaz to serve as the Director of the Department of Administration was made by Governor Edward J.B. Calvo on January 30, 2015. The nomination package was received by the Office of Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., on February 17, 2015, and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Government Operations, and Youth Development on February 18, 2015.

The Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Government Operations, and Youth Development held a public hearing on March 12, 2015, in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room. Among the items on the hearing agenda was the nomination of Anthony C. Blaz to serve as Director of the Department of Administration. The hearing convened at 10:01 a.m. and was recessed at 11:57 a.m. The hearing reconvened at 2:03 p.m. and was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Public Notice Requirements

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on March 5, 2015, and again on March 9, 2015. Notice was also posted on *I Liheslatura's* website beginning on March 5, 2015.

Senators Present

Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Committee Chairman
Senator Mary C. Torres, Committee Vice Chairwoman
Senator Thomas C. Ada, Committee Member
Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Committee Member
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Committee Member
Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Committee Member
Senator Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D., Committee Member
Senator James V. Espaldon, Committee Member
Senator V. Anthony Ada
Senator Tommy A. Morrison
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.

Oral Testimony

Anthony C. Blaz, Nominee
Former Senator Alberto “Tony” Lamorena
Former Senator Joanne Brown
Mayor Rudy Matanane, Municipality of Yigo
Former Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero
Benita Manglona

Written Testimony

Mayor Rudy Matanane, Municipality of Yigo
Mayor Robert Hofmann and Vice Mayor Rudy Iriarte, Municipality of Sinajana
Caludia Acfalle, General Services Agency

II. TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Chairman Michael San Nicolas convened the hearing on the nomination of former Senator Anthony C. Blaz to serve as Director of the Department of Administration. Chairman San Nicolas called on the first panel to testify. The panel included former Senator Alberto “Tony” Lamorena, former Senator Joanne Brown, Yigo Mayor Rudy Matanane, and former Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero.

Former Senator Lamorena spoke in favor of the nomination. He talked about serving with Mr. Blaz in various capacities within the government of Guam. He mentioned Mr. Blaz’s experience in the Legislature as well as his service at GEDA, DOA, BBMR, and other positions in the government of Guam. Mr. Lamorena stated that Mr. Blaz’s heart is for the people of Guam and asked for favorable consideration of the nomination.

Former Senator Joanne Brown spoke in favor of the nomination. She stated that the nominee has always demonstrated the drive for public service. She too mentioned his many years of service and asked for the Legislature’s favorable consideration of the nomination.

Mayor Rudy Matanane spoke in favor of the nomination. He spoke about his history with Mr. Blaz. He spoke about the nominee’s work ethic and service to the people of Guam. He asked for the Legislature’s favorable consideration of the nomination.

Chairman San Nicolas yielded the floor to his colleagues for questions to the panel.

Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz asked Mr. Lamorena if the Civil Service Commission was still receiving grievances with respect to the Competitive Wage Act.

Mr. Lamorena stated that the CSC decided that the Department of Administration had jurisdiction over issues relative to the Competitive Wage Act.

Vice Speaker Cruz asked if Mr. Lamorena had discussed the issue with Mr. Blaz.

Mr. Lamorena answered that it had not because some grievances were being brought to the courts.

Vice Speaker Cruz asked if any cases were brought to the Department of Administration before being brought to the CSC, and what actions, if any, had been taken.

Mr. Lamorena stated that there were numerous cases presented to them and he could recall what specific actions were taken.

Chairman San Nicolas opened the floor to former Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero to offer her testimony.

Former Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero spoke in favor of the nomination. She spoke about the importance of the Director of the Department of Administration position. She touted nominee's experience and asked for favorable consideration of the nomination.

Chairman San Nicolas called the next panel to testify which included Benita Manglona.

Benita Manglona spoke in favor of the nomination. She mentioned the work history between herself and Mr. Blaz. She complimented Mr. Blaz's intelligence and highlighted their accomplishments while serving as DOA Director and Deputy Director. She stated that his institutional knowledge and wealth of experience will serve him well in the position and asked for favorable consideration of his nomination.

Chairman San Nicolas opened the floor for questions.

Vice Speaker Cruz mentioned that his questions were relevant to both Mr. Blaz and Ms. Manglona and asked if he could reserve his line of questioning until after the nominee had testified. Chairman San Nicolas advised that questions will be allowed to be asked to both individuals.

Vice Speaker Cruz spoke about the difference of the salary amount for the directors of DOA and BBMR which were contained in the Competitive Wage Act as presented to the Legislature in March 2014 versus the amounts contained in a bill that was presented to the Legislature in November 2014.

Ms. Manglona stated that the salary amounts were listed at certain steps but the Governor has the discretion to set those salaries to amounts of his choosing.

Chairman San Nicolas clarified that the listing of salaries contained amounts that were set at various steps of pay and believed those to be the amounts expected to be paid to the respective positions.

Vice Speaker Cruz pointed out that several government positions including the heads of DOA, Revenue and Taxation, and BBMR, all received a salary increase in excess of what was

originally made known in early 2014. He also mentioned that several employees of the Governor's Office were making over \$100,000.

Ms. Manglona reiterated that the Governor has the authority to pay salaries to agency heads as he sees fit.

Vice Speaker Cruz asked if the Legislature was ever informed that the salary increases for various unclassified positions would be different from amounts previously mentioned and who decided on the amounts.

Ms. Manglona stated that it was a team that made these decisions based on the work performed. She stated that the salary increase for her position was minimal in relation to the responsibilities that the position entailed.

Vice Speaker Cruz asked the number of grievances filed with respect to the Competitive Wage Act and how those were addressed.

Ms. Manglona answered that over a hundred grievances were filed but were still being reviewed by human resources personnel. She stated that the review process is very tedious and takes time.

Vice Speaker Cruz pointed out that there are substantial differences between the 2010 Hay Study, the initial Competitive Wage Act, and the salary amounts given in November 2014.

Ms. Manglona stated that there are many factors that would contribute to those changes.

Chairman San Nicolas stated his concern that the grievance process has taken so long for rank and file employees but not so much for higher paid officials. He then called on the nominee, Mr. Blaz, to present his testimony.

Chairman San Nicolas: Senator Blaz, I guess you have an idea of the kinds of questions that will be posed afterwards so whenever you are ready.

Mr. Blaz: Hafa adai Mr. Chairman and Senators. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of the Legislature and for letting me give testimony on behalf of my confirmation as a nominee to be Director of Administration. I want to thank Governor Eddie Calvo and Lieutenant Governor Ray Tenorio for believing in my abilities and for nominating me for this position, and the hardworking employees of the Department of Administration for their confidence and support of my nomination. The departments and offices of the Executive Branch are primarily focused on providing core services to the people of Guam. The Department of Administration oversees the financial and human resources of 30 line agencies that employ more than 5,000 Guamanians. From cutting payroll checks and providing health and life insurance for employees to cutting checks for tax refunds for our people to assisting departments and agencies recruit and retain qualified employees to providing support, supplies, materials, equipment, and services to our departments and customers and providing IT-related technical support and to collecting payments and fees to assist with the funding for all of the above. Our department plays a pivotal role in the lives of our people and government. The Director of Administration has a wide range

of duties, responsibilities, and mandates. These responsibilities carry the weight of the life of thousands of Guamanians. Having said that, I believe that I am the right person for this position, meeting all the requirements to effectively lead the Department of Administration. I have almost 30 years of supervisory and managerial experience earned in the public and private sectors. Prior to my current position as acting director, I served in the following capacities: Director of BBMR, Deputy Director of DOA, Administrator of GEDA, and General Manager of PUAG. I served as a five term Senator, most notably as the Chairman of Finance and Taxation Committee in the 24th Legislature and Ways and Means in the 25th Legislature. I was Vice Speaker in the 24th Legislature. I hold a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Guam and a Bachelor's in Management Accounting from the University of Notre Dame. I currently serve as an active member of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund Board of Trustees and I am an adjunct professor at the University of Guam. Any director, no matter their qualifications, cannot fulfill the mission of an agency without a team of dedicated and experienced people. I want to thank the hardworking employees of the Department of Administration. I am very proud of the people in the Division of Accounts led by Kathy Kakigi and Goody Rosario; the General Services Administration led by Claudia Acfalle, Anita Cruz, and Robert Kono; the IT led by Joey Manibusan and Benigno Camacho; the Division of Human Resources led by Shane Ngata. These are key people who have been working hard for the people of Guam. They work diligently to provide service to our fellow government of Guam employees and to the people of Guam. Their efforts have resulted in achievements such as the processing of personnel in order to meet the demands as well as clean audits and financial statements which have a direct bearing on our credit ratings and interest rates. The DOA budget is \$10.2 million. Human resources is doing their part for addressing resources issues. IT handles data processing. There are many challenges that we face at DOA and I'm very proud to have a hardworking team to assist and help with the mandates and services. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Chairman San Nicolas: I want to thank you for your hard work and years of service to the people of Guam. You are a legacy public servant of this island and all of that service will be remembered and appreciated. Before I begin, because I do have some questions with respect to some of the data I sent a letter to you about on tax refunds, I do want to go ahead and yield to Vice Speaker Cruz so that he can continue on the track he was on so that we can see the relevance of the discussion between him and the former director as it relates now to you, the nominee.

Vice Speaker Cruz: Mr. Blaz, you and Ms. Manglona were the two that came and testified for the Administration on November 21, is that correct?

Mr. Blaz: Yes sir.

Vice Speaker Cruz: And at that time, do you recall either one of you informing the Committee that, if the Legislature were to pass the special session bill, that you would be getting a \$12,000 increase over what we were advised in March 2014 was the salary of the BBMR Director and the DOA Director?

Mr. Blaz: I was not aware of the increase of \$12,000 until the approval was done by the Governor and Administration.

Vice Speaker Cruz: Thank you very much because that confirms the fact that you were testifying without knowing that you were going to get that \$12,000 increase. How was the Legislature to have known that it was going to be giving you a \$12,000 increase?

Mr. Blaz: Again, as Director Manglona stated earlier, this is a range that was approved on the CWA law and the administration can make the decision and that is what happened.

Vice Speaker Cruz: When we passed the bill in February 2014 and the initial Executive Pay Plan went into effect before Senator Pangelinan made the FOIA request, you both did get an increase, did you not?

Mr. Blaz: As a Deputy Director, yes.

Vice Speaker Cruz: At that time, you were aware that the transmittal made by Ms. Manglona stated that the salary for the Director of DOA and the salary for the Director of BBMR was at \$90,000 but somehow went to \$102,000.

Mr. Blaz: It was a range that was approved by the CWA pay scale.

Vice Speaker Cruz: We've now had a year since the implementation of the CWA. You have been both at BBMR and DOA. When you testified in November of 2014 at the special session, you were very confident that we were going to be able to sustain this increase in the salaries. We have now had a full year of the implementation though we were all given retro, and we've had a year of knowing how much it's going to cost to cover the executive and all the elected officials. Do you have a sum of how much these increases have cost the government of Guam and how much I should be budgeting in the upcoming budget for the increases as a result of the CWA as we thought we passed it and as you all have implemented it?

Mr. Blaz: I think the budgets speak to all of that. I know we are in the process right now and all the different departmental requests were sent to BBMR and forwarded to the Appropriations Committee.

Vice Speaker Cruz: When did you move from BBMR to DOA?

Mr. Blaz: February 9.

Vice Speaker Cruz: So the transmittal of the budget was while you were at BBMR?

Mr. Blaz: That is correct.

Vice Speaker Cruz: So, can you tell me, as the former Director of BBMR, and now the current acting Director of DOA, how much is the CWA costing the government of Guam with one year of implementation?

Mr. Blaz: I don't have the specific number but I can get it to you very soon. I can get that information and send it to you.

Vice Speaker Cruz: When you were going over your resume, or as the Chairman put it "a legacy" in the government of Guam, you have been around and you have served in this capacity as the Committee Chairman of Appropriations and Ways and Means, and you understand the need of Ways and Means and Appropriations to have complete information on how much these things are costing. And as Director of BBMR confirmed, as acting Director of DOA, and having served as the Deputy of DOA, you cannot tell how much you have noticed over the last year the CWA has cost us?

Mr. Blaz: I don't have the specific amounts.

Vice Speaker Cruz: I'm not asking for the cents. I'm asking for a general range.

Mr. Blaz: Every department has an increase in personnel cost and that's in the budget request we forwarded to you. I don't know the specific number but I can get that number. I can tell you that we work within the budget parameters that are outlined by the Governor and we forward it to. I know that all of us have a ceiling and we follow the ceiling. And we work with the resources we have and the increase in CWA was already included in the requests that we forwarded to you.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: But neither BBMR nor DOA compiled a separate amount just so you would be able to tell the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, or the fiscal team this is how much the CWA has cost us the last twelve months.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Senator, you can see that every department has an increase in personnel costs. It's all there. I don't have it in front of me. But I can say that the budget has

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I understand and I've seen it. I'm just saying, if we were bringing you from the outside, I can give you some slack

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yeah, but, but.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: You've been deputy director at Department of Administration even before Ms. Manglona, right?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, I was the deputy.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And so, I'm just asking, shouldn't we have that close at hand to...Just in general. Even my colleague here is whispering in me ear, "It's 20 million." But...

Mr. Tony Blaz: I don't have the specifics. Maybe it could be higher, it could be lower...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I mean he can guesstimate, he's not even the director! Now, how much...

Mr. Tony Blaz: I mean you're talking about all the department increases cost.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: You're correct. How much does the CWA costing us?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I guess I don't have the specific amount. I can get it to you but after this is done I can get it to you and send it to you. I don't have the number in front of me.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I understand. You're coming here as the director of B...

Mr. Tony Blaz: DOA

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: ...Department of Administration. And how is that you say you are qualified? You're eminently qualified for this position? And you don't have, at your fingertips, how much this is costing the Government of Guam.

Mr. Tony Blaz: It's an increase...Last year, we used CWA series. For every position, has an increase

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I understand.

Mr. Tony Blaz: One of the comparisons of the current, existing one versus the current and future one. There are three numbers involved and we'll give it to you. I don't have it in front of me. But I said give me the time to do it, I'll get it for you.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: As the former chair of Ways and Means and Appropriation, and as having had both the deputy positions at DOA and directorship of BBMR and DOA, can you explain to this Committee, how the provision of tax refund is to be implemented?

Mr. Tony Blaz: On the issue of tax refunds, again, last year when we did this, we...the last budget, together as a...the last fiscal year was 2,000. I mean 125 million for the reimbursement of tax refunds. And currently, the budget we're recommending is \$118 million for the reimbursement of tax refunds. And all of that, the signature action within the Special Accounting Service and Special Econ service meeting. All of that has to do with the revenues and expenditures. And one of the components is the action of the Committee of Ways and Means, Committee of Appropriations was this discussion...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Yeah, I understand and I'm just saying

Mr. Tony Blaz: And the budget process is always, we've always gone through the... And how much did you actually...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I keep trying to figure out which one is a more powerful position. DOA or BBMR? Because it seems to me that DOA can't write a check unless BBMR approves or sets up the account. Am I correct?

Mr. Tony Blaz: It's a process to ensure that we're able to, of course, maximize our resources to match our resources.

Yes, and so, how much do we actually pay in tax refunds last year?

Mr. Tony Blaz: In 2014, we paid something like a, we paid, I'm pretty sure tax refunds was 120 [million] some.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: What was the actual?

Mr. Tony Blaz: The actual was 153 [million]. So in 2014, we over, we actually paid, we had the opportunity to, we had the resources to pay tax refunds and that's what the taxpayers wanted and they got it.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And I congratulate you and I congratulate the Governor and the Director of Administration. I'm just asking because now as we are planning for 2014, I mean this current fiscal year, can you explain to me the original intent of the provision of tax refunds and how it's currently being implemented?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Well, in the interaction that we have, using the two under your purview, the Special Accounting Service and the Special Economic Service, the classified employees who are part of that, that review process. They made the recommendations to the Special Economic Service, in which we are all members of that committee, and we go through the whole process of discussing, and intense discussions on the revenue amount and the provision of tax refunds.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And what is the provision supposed to be because my original understanding of tax refunds was that during the year, the Department of Administration is supposed to be putting into the Trust account, the provision for tax refund up to 120 thousand, million dollars. So that, on January the 1st of 2015, when the first person that files their tax refund on January the 5th of 2015, if they're to get a tax refund, there should be a \$120 million in the provision of tax refunds to be able to start paying that off. Is that correct?

Mr. Tony Blaz: And this is a long standing practice in filing tax, that's a DRT issue. The Department of Rev and Taxation will file a tax return, they go to the conference review of the...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: But what is DOA and BBMR supposed to be doing? Are you not supposed to be under the provision of tax refund, accumulating in a trust fund?

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we have. We've been doing this...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And how much do you have so far this year?

Mr. Tony Blaz: And you should be very happy that we've paid tax refunds

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And I said, I'm congratulating the fact, that you fulfilled before the election, you paid all the tax refunds for 2013. But what I'm saying is that my understanding is that, besides paying all the tax refunds for 2013...

Mr. Tony Blaz: And I'm very proud to say...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: There should've been, also accumulating in the trust fund, an amount of about \$120 million so that you can start paying off the 2014s immediately after January the 1st of 2015.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Sure...At the end of the fiscal year 2014-15, they advanced to extend about \$33 million plus an additional \$10 million for the provision of tax refunds. And currently, we're very proud we're able to pay, currently, under the status A, to tax refunds,

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: A total of how much?

Mr. Tony Blaz: And this is the second quarter is gonna end at the end of March and I'm going to tell you Senator Mike, that I want to give you the assurance we're paying tax refunds as soon as the Governor has directed all of us. We will continue to pay tax refunds and pay it in a timely manner. And pursuant to the court order and to the direction of our government.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: How much is supposed to be in the trust fund as of today?

Mr. Tony Blaz: As of, I don't, again the numbers are supposed to...I told you in the interaction we have to, we currently paid, \$50, maybe \$60 million in the first quarter, of 20...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And how much is supposed to be in the trust fund today?

Mr. Tony Blaz: The trust fund, I don't have the balance in front of me but I'll get the balance...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: How much should be in that trust account?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Well, we've advanced tax refunds in the first quarter of 2015. We've paid October, November, December...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: How much is supposed to have been in the trust account?

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've paid the previous ones and we've also paid the current one as of January 16. Tax status...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: What is the formula and what is the process for determining the amount of money that should be in the trust account?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I guess it was all discussed currently. And since we advanced it, we've been paying it. And now we're looking forward to...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: What is the formula that should be utilized...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Twenty-six...whatever the percentage of the actual income tax refund...it's about 26%.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And have we set aside...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Have we been

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Have we set aside, have we put into the trust account...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, we've been...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: ...26% as per the formula.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Have we been putting those funds into the Tax Efficient Account.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Your testimony today is that yes you put in the 26%.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've been paying pursuant to the requirement. We've advanced it to the tune of \$43 million. And...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: How much should be in the trust account as of today? Should it not be about \$36 million?

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've paid all the tax refunds...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: How much should be in the trust account as of today?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I don't have the specific amount in front of me but you'll get it. I can get it to you sir.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: The chairman sent you a letter asking for that amount.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I did. I was telling you right now...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And we thought you would have that number because not only did he send it...

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have paid all the tax refunds today. We paid 43...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And how did we arrive at the 26% Mr. Blaz?

Mr. Tony Blaz: The 26% is the percentage of the actual amounts of income tax. We take a percentage and we deposit those funds into the Income Tax Trust Fund.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And what two numbers were used to arrive at the 26%?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Well, this is a law that was authored by the Income Tax Efficiency Fund that goes back into the early 2000's. I don't know the specific law. But, nonetheless, again I'm gonna

reiterate for you Senator that again we've advanced the payment of tax refunds pursuant to the law. We've said the funds in there. We've paid all the outstanding tax refunds. And currently, as of January 16th, status A.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And can you testify to the Legislature today that the Department of Administration has deposited into the trust fund the requisite 26% of revenue collected to date?

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've put in the requisite amounts to be current and we've paid all the outstanding ones. The provision was a \$120 million, we've been able to pay \$153[million]...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: That was for last year. I'm talking about this year.

Mr. Tony Blaz: No, we advanced

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: For these five months of this fiscal year, the amount...you should know how much the amount. I mean if I was taking you off the street that would be one thing. You had both hats. How much should be in the trust account as per the formula.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have been paying. We have paid it out completely, status A, through January 16, 2015.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: But the provision for tax refund is that there's supposed to be enough money in there that you could have already every tax, every Status A tax refund, tax filing as of yesterday. But you don't have that much money in there. The deposits clearly went into the trust fund totaled about \$16 million.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Senator...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And you already paid all that out. But really you should've had about \$36 million in there. Is that correct?

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have paid...I told you we have paid about \$43 million in tax refunds. And in the last quarter, we've paid another \$60 million to meet the requirements of the Income Tax Efficiency fund law. So, we're current up to January 16. And you should be happy, you should be excited that we're paying tax refunds.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I'm just saying

Mr. Tony Blaz: I should be elated, I'm sure you're happy senator...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I'm happy that you're paying but I'm just saying it should be, it shouldn't be January 2016, it should be February 2016 or March, oh, of 2015.

Mr. Tony Blaz: All the outstanding tax refunds were paid, were current. I remember, it's always been a long standing thing to pay it and the commitment for all of us to, as public servants, we

want to make certain to pay our obligations, our liabilities regarding tax refunds. And that's a number one priority, one of the number one priorities we have.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I'll let the chairman continue his line on that one but I sent you a letter yesterday.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, I saw your letter...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And are you ready to respond to it as to what authority the Department of Administration paid out BBMR \$3 million?

Mr. Tony Blaz: You're talking about the 2012-2013 issue. And I think, again, we go back to the response of the Director of BBMR, the acting director of BBMR Jose Calvo and we stand by it. I know the whole...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: No, I'm very happy from the response of the acting director BBMR. It's the first time someone has honestly responded to my question on that issue. And has honestly responded to the question that was posed many times by the late Senator ben. And had we received that response earlier, there may not have been a need for Senator Aguon to introduce that one bill today of the rest of the meritorious increases. What authority was there for that, for those payments?

Mr. Tony Blaz: In 2000, the merit bonus issue, it goes back to again 31-233. This is, that's a specific thing that tells you that we prioritize all unpaid prior, including obligations for tax refunds, vendor payers, and back pay for employees and other obligations resulting from justice rewards pursuant to the public law.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I understand that I just sent the letter to you yesterday so I'll give you time to respond to that and speak to your legal counsel about it also before you send me the response because I am very happy about Mr. Calvo having finally admitted to us that those two amounts were paid because between yourself as former director of BBMR and in your position as acting director of DOA and your predecessor's position in that, the two have avoided admitting that, including your predecessor at BBMR, Mr. Rios. We finally got an honest answer from Mr. Calvo and now I want to know and I'll allow you to send it to me in writing what the response is.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I'm happy to do that for you. And senator when I mentioned that we work together on this whole issue and I know that you asked us, for your request about the information for reports that we asked of you, we have given it to you at your request. And again, the relationship we continue to have, we have to work together. And again this is all about giving, working together to liberate the services as required by public servants.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: When did you assume the position as Acting Director of Administration?

Mr. Tony Blaz: On, February 9th I believe.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Over the last month, what discussions have you had with your HR department about addressing with the need for the Department of Administration to assume its statutory responsibility over the classification and salaries, to address the hundreds of grievances that were filed.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Senator, we're very aware of the importance and the urgency of the issue and we're working together with our staff. Shae Nelta and I have been working to ensure we deliver the request and the mandates required by law.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Mr. Blaz when I asked the same question a year ago, asking your predecessor whether or not the Department of Administration HR department had properly slotted all the GovGuam employees and I wanted proof that it had. You very coyly or you and the director sent thirty boxes and said look for it.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I thought you wanted the information that you would ask of them.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And it was evident after that, that the Department of Administration had not, I repeat, had not, properly slotted the employees. Otherwise, there wouldn't be the hundreds if not thousands that have been filed since the executive pay range, I mean act has been filed. Witness a whole set of employees on this side insisting that their hazardous pay hasn't been addressed. Another said on this side, their salary increases. That all should've been addressed in the Hay and the Competitive Wage Act. There should be no need for hazardous pay because that should've been included in it. But we now have, by department, one by one... This entire Competitive Wage Act is sitting on sand and it's falling apart because it wasn't properly implemented by the Department of Administration of which you were deputy on the day the Competitive Wage Act was passed. And so I'm just asking when are you, what you are going to do to resolve this? And we've had a month now since you've been there. What discussions have you had with your HR department about addressing these needs.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I have been working with my staff on numerous, we have numerous issues, mandates, and numerous requirements and again, we set aside our time to work on these things. HR has, they have incredible mandates as well, like GSA, like Division of Accounts, like IT. So, again...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And as you put it in your testimony itself, you were the one that said, the position of director of Administration is responsible for the livelihood for thousands and thousands of government employees.

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we will continue to do that senator, we continue to do that.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I understand. The thing is they are waiting. They're waiting.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I'm sure my people will continue working with all the departments and, again, there are numerous timelines, there's news request, there's court orders, there's mandates.

They're submerged with a very small group of people doing their job. And you have to, and you senators should upon and thank them for continuing.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I thank them. I just wish that their directors were more honest with me about what is happening. I know that the Division of Account has gone through and done what they've done, to try and make and do all the entries.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've given...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: ...I have been asking for the Final Report for FY 2014. Are you...

Mr. Tony Blaz: We're working this very soon and we'll give you the information you ask of us.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: So you're admitting, as of this day, that amount...

Mr. Tony Blaz: There's a lot of reconciliation and...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: A lot of reconciliation with...

Mr. Tony Blaz: And a lot of information that we're working on. And we're going to give this information you.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: The initial draft that you have right now, what deficit do you show for Fiscal Year 2014?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Again, there's reconciliation. I will very soon get you a number.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Is there a deficit for 2014 and how much is it?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Again, they are still reconciling the closing of the books and all that. That all the information is going through. And you get a number very soon.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Are we letting time fly so we can wait for another January, June the 26th to find mana from heaven to take a deficit into a surplus?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Aren't you happy...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: It's been four months...

Mr. Tony Blaz: All the necessary things we've been doing...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: I'm just saying, I just want an honest, I just want an honest response to all that's happening.

Mr. Tony Blaz: ...So we can continue to pay taxes in a timely manner. *Ayuda yan inafa'maolek* sir. At the end of the day, you're gonna get the numbers that you want. And whatever numbers

that were completed by some of these things. I understand what you're saying: I gave you the revenue and expenditure reports that you asked of us. We gave all the other information that we can give, we give to you. And very soon...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: And you're doing major reconciliations right now and I'm trying to figure out the reconciliations, or even before reconciliations, was there any evidence of any deficit at the end of the fiscal year?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Again, as soon as I get the final numbers, I will give it to you. You're the first person...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: As the former Director of BBMR and the Director of DOA, acting...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes. And again, it's a reconciliation process...

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: You mean to tell me you did not, you cannot tell me from the information that you had, from having both of those hats on your head.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I can't give you a specific number.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Not a specific number. I'm asking, was there a deficit for FY2014?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I hope we're gonna get. We're gonna get the number we always want.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Was there a deficit at end of 14?

Mr. Tony Blaz: As soon as...Senator, as soon as we're almost done, I can give it to you. You'll be the first person I speak to.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Was there a deficit for the end of 14? Yes or no.

Mr. Tony Blaz: As soon as we're done, I'm going to give it to you, sir. As soon as I get it.

Vice Speaker BJ Cruz: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Thank you senator. I have to deal with him every day. You know Mr. Blaz I really need you to appreciate the gravity of the situation, especially I am in as chair, because you know in my letter that I sent to you, I kind of illustrated very clearly the situation that I am in, especially with having to deal with your nomination and the situation is this: the law says we're supposed to be depositing, the law says—and this is the law, okay—we're supposed to be depositing a certain percentage of income tax money into this trust fund. So we can have that money pay tax refunds. So as the law, as the formula applies to this fiscal year, is we're supposing to be depositing 26% of every dollar that comes in to this trust fund. 26 cents of every dollar is supposed to be going into this trust fund. Based on all this information, to gather, that's publicly available, the amount that should have been deposited into the trust fund

since the start of this fiscal year is \$36 million, 35.9 million. But, the Department of Administration has only deposited \$18.8 million.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, and...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And so what happens is because we don't have that 35, 36 million in there, because we're \$12 million short, \$16 million dollars short even, we're not able to pay that much in refunds. And so, the challenge for me as Chair with your nomination, is how do I move forward a nomination when there's a very clear law that isn't being followed. So, if you can explain for me...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Sure.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Why we only have \$18 million in there instead of \$36 million and if you can explain to me how we can justify not putting that \$36 million in there when it's very clear in the law that we're supposed to.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, and we did. \$43 million out of the Tax Fund refunds. \$33 million we're paid in 2014. And because we paid it off by the one hundred and some twenty million dollars. And then of course, we advanced that. So, to date an excess of the budgetary efficient tax fund. We're \$20 million ahead in 2015. You know Senator, I know in the first quarter, we paid \$60 million. On top of that, we've already paid out \$33 million in tax refunds, over and above the provision of tax refunds. Again, this whole issue goes straight to the fact we're paying income tax refunds. And now this is, we're very close to the end of the second quarter of the fiscal year. And I know that one of the things that you're very concerned about, naturally, you want to make sure we pay tax refunds very soon. And we're confident we're gonna get a major payment of tax refunds towards, by this month. So I don't know...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I think what you're confusing two different issues here. You're confusing how much we've paid in the past with how much we're supposed to have available to pay right now. And in the beginning of the fiscal year, we're supposed to have, based on that 26%, \$36 million available, right now for the tax refund. And we've only had had deposited \$18 million. I have all the deposit slips here from the bank...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, I...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And so, the law says you're supposed to deposit those amounts into this account.

Mr. Tony Blaz: And the person...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And each of these deposit slips every single month, it's short the amount that it's supposed to be.

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we advanced that. We advanced \$33 million over and above the tax refunds.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: There's no \$33 million deposit here over the last first quarter.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Look at the...we advanced it in September...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And the law specifically says the money...

Mr. Tony Blaz: ...Will show that we had advanced, because we took care of the previous year tax refunds. Now, we're done. And we're current today as of January 16th. So, the whole concern, for all of us, are we paying tax refunds? Yes, and this is unprecedented that we have paid tax refunds and we are doing it now. And I know that you...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Yes sir, I understand. But I need to go back to the whole point of a nominee and a law that's not being followed.

Mr. Tony Blaz: But we are.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: The law is very specific. Mr. Blaz, the law is very specific.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have been following up. We advanced...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Twenty-six percent into this account and it's not going into this account.

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we have paid tax refunds completely. All those items that were outstanding, about 120, we paid it. We paid it to the tune of \$33 million. And on top of that, we paid another 10 [million] and recently we paid another 16 million.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Have we paid \$36 million of taxpayers of this current tax year?

Mr. Tony Blaz: No, I'm saying, this is...You're talking about the fiscal year. The fiscal year we've talked about. The special tax refunds is 120 [million].

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: What I'm talking about is very simple

Mr. Tony Blaz: Sure.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Mr. Blaz. I'm talking about what's supposed to be deposited into the account...

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we have.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: ...So, we can pay refunds.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have been depositing those funds into the Income Tax Refund...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: ...And the \$36 million ...

Mr. Tony Blaz: ...to pay refunds. And the whole point is Senator, is about...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I need to be very clear Mr. Blaz, okay? I really admire you. You're a very nice man but the law is very clear that these deposits are supposed to be going in there and you keep insisting that they are. The bank deposit statements are saying they're not.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have advanced...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: How am I as the chair going to be able to move your nomination forward when it's not being, when it's not addressing the clear and obvious fact that what the law was mandating is not being followed. And now refunds are being paid out slower than they were last year. How can I move the nomination forward?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Senator, how can you say we're not paying tax refunds?

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I'm just saying...

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've paid out tax refunds completely. And as of January 16, we are current and we've paid it off. And we look forward to paying additional tax refunds by the end of the second quarter. And so Senator, why, this whole issue is about making certain that there are peaks and valleys in all of this. And I'm telling you, Senator, for all of us at DOA, we want to make sure we take care of tax refunds. And naturally, we advance the tax refunds and we paid it off. Additional tax refunds, 120 [million], we took care of that. And we paid the ones in the current fiscal year that's required of current tax refunds. Currently, January 16 of 2015 that, I guess 2014 tax returns are being filed now. We paid, again, this is a record for us. We only used to pay tax refunds much later but we chose to pay up to January 16. And you should be very proud and very happy that we're doing this for our people. And again it's about doing our part, doing our due diligence to ensure the tax refunds are paid belong to them.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: We're supposed to have \$36 million in the account.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We advanced it to a tune of \$33 million, Senator.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Mr. Blaz, you did not put in \$33 million over the last four months.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We have advanced the previous year tax refunds in a 120 [million] or so. So, right now the...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: The October income tax, in October, the income tax collection was \$41 million. We're supposed to deposit 10 [million] but we only deposited 9 [million]. In November, this is the new fiscal year...

Mr. Tony Blaz: You're talking about, we advanced in September. That, that...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: You can't advance a future fiscal year with a past one, Mr. Blaz.

Mr. Tony Blaz: That's, those tax refunds were brought into, we've been paying it.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: The law says...

Mr. Tony Blaz: You're talking about the previous year tax refunds. We paid 120 [million]. That, we took care of that. We overpaid it...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I'm talking about the amounts that are supposed to go into the...

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we continue to pay tax refunds in a timely manner. So, the whole question is about, are we paying tax refunds? Yes, we're paying tax refunds.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: The question is, is the nominee sitting in front of me following the law that is written?

Mr. Tony Blaz: And we are following the law. We're paying tax refunds in a timely manner. I'm certain by the end of this quarter, you're going to get more tax refunds paid. That's the whole goal: to ensure that the tax payers are given their refunds.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: The goal is to make sure the tax payers are getting paid at the rate that's supposed to be getting paid out. That's why we have a law that specifies...

Mr. Tony Blaz: I'm telling you...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: In November, we brought in \$21 million in income taxes. We're supposed to deposit 5 [million], you only deposited 2 [million]. In December, we brought in 40 [million], we're supposed to deposit 10 [million], we only deposited 2.5 [million]. In January, we brought in 34 [million], we're supposed to deposit 8 [million]...

Mr. Tony Blaz: And...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: We only deposited 2 [million].

Mr. Tony Blaz: That's right.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And between the fiscal year and February, we brought in 118 million. We're supposed to deposit 36 [million], we only deposited 18 [million]. And the difference is why we only paid up to January 16th and not January 17th, January 18th, January 19th, and the reason why this law... And bear in mind that this very trust fund we're talking about is the one the Supreme Court issued a ruling on that said you cannot transfer money out of it.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Sure, Senator.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And now what's happened is the government ...

What tax refunds are you talking about? You're talking about the tax refunds that were filed in the provisions of tax refunds. We paid up all the ones that were...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Mr. Blaz, the Supreme Court says we are not supposed to transfer money out of this fund. But now, we're not even putting money into it. Or at least, we're not putting in the rate we're supposed to.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We advanced it. We advanced \$43 million. 33 [million] in 2014 and an additional \$10 million. And we're way ahead in \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2015. So, my question currently the people who just filed...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: You know what we need to be doing for our people? We need to be upfront to our people about what the numbers are...

Mr. Tony Blaz: I'll give you all the numbers I have. I'll give it to you.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: ...And whether or not we are fulfilling the legal to pay them what we're supposed to pay them, at the rate we're supposed to pay them.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Senator...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And this business we have: advance this, pay that but we're ignoring the fact that we're supposed to deposit this and we haven't...

Mr. Tony Blaz: We've been paying it.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: ...And we're trying to justify it and we're saying that we advanced it...I mean, there is no deposit there to show those things.

Mr. Tony Blaz: There's, I've been saying.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I'm really, really...you really put me in a tough spot here Mr. Blaz because I need to move your nomination forward. And at this point, until I can get documentation and deposit slips that show that the 26% is current...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Sir...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I'm not going to be able to move forward this nomination.

Mr. Tony Blaz: We advance these tax refunds. You're talking about Fiscal 2013, I mean the income tax 2013 and 2014. The outstanding ones, the special tax refunds happened and we paid

it off completely. We advanced that to a tune of \$33 million in the current fiscal year. And we're talking about the tax refunds. Tax refunds from October to November, you're talking about, those tax refunds are for tax refunds in that year. And people didn't file the tax refunds in January of 2015 for the income tax of 2014. So, right now, we've been paying Status A, I guess we've been paying tax returns currently. And we're looking forward to get more Status A and we're looking forward to the end of the second quarter, we'll be able to pay more tax refunds for the people who have been wanting. And it's all about doing and delivering our responsibilities and doing it correctly for the taxpayers. I'm sure they're so excited, so happy that they're getting their tax refunds. I'm gonna do it and continue to do that.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Just some other items as well that we're going to need to reconcile as we go through this. On the employee questions that were asked by the Vice Speaker, with respect to the appeals, have we adjudicated even one appeal so far, that's been filed?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I guess, I can ask my HR division and give you some information.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Do you know if we've adjudicated at least one appeal?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I don't remember. I don't recall which, how many we've adjudicated.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Do you know when the first appeals came in to the HR department on the Competitive Wage?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I just came here on February 9th, so I know there were some that were done. I guess some recently, I can get that for you.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Maybe like last year, it's been maybe almost a year since appeals have been filed.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I can...

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And we haven't adjudicated one appeal since that time.

Mr. Tony Blaz: I can get that information for you.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I know that there might be some other questions from members of the body with respect to pay adjustments for law enforcement and everything. Do any of my colleagues have questions for the panel? Senator Aguon.

Senator Frank Aguon: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and Senator Blaz, thank you very much for extending yourself to our community in this capacity, honoring the Governor's request that in fact you serve in this position. I think you really got a taste of the requirements of this position, in terms of sitting as Director of Department of Administration.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Oh, I know.

Senator Frank Aguon: And this is something I certainly hope that the audience and our people don't misread the line of questions because the reality is we keep throwing out these terms of transparency and openness but we need to make sure our people understand where the resources are being allocated and how they're being expended. And that's a big responsibility that you have on your shoulder, especially in light of your confirmation. But Mr. Blaz I will be, I have forwarded a FOIA request...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes.

Senator Frank Aguon: ...to your office. And the only line of question I will pose at this time, because you and I have worked in the past.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes

Senator Frank Aguon: And I appreciate the cooperation and willingness to not only be able to work in my office but you're absolutely right when you mentioned that you in fact have some solid and excellent employees within DOA. My office has been in communication with them over the course of the last three or four months. And they've been very, very helpful going through your office in that regard, with regards to other issues that have to be addressed. My only question would be: when can I anticipate and the Committee anticipate a response on those FOIA requests, which have, by law, established time lines.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes sir. We've received the FOIA request and I think we should be getting some responses to you very soon.

Senator Frank Aguon: What is your definition of very soon?

Mr. Tony Blaz: I guess, we received that recently, I think just a few days ago.

Senator Frank Aguon: You received it Monday morning.

Mr. Tony Blaz: And I think we should have it by, by Friday. If you want additional information, we'll request for the extension.

Senator Frank Aguon: That's why in the letter also...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Yes, senator.

Senator Frank Aguon: I highlighted the additional time line if in fact it's required, if it's gonna have to require extenuating circumstances. Please, I'm asking you to honor that. Because it directly applies to a proposal that is before this legislative body regarding merit bonuses. It also directly applies to retro payment for our law enforcement officers who have been waiting six or seven months since the last incremental payment that was provided to them. And it also applies to the civilian employees within the Guam Police Department who have outstanding obligations. I have received, from the Chief of Police, the civilian component. So, I await your copy and your response with regards to that. I take it that there are going to be similar information. But please

I'm asking you to meet that timeline so that the Committee, in my case, my Committee and office can go ahead and proceed in either directly with you or the Governor's office in addressing some of those obligations.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Within the time frame that was requested by yourself. And we'll work with you.

Senator Frank Aguon: Okay, thank you Senator. Thank you.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Senator.

Senator Anthony Ada: Thank you Mr. Chair. I don't have questions, I just have a comment. Senator, Mr. Blaz, for you to sit there after the line of questioning, it just shows to me your determination to move forward and to continue to work at the Department of Administration. And the people there sitting behind you, your family, for them to sit there through this, I wouldn't be surprised if you go home tonight and they say, "Dad, forget it." You know?

Mr. Tony Blaz: Thank you Senator.

Senator Anthony Ada: You know, I wouldn't be surprised. But for you to continue to sit there and answer the questions and continue to go back and forth, just shows your determination. And I look forward on voting for your, for your confirmation and you have my full support.

Mr. Tony Blaz: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase. Dangkolo si Yu'os Ma'ase.*

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Any other senators? Senator Morrison.

Senator Tommy Morrison: Thank you Mr. Chair and congratulations Mr. Blaz on your nomination.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Thank you Senator.

Senator Tommy Morrison: I know when you mention IT, I know you're referring to the Office of Technology. And I thank you for your continued support for the team there and as my good colleague, the Vice Speaker, who helped me get this off the ground from a legislative standpoint, to create the Office of Technology within the Department of Administration. Obviously, we all know that is the position of the CTO, the Chief Technology Officer, is to be confirmed by the Governor. I mean to be appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Legislature and I know there is, I'm being assured there is some candidate or candidates that will be coming down very soon. My question is, we know this is a newly created Office of Technology within the Department of Administration, how do you see your authority? Knowing that now this is structured within DOA over the CTO. Because what I'm hearing you're, you're, all seeing past correspondence, since I kind of feel maybe they're still some growing pains going through authority vested to the CTO. And I just want to make sure I support your nomination

Mr. Tony Blaz: Thank you sir.

Senator Tommy Morrison: Is that, I want to ensure you have a clear understanding of Public Law 32-10. And ensure that there is a clear picture that, yes, it's built within DOA, however, there is a separate authority here. So, what are your thoughts of the Office of Technology and the Chief Technology Officer?

Mr. Tony Blaz: You know Senator, you and I, I guess were when we were together in the administration, of course, when you became a senator. One of the first things you asked me was, "Can you please look at my bill? What do you think of my bill? And do you think this is a good idea?" Yes, it's a great idea and this is something IT, given the technology that is going on right now and the future. You want us to assist and get out of the age where we are at and go forward and to do the things you want to do from the IT thing. IT is such a dynamic situation so, I'm committed to work with you Senator and to continue to deliver and meet the mandates which is requested by Public Law.

Senator Tommy Morrison: Do you feel this is how the, the way as it's currently structured within DOA, do you feel it'll still be structured there or should we proceed further in giving it its own autonomy, away from DOA?

Mr. Tony Blaz: It's pretty...it's the body that will ultimately decide. For us, you know, they're DOA. They're part of the DOA family, the IT. There's lots of mandates. I know I just spoke to Joey Manibusan, Benito Camacho, and these guys are classified employees, they've been there for a long time. They've been pushing and pushing to ensure you try to get out the [inaudible] and to move forward and I know that it could be an independent or not for us, if it's still under the purview of DOA, we'll continue to work with them and deliver the mandates that's required by Public Law.

Senator Tommy Morrison: Thank you. Thank you Director Blaz, thank you Mr. Chair.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Any other Senators? Vice Chair Torres. Okay, Mr. Blaz, you know you're a senior statesmen...Senator Rodriguez, alright.

Senator Dennis Rodriguez: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Senator, congratulations on your appointment as we talked this morning. You know I support you, support your appointment. More intimately, we've worked together closely with the Health Insurance Negotiating Team. And so I'm happy, at least in the very short period of time, that you've been director and overseeing the process, so you know, you have my support on this. Thank you very much for your service.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Thank you very much Senator, for your support. Thank you.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Any other senators? No? Okay...Okay, Mr. Blaz, you sir are one of our senior statesmen and opened up the commentary period by acknowledging your service by committing to our people and that remains the same. I think you also need to understand the nature of how we go about asking these questions...

Mr. Tony Blaz: Sure.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: And ensuring that what we committed to our people in the letter of the law is being followed through with. And so this is going to be my commitment to you. Throughout the duration of your nomination, as it's currently existing, I'm going to put all the resources of my office and fully make myself available to you and if we work together to figure out how we're gonna catch up and make sure the 26% that's supposed to be there, gets in there then we'll be able to, I'll be able to comfortable in knowing that the resources are there for the tax refunds that aren't immediately getting paid and then we can work towards to moving forward from there. But I need to be able to look people in the eye and honestly tell them that the money that is supposed to be there is there. And I will work together with you between now and throughout the duration of your nomination to get that money into that account. That's my commitment to you.

Mr. Tony Blaz: Senator, we can work as a team to ensure we deliver the tax refunds as part of our due diligence to our taxpayers. Senator, I want to help you. I want to work together with you to continue to have this dialogue and ensure we deliver the tax refunds for our people.

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: I think what I'll do, as soon as we can go back, regroup, reorganize, and get our ducks in a row, we'll probably have a hearing together and from there we'll be able to exactly figure out where this 26% is and how we're going to go about catching it up. So, we can go ahead and get these refunds paid at a faster rate.

Mr. Tony Blaz: *Magof...*

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: Thank you very much Mr. Blaz.

Mr. Tony Blaz: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

Chairman Michael San Nicolas: We'll go ahead and conclude the hearing for the nomination of Tony Blaz for the Director of the Department of Administration. Thank you again, so much, sir for being here with us today.

Mr. Tony Blaz: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Mr. Chairman.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Government Operations, and Youth Development hereby reports out the Nomination of Anthony Blaz as the Director of the Department of Administration to serve at the pleasure of the Governor with the recommendation

TO CONFIRM



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

FEB 17 2015

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Board Appointment

Dear Madame Speaker:

By virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam and the local laws applicable to the following position, I am pleased to transmit the following appointment and supporting documents for:

APPOINTEE: Anthony C. Blaz
POSITION: Director, Department of Administration
TERM LENGTH: To serve at the pleasure of the Governor

The appointment is subject to the consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Please schedule a hearing at your earliest convenience.

Senseramente,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

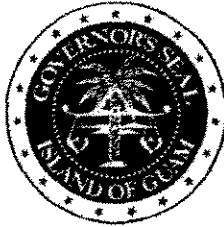
Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Date: 02-17-15 33-15-0176
Time: 3:25 pm
Received By: [Signature]

P.O. Box 2950 • Hagatna, Guam 96932

Tel: (671) 472-8931 • Fax: (671) 477-4826 • governor.guam.gov • calendar.guam.gov

2015 FEB 17 PM 4:07 [Signature]



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

JAN 30 2015

Mr. Anthony C. Blaz
PO BOX 23
HAGATNA GU 96932

Re: Appointment as Director, Department of Administration

Dear Mr. Blaz:

Thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Guam. The Calvo-Tenorio administration continues to face unprecedented challenges, both near and long-term. The task ahead of us will require the collective efforts of the best minds who have the courage to make tough decisions for the good of all our people. Pursuant to my authority under the Organic Act of Guam, I hereby appoint you to serve in the Calvo-Tenorio administration as:

Director, Department of Administration

This appointment is subject to the consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Pending the consent of, and confirmation of this appointment by, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, you are hereby appointed to serve as Director of the Department of Administration, in an acting capacity.

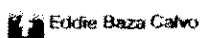
This appointment is effective February 9, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Governor at 472-8931.

Senseramente,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

P.O. Box 2950 • Hagatna, Guam 96932

Tel: (671) 472-8931 • Fax: (671) 477-4826 • governor.guam.gov • calendar.guam.gov



Eddie Baza Calvo



@eddiebazacalvo



@governorcalvo



@governorofguam



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GUAM

Agency Director/General Manager Nomination Information

The following information is required for submission to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* in accordance with Title 4, Guam Code Annotated Section 2103:

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Last Name BLAZ First ANTHONY M.I. C Date 2/10/2015

Address [Redacted] Apartment/Unit #

City [Redacted] State [Redacted] ZIP [Redacted]

Phone [Redacted] E-mail Address [Redacted]

Position to which Appointment is Made Director - Department of Administration

Are you a citizen of the United States? YES NO If no, are you authorized to work in the U.S.? YES NO

EDUCATION

High School Father Duenas Memorial School City/State Mangilao, Guam

From Aug 1973 To May 1976 Did you graduate? YES NO Degree High School Diploma

College University of Notre Dame City/State South Bend, Indiana

From Aug 1976 To Jun 1980 Did you graduate? YES NO Degree Bachelors of Arts, Management & Acctg

EDUCATION

Graduate School	University of Guam	City/State	Mangilao, Guam					
From	Aug 2003	To	May 2004	Did you graduate?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Degree	Masters Public Administration
Other Degree				City/State				
From		To		Did you graduate?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Degree	

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

(1) Present Employer	Government of Guam Department of Administration	Position	Acting Director
Address	P.O. Box 884, Hagatna, Guam 96932	Dates Held	February 2015 - Present
(2) Previous Employer	Government of Guam Bureau of Budget & Management Research	Position	Director
Address	P.O. Box 2950, Hagatna, Guam 96932	Dates Held	June 2014 - February 2015
(3) Previous Employer	Government of Guam Department of Administration	Position	Deputy Director
Address	P.O. Box 884, Hagatna, Guam 96932	Dates Held	March 2012 - June 2014
(4) Previous Employer	Guam Community College/University of Guam	Position	Adjunct Professor
Address	P.O. Box 23069, GMF Barrigada, Guam 96921	Dates Held	January 2011 - Present
(5) Previous Employer	Government of Guam Guam Economic Development Authority	Position	Administrator
Address	ITC Bldg, Ste 511, S. Marine Dr, Tamuning,	Dates Held	January 2007 - December 2010

PRIOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICE

Agency	Guam Legislature	Phone	472-3499		
Address	155 Hesler Street, Hagatna, Guam 96910				
Job Title	Senator - Vice Speaker	From:	January 1991	To	December 2000

PRIOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICE

Agency PUAG / Guam Waterworks Authority Phone 647-2603
Address 578 North Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Job Title Chief Officer / General Manager From: January 1987 To December 1990

PRIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE (EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT OF GUAM)

Agency None Phone
Address
Job Title From: To

Agency Phone
Address
Job Title From: To

TRAINING

Institute/Seminars/On-the-Job Training: Date

AWARDS

List all educational, professional, civic awards, and recognition for public service:

Outstanding Young Person, Pacific Jaycees 1988

Director of the Year 1990, and numerous awards and accomplishments

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

List involvement on a local/national/international level, list organization, activities participated in, offices held:

Chairman of the Guam Election Commission 1988-1990; Member of the Asia Pacific Association of Fiduciary Studies; Member of the Government Finance Officers Association; Member of the Association of Defense Communities; Member of the Council of Government Finance Agencies; Member of the Tax Review Commission; Chairman of the Qualifying Certificate Review Subcommittee; Board Trustee for the Government of Guam Retirement Fund; Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Guam Retirement Fund; Current Elected Retirement Board Member of the Guam Retirement Fund.

COMMUNITY / CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

List organizations, activities, participated in, offices held

American Red Cross Fundraising Chairman

Past Lector and Eucharistic Minister - Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica, 1985-2000

Past Chairman of the Cathedral Parish Committee

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

List any published articles, papers delivered at professional meetings, etc.:

MILITARY SERVICE (PLEASE ATTACH FORM DD-214)

Branch

From

To

Rank at Discharge

Type of Discharge

OTHER INFORMATION

(1) Have you ever been found guilty of a felony in any court, whether within or without the United States?

YES

NO

If so, please specify in detail:

Address of the court: _____

Date of Conviction: _____

Specific infraction committed: _____

(2) Have you ever been declared mentally incompetent by any court, whether within or without the United States?

YES

NO

If so, please specify in detail the reasons and facts related to such declaration:

(3) Have you ever been found not guilty or not punishable in any criminal proceedings by reason of insanity?

YES

NO

(4) Have you ever been confined to a mental institution for any reason?

YES

NO

If so, please specify in why the appointing authority believes you that you are not suffering from any mental illness or affliction:




Statement of Financial Interests
(Required by 4 G.C.A. § 13104.1)

TO: Governor Eddie Baza Calvo
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Adelup, Guam 96910

FROM: ANTHONY C. BLAZ

- I have no financial interest in any business
- I do have interest(s) in the following business(es):

Name and address of business interest:	Type and amount of interest


Signature

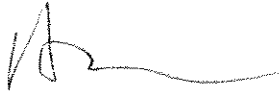
2/12/15
Date

AFFIDAVIT / DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

I, the undersigned, do hereby depose and say that: (1) I have read and reviewed the information contained in the attached Appointment/Nomination letter from the Governor of Guam; (2) that the matters contained in the Appointment/Nomination letter, together with all attachments thereto, are true and correct and that I am competent to testify to said matters; and (3) that this Declaration is made for the purpose of complying with the requirements of 4 G.C.A. Section 2103.5.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Guam (4 G.C.A. Section 4308) that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature



Date

2/12/15



**Government of Guam
 GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
 RECORDS & IDENTIFICATION SECTION
 P.O. Box 23909
 Guam Main Facility, Guam 96921**



February 9, 2015

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD

NAME:	Anthony C. BLAZ		
DATE OF BIRTH:	██████████	FINGERPRINT#:	NONE
■	The individual has no record of criminal conviction(s) in GPD files that are subject to Guam law and rules and regulations of the Department.		

*****NOTHING FOLLOWS*****

AS OF THE ABOVE DATE, THIS INFORMATION MAY BE LIMITED TO A LOCAL CRIMINAL OFFENSE ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE FOR ANY LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

The absence of an original GUAM POLICE seal invalidates this police clearance.
 REVISED 07/12/11

By Direction: neng

**FRED E. BORDALLO, JR.
 Chief of Police**



SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Drive • Hagatña, Guam 96910

Telephone (671) 475-3370
Fax (671) 472-2856

DANIELLE T. ROSETE
Clerk of Courts

Name: ANTHONY C BLAZ

SS#:

ID# GUAM DL#

Date of Birth:

CERTIFICATE OF SEARCH

The undersigned Clerk hereby certifies the following results of a diligent search of the records of this Court:

Criminal Cases:

- A. No Case Found
- B. 1. Criminal Case No.
- 2. Criminal Case No.
- 3. Criminal Case No.
- 4. Criminal Case No.
- 5. Criminal Case No.

Criminal Record: Page 1 of 1

Civil Cases:


- A. No Case Found
- B. 1. Civil Case No.
- 2. Civil Case No.
- 3. Civil Case No.
- 4. Civil Case No.
- 5. Civil Case No.

Civil Record: Page of

Request for further information may be addressed at the Records Division of the Superior Court of Guam, Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagatña, Guam. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday and local/federal holidays. Court Clearances are Non-Refundable.

Dated: 02/10/2015

DANIELLE T. ROSETE
Clerk of Courts

BY: 
DAISY M. NORMAN
Deputy Clerk

Prepared By: DMN



The absence of an original Court Seal invalidates this document



I Mina'Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
SENATOR MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

Committee on Finance & Taxation,
 General Government Operations, and Youth Development

March 12, 2015

Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ
Position: Director, Department of Administration

NAME (Please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	CONTACT NUMBER	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR
Tony Lamoran			✓		✓	
Jeanne Brown			✓		✓	
Mayor Rudy Mafa	Xitro Moyot's Office	777-9446	✓	✓	✓	
Carlotta Leon-Garcia			✓		✓	

Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ



I Mina'Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
SENATOR MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

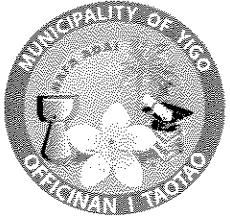
Committee on Finance & Taxation,
General Government Operations, and Youth Development

March 12, 2015

Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ
Position: Director, Department of Administration

NAME (Please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	CONTACT NUMBER	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR
<i>Berita Manglona</i>	<i>B.MHA</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ



YIGO MAYOR'S OFFICE

"OFFICINAN I TAOTAO"

Rudy M. Matanane, Mayor
Anthony P. Sanchez, Vice Mayor

March 12, 2015

I, Mayor Rudy M. Matanane of the Municipality of Yigo submit this written testimony in favor of confirming Tony Blaz as the Director of Administration. We all know that Mr. Blaz is well qualified for this position. The wealth of knowledge he has to offer is immeasurable. His experience as a former Senator speaks volumes of Mr. Blaz's intimate knowledge of the business of government. I feel that with his leadership, the Department of Administration will function in a more professional level that our island deserves.

I also personally endorse Mr. Tony Blaz. He is a good friend and I know his character as a person, I trust Mr. Blaz and since I have been in office, he has assisted me and our staff whenever we call upon him.

Sincerely,


RUDY M. MATANANE

Robert R.D.C. Hofmann
Mayor

Rudy D. Iriarte
Vice Mayor



Municipality of Sinajana
Mayors' Council of Guam
Konsehelon Mahot Guåhan
P. O. Box 786 Hagåtña, Guam 96932
Phone 671-472-6707 | 671-477-3323
Fax 671-472-5084
sinajanamayorsoffice@gmail.com

February 26, 2015


The Honorable
Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Chairperson
Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Government Operations,
and Youth Development,
DNA Building, Suite 407,
238 Archbishop Flores Street,
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Senator San Nicolas:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! We are writing in support of Mr. Anthony C. Blaz's confirmation as the Director for the Department of Administration. Mr. Blaz has been very instrumental and helpful when we call for assistance, from our village needs to ensuring that vendors get paid on time. He has always been on top of the tasks that are presented before him and his institutional knowledge from his tenure at PUAG and his tenure as a lawmaker makes him especially valuable, skilled and compassionate to meet the various needs of public service. His experience with two branches of Government and the private sector also makes him very capable and perceptive to all aspects of accounting and finance. He has always made himself available to us mayors to answer any questions about budget and finance and we trust that he will do a great job as the Director. *Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

Senseramente,


Robert Hofmann
Mayor


Rudy D. Iriarte
Vice Mayor

GUAM LEGISLATURE
CENTRAL FILES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT
Received by: ATB
Time: 12:08
Date: 3-3-15

Eddie Baza Calvo
Governor



GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

(Ahensian Setbision Hinirat)
Department of Administration

148 Route 1 Marine Drive, Piti, Guam 96915
Tel: (671) 475-1707 Fax Nos: (671) 475-1727 / 472-4217

Ray Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

Anthony C. Blaz
Acting Director

Alfred F. Duenas
Deputy Director

February 24, 2015

Memorandum

Honorable Michael Q. San Nicolas
Senator, 33rd Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Finance,
Taxation, General Government Operations
and Youth Development
Suite 407, DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores Street
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Nomination of Anthony Blaz for the position of
Director of the Department of Administration

Dear Senator San Nicolas:

It is with wholehearted support by all of the members of the General Services Agency's employees, that we approve the nomination of Mr. Anthony Blaz for the position of Director of the Department of Administration. Prior to his nomination, Mr. Blaz was nominated and confirmed as the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research. In that role, Mr. Blaz, has served the people of Guam well in addressing the financing of the government. Before that, he served two (2) plus years, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Administration, "Tony" has been our direct supervisor. His leadership and support for the General Services Agency is pronounced and genuine. We have had the opportunity to grow and most importantly, to be given the opportunity to have our point of view expressed and understood with and within the administration.

His leadership is one of a friend. He has shown an uncanny ability to get the best out of all of us, without bringing down the "heavy" hand. That is a unique skill of leadership and ability that is rarely seen.

As the Director of the Department of Administration, we are comfortable with the direction that he will bring to our agency. Based upon his past practices, we know that he

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

will bring a better working relationship with the administrative and legislative branches of government.

We thank you for allowing us to comment on the confirmation of Mr. Tony Blaz. And again we highly recommend his nomination for the position of Director of the Department of Administration.


CLAUDIA S. ACFALLE
Chief Procurement Officer



COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan • The 33rd Guam Legislature

155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • www.guamlegislature.com

E-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com • Tel: (671)472-7679 • Fax: (671)472-3547

Senator
Rory J. Respicio
CHAIRPERSON
MAJORITY LEADER

Senator
Thomas C. Ada
VICE CHAIRPERSON
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Speaker
Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Member

Vice-Speaker
Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Member

Legislative Secretary
Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Member

Senator
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Member

Senator
Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.
Member

Senator
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member

Senator
Nerissa Bretania Underwood
Member

V. Anthony Ada
MINORITY LEADER

Mary C. Torres
MINORITY MEMBER

February 18, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Senator Rory J. Respicio**
Majority Leader & Rules Chair

Subject: **Referral of Appointment**

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of the following appointment:

Appointee: **Anthony C. Blaz**
Position: **Director, Department of Administration**

For a copy of Mr. Blaz' appointment packet, please visit the Guam Legislature's website at www.guamlegislature.com. Under the "Reports" menu select the "Messages & Communications" option and refer to:

"Doc. 33GL-15-0176: Governor's message transmitting the appointment of Anthony C. Blaz, to serve as Director, Department of Administration."

Please ensure that the subject appointment is referred, in my name, to **Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Chairperson of the Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Governmental Operations and Youth Development**. I also request that the same be forwarded to all Senators of *I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

I Mina Trentai Tres Na Lihesataran Giubhan
 Appointment Log Sheet

Date Received	M.I.C. No.	Appointee	Position	Agency	Appt. Date	Term Length	Expiration Date of Action	Expiration Date of Term	Committee Referred	Date Referred	PH Date	CI PHed	Confirmed	Notes
02/17/15	3361-15-0176	Anthony C. Blaz	Director	Department of Administration	01/30/15	To serve at the pleasure of the			Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Governmental Operations and Youth Development	02/18/15				



Senator Michael San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@gmail.com>

First Public Notice - March 12, 2015 Legislative Hearings

Senator Michael San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 1:53 PM

To: Senator Michael San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@gmail.com>

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FIRST PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2015

In accordance with the Open Government Law, relative to notices for public meetings, please be advised that Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Chairman of the Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Government Operations, and Youth Development, will be convening legislative hearings on **Thursday, March 12, 2015**, in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Public Hearing Room at the following times and on the following items:

10:00 a.m.

Bill No. 3-33 (LS), introduced by T.A. Morrison, R.J. Respicio, and B.T. McCreadie, as corrected by the Primary Sponsor: AN ACT TO AMEND §5204(D) OF ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 5, TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SPORTS PROGRAMS.

Bill No. 9-33 (COR), introduced by D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.: AN ACT TO ADOPT THE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO RESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL SERVER/SELLER TRAINING PROGRAMS, BY *AMENDING* CHAPTER 2- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD, OF TITLE 3, GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS – BUSINESS REGULATIONS.

Bill No. 31-33 (COR), introduced by B.J.F. Cruz: AN ACT TO AMEND § 26120 OF CHAPTER 26 OF TITLE 11 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; RELATIVE TO THE INSPECTION OF TAX RETURNS AND OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE FILED OR FURNISHED BY THE TAXPAYER.

Bill No. 38-33 (LS), introduced by M.F.Q. San Nicolas: AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT BY ADOPTING THE UNIFORM ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT (UETA); BY *ADDING A NEW* CHAPTER 91 TO DIVISION 3, TITLE 18, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 7-33 (COR) , introduced by D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.: AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HAZARDOUS PAY DIFFERENTIAL FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER IN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS HAZARDOUS DUTY WORKING CONDITIONS, BY ADDING A NEW §86112 TO CHAPTER 86, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

Bill No. 11-33 (COR), introduced by D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.: AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL PAY PLAN CATEGORY IN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM COMPETITIVE WAGE ACT OF 2014, AND REINSTATE THE PRIOR PAY PLAN RATE FOR THESE POSITIONS, AND MANDATE A REASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SALARY RANGES SO AS TO BE COMPETITIVE BASED UPON NATIONAL STANDARDS.

Bill No. 27-33 (COR), introduced by F.B. Aguon, Jr.: AN ACT RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING THAT PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WITH SUPERIOR RATINGS IN FISCAL YEAR 2002 WERE NOT COMPENSATED FOR MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN §6203, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT BONUS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002; AND PROVIDING FOR SUCH PAYMENTS.

Bill No. 46-33 (COR), introduced by D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.: AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 6235 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 6, 4 GCA, RELATIVE TO PROVIDING A PAY INCENTIVE TO GOVERNMENT OF GUAM LINE AGENCY'S, THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE OBTAINED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINER, AND CERTIFIED INTERNAL AUDITOR CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO RECOGNIZED NATIONAL STANDARDS TO PRESERVE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM'S ABILITY TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN SUCH PROFESSIONALS.

Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ

Position: Director, Department of Administration

Nomination of BEN ANTHONY B. REYES

Position: Member, Cockpit License Board

Nomination of KATHRINE B. KAKIGI

Position: Classified Government of Guam Employee Member, Banking and Insurance Board

If written testimonies are to be presented for the items listed above, copies should be delivered prior to the hearing date. Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas and will be accepted via hand delivery to our office at the DNA Building, Suite 407, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagatna, Guam; at the mail room at the Main Legislature Building at 155 Hesler Place, Hagatna, Guam 96910; or via email to senatorsannicolas@gmail.com. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas at (671) 472-6453 or by sending an email to senatorsannicolas@gmail.com.

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11 attachments





Bill No. 3-33 (LS) TAM corrected.pdf


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Senator Michael San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@gmail.com>

Second Public Notice - March 12, 2015 Legislative Hearings

Senator Michael San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 3:32 PM

To: Senator Michael San Nicolas <senatorsannicolas@gmail.com>

Bcc: mvariety <mvariety@pticom.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <hottips@kuam.com>, Sorensen <news@spbgum.com>, aperez@gpagwa.com, Duane George <dmgeorge@guampdn.com>, Frank Whitman <editor@mvguam.com>, Gerry Partido <gerry@mvguam.com>, gmmsinc@guam.net, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Kelly Cho <kcn.kelly@gmail.com>, Korean News <koreannews@guam.net>, KPRG <kprg@guam.net>, PDN Lifestyle <lfe@guampdn.com>, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, Masako Watanabe <mwatanabe@guampdn.com>, K57 <news@k57.com>, Patti Arroyo <parroyo@k57.com>, Ray Gibson <rgibson@k57.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Steve Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, sports@mvguam.com, tcoffman@k57.com, dcrisost@guam.gannett.com, weavert@pstripes.osd.mil, Pacific Daily News <news@guampdn.com>, Bruce Hill <hill.bruce@abc.net.au>, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, parroyo@spbgum.com, Clynt Ridgell <clynt@spbgum.com>, mcpherson.kathryn@abc.net.au, communications@guam.gov, phnotice@guamlegislature.org, jalerta1 <alerta.jermaine@gmail.com>, Matthew Baza <baza.matthew@gmail.com>, Delisa Kloppenburg <delisakloppenburg@gmail.com>, Louella Losinio <louella@mvguam.com>, david@mvguam.com, John Paul Manuel <jpmanuel@gmail.com>, Speaker Judi Won Pat <speaker@judiwonpat.com>, Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz <senadotbjcruz@aol.com>, Senator Tina Muña Barnes <senator@tinamunabarnes.com>, Senator Rory Respicio <roryforguam@gmail.com>, "Dennis Rodriguez, Jr." <senatordrodriguez@gmail.com>, Senator Tom Ada <office@senatorada.org>, Senator Tony Ada <tony@tonyada.com>, Brant McCreddie <brantforguam@gmail.com>, Senator Brant McCreddie <senatorbrantmccreddie@gmail.com>, "Senator Frank Aguon, Jr." <aguon4guam@gmail.com>, Senator Tommy Morrison <tommy@senatormorrison.com>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, agatmayorsoffice@hotmail.com, asanmainamayorsoffice@yahoo.com, bmomayor@teleguam.net, bmovmayor@teleguam.net, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, MELISSA SAVARES <melissa.savares@gmail.com>, peter_daigo@hotmail.com, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, Doris Lujan <mayordorisfloreslujan@gmail.com>, nblas_mangilaomayor@yahoo.com, vicemayor_allan.ungacta@yahoo.com, mayorernestc@yahoo.com, mtm_mayors_office@yahoo.com, pitimayor@yahoo.com, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, rudy iriarte <rudyiriarte@gmail.com>, talofomayor@gmail.com, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <mayorlcrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, "Vice Mayor Ken C. Santos" <vicemayorksantos.tatuha@gmail.com>, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, konex.r@gmail.com, arleen81@gmail.com, kenjoeada@yahoo.com, anghet@hotmail.com, Ken Quintanilla <kenq@kuam.com>, Dale Alvarez <daleealvarez@gmail.com>, Responsible Guam <responsibleguam@gmail.com>, Regine Biscoe Lee <regineb.lee@gmail.com>, Chuck Ada <chuck.ada@guamairport.net>, peterroy@guamairport.net, lorilee.crisostomo@bsp.guam.gov, doagridir@yahoo.com, eduardo.ordonez@clb.guam.gov, cgarcia@investguam.com, Eric Palacios <eric.palacios@epa.guam.gov>, ndenight@visitguam.org, jbrowne@portguam.com, david.camacho@dml.guam.gov, Michael Duenas <mjduenas@ghura.org>, martin.benavente@ghc.guam.gov, alfredo.antolin@dol.guam.gov, joseph.cameron@hrra.guam.gov, adonis.mendiola@dya.guam.gov, jose.sanagustin@doc.guam.gov, pedro.leonguerrero@cqa.guam.gov, joey.sannicolas@gfd.guam.gov, fred.bordallo@gpd.guam.gov, chief@gpd.guam.gov, jim.mcdonald@ghs.guam.gov, benito.servino@disid.guam.gov, james.gillan@dphss.guam.gov, Leo Casil <leo.casil@dphss.guam.gov>, joseph.verga@gmha.org, benita.manglona@doa.guam.gov, anthony.blaz@doa.guam.gov, "John P. Camacho" <john.camacho@revtax.guam.gov>, "Marie M. Benito" <marie.benito@revtax.guam.gov>, john.unpingco@gvao.guam.gov, jonfermandez@gdoe.net, Mary Okada <mary.okada@guamcc.edu>, raunderwood@ugvam.uog.edu, AG Law <law@guamag.org>, rey.vega@mail.dmhsa.guam.gov, Julian Janssen <julian.c.janssen@gmail.com>, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, eddiecalvo@yahoo.com, Ray Tenorio <ray.tenorio@guam.gov>, mstaijeron <mstaijeron@investguam.com>, tsantos <tsantos@investguam.com>, frank <frank@mvguam.com>, T'Nelta Mori <tmori2222@gmail.com>, Joshua Tenorio <jtenorio@guamcourts.org>, Valerie Cruz <vcruz@guamcourts.org>, josh.tyquiengco@visitguam.org, Barrigada MayorsOffice <broadmin@teleguam.net>, Cheryl Chargualaf <cherylchargualaf1993@gmail.com>, Rikki Orsini <orsini.rikki@gmail.com>, ambrosio.constantino@ghs.guam.gov, Diana Sojo <yigomayorsoffice@gmail.com>, editor@saipantribune.com, jpsablan@guampdn.com, "Sablan, Jerick P" <jpsablan@guam.gannett.com>, isa <isa@kuam.com>, "Raymundo, Shawn" <rraymundo@guam.gannett.com>, Senator Mary Camacho Torres <marycamachotorres@gmail.com>, Senator Jim Espaldon <jespaldonesq@gmail.com>, "Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <frank.blasjr@gmail.com>, Senator Nerissa Bretania Underwood <senatorunderwood@guamlegislature.org>, Vejoh

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SECOND PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2015

In accordance with the Open Government Law, relative to notices for public meetings, please be advised that Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Chairman of the Committee on Finance & Taxation, General Government Operations, and Youth Development, will be convening legislative hearings on **Thursday, March 12, 2015**, in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Public Hearing Room at the following times and on the following items:

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Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ

Position: Director, Department of Administration

Nomination of BEN ANTHONY B. REYES

Position: Member, Cockpit License Board


Nomination of KATHRINE B. KAKIGI











Position: Classified Government of Guam Employee Member, Banking and Insurance Board

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Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Chairman – Committee on Finance & Taxation,
General Government Operations, and Youth Development
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 33rd Guam Legislature



Legislative Hearing
Thursday, March 12, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Public Hearing Room
I Liheslaturan Guåhan

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Opening Remarks/Announcements

III. Items for Public Consideration

Bill No. 7-33 (COR), introduced by **D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.**: AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HAZARDOUS PAY DIFFERENTIAL FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER IN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS HAZARDOUS DUTY WORKING CONDITIONS, BY ADDING A NEW §86112 TO CHAPTER 86, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

Bill No. 11-33 (COR), introduced by **D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.**: AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL PAY PLAN CATEGORY IN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM COMPETITIVE WAGE ACT OF 2014, AND REINSTATE THE PRIOR PAY PLAN RATE FOR THESE POSITIONS, AND MANDATE A REASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SALARY RANGES SO AS TO BE COMPETITIVE BASED UPON NATIONAL STANDARDS.

Bill No. 27-33 (COR), introduced by **F.B. Aguon, Jr.**: AN ACT RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING THAT PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WITH SUPERIOR RATINGS IN FISCAL YEAR 2002 WERE NOT COMPENSATED FOR MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN §6203, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT BONUS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002; AND PROVIDING FOR SUCH PAYMENTS.

Bill No. 46-33 (COR), introduced by **D.G. Rodriguez, Jr.**: AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 6235 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 6, 4 GCA, RELATIVE TO PROVIDING A PAY INCENTIVE TO GOVERNMENT OF GUAM LINE AGENCY'S, THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE OBTAINED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINER, AND CERTIFIED INTERNAL AUDITOR CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO RECOGNIZED NATIONAL STANDARDS TO PRESERVE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM'S ABILITY TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN SUCH PROFESSIONALS.

Nomination of ANTHONY C. BLAZ

Position: Director, Department of Administration

Nomination of BEN ANTHONY B. REYES

Position: Member, Cockpit License Board

Nomination of KATHRINE B. KAKIGI

Position: Classified Government of Guam Employee Member, Banking and Insurance Board

IV. Closing Remarks

V. Adjournment



Contentious hearing for Tony Blaz as DOA director

Posted: Mar 12, 2015 5:23 PM

Updated: Apr 02, 2015 6:23 PM

By Ken Quintanilla **CONNECT**

A rather heated confirmation hearing went down at the Guam Legislature Thursday afternoon on the nomination for former senator Tony Blaz as the director of the Department of Administration. While several former colleagues testified in support of Blaz, noting how much of a true public servant he is, others like Vice Speaker BJ Cruz grilled him on costs for the Competitive Wage Act.

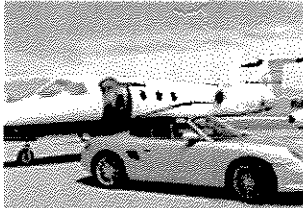
"I'm just saying if we were bringing you from the outside, I could give you some slack; you've been at Department of Administration even before Ms. (Benita) Manglona, right? So, I'm just asking shouldn't we have that fairly close at hand just a general? Even my colleague here is whispering in my ear that it's \$20 million. Blaz responded by saying, "I don't have the specific numbers, it could be higher, it could be lower?"

Cruz then said, "He can guesstimate and he's not even the director? How much is the CWA costing us?" Blaz said, "I guess I don't have the specific amount, but I can get to you after this is done, I don't have the number in front of me."

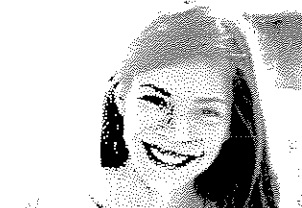
Blaz is a five-term senator and chaired the committees on finance and taxation along with ways and means. He previously served as the director of BBMR and the deputy director of DOA.

The Governor's Office meanwhile expressed their disappointment about how Blaz and his predecessor Manglona were treated during the hearing. While Manglona was testifying in support of Blaz's confirmation, Adelup contends it turned into an oversight hearing. "Instead of focusing on the purpose of the hearing, Vice Speaker BJ Cruz started grilling her on the hay study with the apparent approval of Senator Michael San Nicolas. Cruz is asking questions without having provided Manglona, Blaz, or anyone else the professional and common courtesy of informing them that these questions would be posed," a representative stated.

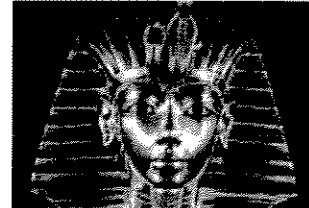
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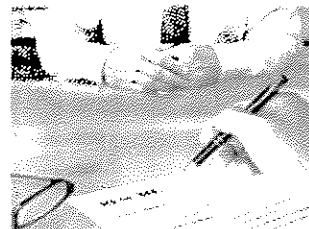
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Blaz confirmation draws fire

FRIDAY, 13 MAR 2015 03:00AM

BY LOUELLA LOSINIO | VARIETY NEWS STAFF



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YESTERDAY'S confirmation hearing for Anthony Blaz, the governor's nominee for the position of Department of Administration director, took a confrontational turn as acting Speaker Benjamin Cruz probed former DOA Director Benita Manglona instead, grilling her on the implementation of the controversial Competitive Wage Act.

Cruz asked questions on the increases given to agency heads after the statute took effect as well as what he described as the "failure" of the government team to provide information on the raises.

Once Cruz started his questioning, Manglona answered that she was only there to provide support for Blaz's confirmation.



Anthony Blaz

In response, Cruz said: "You brought yourself before this committee to testify and my questions, if they are going to be related to Mr. Blaz, would be on how DOA has handled the CWA. Ms. Manglona, you have been the director since the beginning of this administration. When the CWA was implemented in early February, do you recall getting a FOIA from Sen. Ben Pangelinan?"

Manglona answered that she does not recall any specific document, adding her office receives a lot of FOIA requests. At that point, Cruz provided the former DOA director with a copy of the FOIA and the response, which was dated March 5, 2014.

The late Sen. Ben Pangelinan, who previously chaired the committee on appropriations, had requested a report outlining the annual salary amount by position as identified in the resubmitted executive state plan.

Salary

Cruz pointed out that Manglona mentioned receiving a salary of \$90,255 at the executive pay level at that time.

Cruz then asked what the salary of the DOA director was following the enactment of Bill 1 (8-S), now P.L. 32-208, last Nov. 21. The measure was passed in a special session called by then-acting Gov. Ray Tenorio.

According to Manglona, the director's salary was raised to \$102,000 and the governor has the prerogative to assign different pay steps depending on the performance and experience of each director.

All three directors of DOA, the Department of Revenue and Taxation and the Bureau of Budget and Management Research had their salaries raised to \$102,000 per year.

Cruz noted that Adelup's management team also received substantial raises.

Cruz then asked if the legislature was informed of the salary rates and if there was any attachment to the special session bill that gave the governor the authorization to make the increases.

Manglona said it is her understanding that the governor had latitude in making those decisions, but she also stressed that the increases were a team decision, based on the performance of each agency head.

Adelup response

Adelup responded to the grilling at the legislature yesterday by issuing a release raising concerns on what they see as "senators hijacking the confirmation hearing for their own political agenda."

The release noted that at what "should have been a confirmation hearing for Department of Administration acting Director Tony Blaz, Democrat senators turned into a grilling session for former Director Benita Manglona."

"Manglona attended Blaz's hearing and approached senators to testify on Mr. Blaz's behalf as the acting director and potentially the new director. Instead of focusing on the purpose of the hearing, Vice Speaker BJ Cruz started grilling her on the Hay Study with the apparent approval of Sen. Michael San Nicolas. Cruz is asking questions without having provided Manglona, Blaz, or anyone else the professional and common courtesy of informing them that these questions would be posed," Adelup stated.

Favorable testimony

Despite the controversy which erupted in the confirmation hearing, Blaz received favorable testimony from his colleagues.

Civil Service Commission Director Tony Lamorena said the nominee is a true public servant "whose heart is for the people of Guam."

"I really think we should continue his service to the people of Guam for the betterment of Guam. It has always been my pleasure to have worked side by side with Tony," Lamorena said.

Lamorena also referred to the time when both served as agency heads under former governor Joseph Ada. Blaz was then the director of the Public Utility Agency of Guam while he served as head of CAHA.

Joanne Brown, Port of Guam general manager, also noted the nominee's "years of experience on both sides of the aisle," including Blaz's stint as the vice speaker of a prior legislature.

"There is no doubt that he has the years of experience and the dedication and drive for public service," Brown said.



Blaz's confirmation on hold pending tax refunds

Posted: Mar 18, 2015 5:43 PM

Updated: Apr 02, 2015 2:54 PM

By Ken Quintanilla **CONNECT**

Despite enduring a very heated confrontation with lawmakers during his confirmation hearing last week, acting Department of Administration director Tony Blaz is notably absent from this current session agenda. That's because one senator has decided to hold off on Blaz's confirmation until tax refunds are paid.

Senator Michael San Nicolas says he will not move forward with the confirmation of Blaz as the director of DOA just yet. Prior to Blaz's March 12 confirmation hearing, San Nicolas raised several concerns over a significant drop in deposits into the Income Tax Refund Efficient Payment Trust Fund. San Nicolas says despite Blaz stating they were being compliant with the law, he was unsure how much DOA had been depositing into the account. In turn, San Nicolas, who has oversight over DOA, says he would not move forward with Blaz's confirmation unless a deposit is made into the account within the next 30 working days and tax refunds are paid out.

Governor Eddie Calvo in response questions the delay, saying, "It's another partisan act that Senator San Nicolas is pulling on our administration, just to - for whatever reason - to make trouble or make a crisis when there is no crisis."

It was on February 20 when tax refunds were last paid out, \$1.3 million for those who filed up to January 16. Governor Calvo says tax refunds are being paid out on time, noting there was a time when tax refunds were 60 months delayed and now it's more like 60 days instead. "I think our administration, our fiscal team, has done a terrific job in getting out tax refunds," said the chief executive. "So with that, I'm hopeful that Senator San Nicolas could stop playing politics, get his ratified and then call whatever hearings you want to have, and then sit down with us and we'll talk to you and our administration will get to you our payment plan on paying out the tax refunds."

So when exactly will tax refunds be paid out? Blaz in a statement to KUAM News says he actually met with San Nicolas on Tuesday where the democratic senator asked the same thing. Blaz says "That April is when collections are at its peak and refunds are paid accordingly as this administration has been doing." Blaz says while they might have a few disagreements along the way, he's glad that San Nicolas shares the same goal of paying out refunds. He says, "At the end of the day, the governor has said paying tax refunds will get done and we've been able to do that, while also making sure that our government continues to operate smoothly."

San Nicolas in the meantime says, "We need to recognize that in the last few years, we have used borrowed money to help pay for tax refunds. Going forward, in order for tax refunds to always be paid on time year after year, we need to ensure that DO is depositing the required amount."

In the meantime, Senator Tommy Morrison sent a letter to Senator San Nicolas today, urging him to reconsider his decision to withhold Blaz's confirmation. Morrison says holding Blaz's nomination hostage sets a dangerous precedent and calls for consideration instead by the full legislature. He says "unnecessary discourse is being created among several senators and some members in the community" and that Blaz's nomination "should not be withheld for anyone's personal or political agenda."

San Nicolas in response says contrary to Morrison's opinion, he believes discussion is necessary and the precedence of holding nominees accountable to our people is very proper.

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San Nicolas Says "Holding Nominees Accountable to Our People is Very Proper"

Guam - Senator Tommy Morrison is calling for a decision on the nomination of Tony Blaz as the director of the Department of Administration.



Senator Tommy Morrison issued a press release today(Weds.) saying that the decision by Senator Mike San Nicolas to hold Tony Blaz's nomination to DOA "hostage" sets a dangerous precedent Yesterday(Tues.) Senator San Nicolas told PNC that he would hold Blaz's nomination in his committee until a substantial payment is made into the tax refund trust fund account. San Nicolas has questioned the slow payment of tax refunds and has said that the tax refund trust fund account is short by about \$12 million dollars based on GovGuam collection reports. Today Senator Morrison sent a letter to Senator San Nicolas today urging him to place Blaz's nomination before the entire legislative body. Morrison says that Blaz has served more than 30 years in both the private and public sectors. The Senator also writes that he possesses the knowledge experience and leadership skills required of the director of administration. Senator Morrison also points out that Blaz who is a former Vice-Speaker of the legislature, received overwhelming support during his confirmation hearing last week. Senator San Nicolas responded issuing a release saying that "the precedence of holding nominees accountable to our people is very proper." San Nicolas says he is withholding Blaz's nomination because "the legally required deposits into the income tax refund efficient payment fund are not being made by the DOA director, and that has caused delays in tax refund payments that are hurting our people." Governor Eddie Calvo congratulated Senator Morrison for "standing up to Senator Mike San Nicolas" in a release the Governor says in part that Senator San Nicolas' unilateral effort to freeze a confirmation is unacceptable.

Senator praises DOA on tax refund progress

Apr 9, 2015 | 3 Comments

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Written by **Shawn Raymundo**
Pacific Daily News

Within the last few weeks, the Calvo administration has released \$12 million in tax refund payments, bringing their total amount paid this year to more than \$15 million.

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"I'm glad the income tax refunds have picked up pace with \$12 million being paid in the last few weeks compared to just \$3.1 million in the first few months of this year," said Sen. Mike San Nicolas in an emailed statement.

On March 17, San Nicolas withheld Anthony Blaz's confirmation as Department of Administration director from session because of discrepancies with the government's bank account for tax refund payments.



San Nicolas

Blaz currently is DOA's acting director and previously served as the agency's deputy director. Last year, Gov. Eddie Calvo appointed him to the director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research and nominated him for DOA director in February.

San Nicolas said, between October, the start of the 2015 fiscal year, and February, DOA hadn't been depositing the mandatory percentage of income tax revenues into the Income Tax Refund Efficient Payment Trust Fund as required by law.

In his announcement to withhold Blaz's confirmation, San Nicolas said he wouldn't be moving the nomination forward unless DOA made a "substantial deposit" into the Efficient Payment account within 30 working days and more tax refunds were issued.

DOA, this week, released the March bank statement for the account, which revealed that \$9.5 million had been deposited last month.

"This is good progress and the administration is doing a good job getting to the level of legally mandated deposits into the income tax refund trust fund," San Nicolas said, adding, "I am excited to see even more deposits and payouts in the weeks ahead with more

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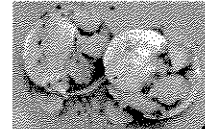
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Wednesday, 22 April 2015

San Nicolas to Report Out Blaz Nomination

Written by Clynt Ridgell (/government/legislature/itemlist/user/150-clynt-ridgell)



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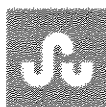
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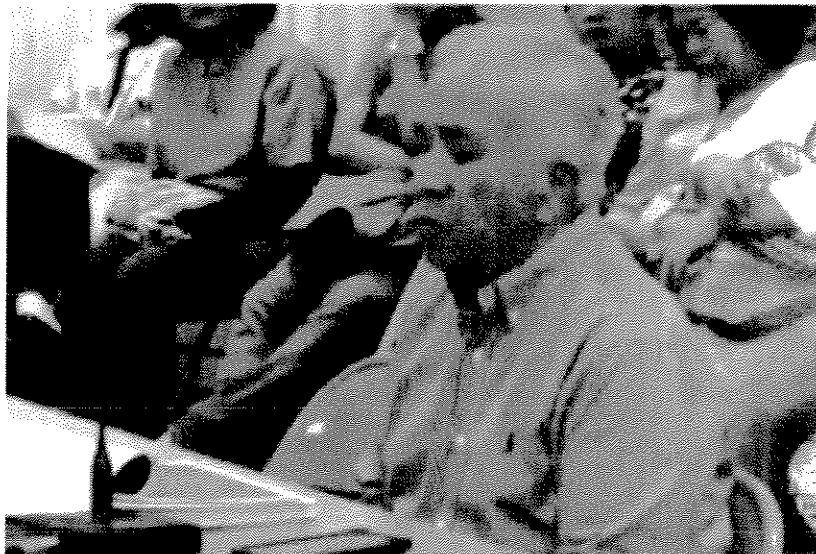
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Tony Blaz's Nomination as DOA Director Should Go Up For Vote During April Session

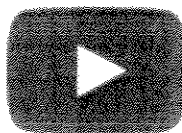
Guam - Senator Mike San Nicolas says he's ready to report out the nomination of acting DOA Director Tony Blaz.



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San Nicolas had been holding Blaz's nomination in his committee until more tax refunds were payed out and now that the administration has begun paying out more tax refunds the Senator is pleased and says he will report Blaz's nomination out of his committee. This means that Blaz's nomination can be put on the session floor in April for a vote by the Guam legislature. Senator San Nicolas originally held up Blaz's confirmation because Guam law requires that a certain percentage of tax collections be automatically deposited into Guam's tax refund account but the deposits were not being made.

"He's met the expectation of getting more deposits into the account and we're looking forward to being able to move the nomination forward in the April session. However, we're not going to be closing the door on the whole tax refund question. I do have a resolution on stand by asking the courts for a declaratory judgement to require those deposits if in the event after his confirmation the deposits start dropping off we're gonna make sure that we have a back up plan to get them ramped up back up again if in the event they discontinue for any reason," said Senator San Nicolas.

Only \$3.1 million in tax refunds had been paid from January to March 12th. However, after Senator San Nicolas held Blaz's nomination, DOA paid out \$27 million in tax refunds.

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by : Beatrice Garrido (/government/legislature/itemlist/user/5021-beatrice-garrido) (Thursday, 23 April 2015 18:09)

It's my hope that if Blaz is confirmed, that he get a spokesperson. It's to insure that the public gets clear and concise information from this agency.

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by : Hafa Talu (/government/legislature/itemlist/user/5130-hafa-talu) (Thursday, 23 April 2015 19:12)

Did will Castro pay off his 100,000 dollars student loan from the University of Guam? Is he currently paying the loan? If not he shouldn't be confirmed until a pay plan is in place....The media should do a follow up on his debt to the University...