



Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina' Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE TOURS THE LIFE FIRE TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX

Hagatna, Guam – Members of the 35th Guam Legislature took a tour of the Live Fire Training Range Complex and the endangered *Serianthes Nelsonii* tree today. Speaker Tina Rose Muna Barnes, the oversight chairwoman on the Committee on the Guam Buildup organized this site visit in response to a request from Minority Leader Wil Castro, Senator Telo Taitague, Senator Louise B. Muna and Senator Therese Terlaje.

“As Policy-Makers, I believe it is imperative that we get firsthand knowledge of the issues before we create Public Policy” stated the Speaker. Yesterday, the Speaker had received a subsequent request from Senator Therese Terlaje to tour historic archaeological sites as well. “I had my staff reach out to Joint Region Marianas and this will be a subsequent tour I will be taking my colleagues on” stated Muña Barnes.

The Speaker would like to thank Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield for the opportunity. In a courtesy introductory meeting held in January, the Speaker and the Rear Admiral had committed to having an open dialogue between the Navy and the Oversight Chair with regards to the Guam Military Buildup. Each time the Speaker raised a concern, the Rear Admiral came to the table and presented facts to answer the queries of the Speaker. “It is unfortunate to see a colleague leave us, but I do hope that Joint Region Marianas under the leadership of Rear Admiral (select) John V. Menoni, will continue to work with the Guam Legislature” says the Speaker in regard to the announcement of Rear Admiral Chatfield’s appointment to the Naval War College.

Over the last several weeks, the Committee on the Guam Buildup and the Leon Guerrero Tenorio Administration have held numerous meetings to understand the needs of our local regulatory and enforcement agencies with regards to the Buildup. “During our meetings, it was apparent that we as a government can improve the capabilities of our regulatory agencies - I have been assured by the Administration that the upcoming budget request will have an appropriation to amplify personnel that are lacking” concluded Speaker Muña Barnes.

"Seeing is believing. I've heard the grievances and read the complaints. The site visit is one way to validate what is really going on; establishing a legislative fact-finding investigative committee should be our next step." says Minority Leader Wil Castro.



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The Speaker asked Rear Admiral Chatfield the status of the contract for the Firing Range closest to the *Serianthes Nelsonii*. The Speaker, through the months of dialogue and her research, had discovered that the firing range closest to the endangered tree would not be awarded for another eight to ten months. Rear Admiral Chatfield corroborated the statement, and further corroborated Speaker Muna-Barnes' claim that the earliest that the contract would be awarded to project P-735 the Multi-Point Machine Gun Range would not be until March.

The Project that has been awarded is P-715. P-715, the Live Fire Training Range is not the range closest to the *Serianthes Nelsonii*.

The Speaker attended the briefing but did not hike to the tree due to an impending family emergency. She did tour the tree a few weeks ago.

For questions, kindly contact Chirag Bhojwani, Communications Director at 671-486-7016 or chirag.speakertmb@gmail.com

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