



Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Lihešlaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

September 8, 2022

*Transmitted via Electronic Mail:*

**Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson**

*Commander Joint Region Marianas*

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**SUBJECT:** Public Access at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Programmatic Agreement Workshop

*Håfa Adai* Rear Admiral Nicholson:

As I discussed with you at the start of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Programmatic Agreement (PA) Workshop meeting on September 8, 2022, the public should have full access to this annual PA workshop meeting to hear firsthand information regarding the treatment of our historic properties and receive an update on the Department of Defense's compliance with the 2011 Programmatic Agreement. My office requested in advance of today's meeting by email a virtual link to the meeting but was not provided a link or a response until 10:00 a.m. after the meeting had already started and many important projects such as the Live Fire Training Range Complex, the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range, the Urban Combat Training Range Complex and Camp Blaz were discussed. Several community stakeholders who also RSVPed and requested a virtual link contacted my office days prior to the meeting because they did not receive a response either to their requests.

I have attended the last five annual programmatic agreement workshop meetings since 2017 and each year I have asked for the public to be included. This is the first year that public and media participation was denied to my recollection. Eventually, a virtual link and public access was allowed today, but not before 4 major DoD projects were discussed despite my request to pause those discussions until the public was included.

I am requesting that the recording of today's meeting and tomorrow's meeting be shared with my office and the public so that they can hear updates regarding our historic sites. I am also requesting that the Public Access program as promised in the 2011 Programmatic Agreement be shared and promoted widely with the people of Guam and should include tours of any of the remaining historic sites and properties within the footprints of these construction projects so that the community can see and feel the cultural landscapes in their rawest forms that will soon be displaced and occupied by these military facilities. I am asking that you go beyond the minimum requirements of the 2011 Programmatic Agreement in good faith to ensure our community stakeholders are included in these activities and consistently informed regarding our cultural and historic sites, cultural landscapes, and ancestral burials.

Sincerely,

Therese M. Terlaje

Speaker, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature

cc: Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick Lujan

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