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NEWS RELEASE

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Politics At Its Worst

Once again, we see that Governor Leon Guerrero will not miss an opportunity to malign those who do not toe her administration's official line even if she has to manufacture her own facts. She equates questioning how teacher pay raises were implemented to not supporting the raises. What a ridiculous notion.

Governor Leon Guerrero attempted to cover up her disregard for Public Law by deflecting blame and obfuscating the truth. In her August 15th news release accusing me and Senator Frank Blas of opposing the teacher pay raises, she attempted to draw attention away from her intentional disregard for the salary study and pay adjustment laws of the Government of Guam. She even stated that her actions were in line with those taken by former Governor Eddie Calvo despite the fact that Governor Calvo followed the law and she did not.

When I, Senator Frank Blas, and others attempted to validate the Administration's finding, recommendations and implementation of the pay raises given to various classes of position in the government of Guam, including teachers, it became apparent that the Director of Administration intentionally and continually evaded questions about the laws and procedures that were followed to arrive at his findings. He also gave similar non-answers about how the administration was going to pay for the implementation of the increases at the time the initial recommendations were made.

Public Law requires that wage study and recommendations be submitted to the Speaker of the Legislature by September 30, 2022. My colleagues and I have yet to see any such study. While we certainly believe that teachers deserve a pay raise, the manner in which it was implemented remains suspect. What we have from the governor is a partial and selective salary proposal done behind closed doors on the eve of an election.

Neither I, Senator Blas or any of my colleagues ever said that we are opposed to any pay raises and our questioning of the administration's processes should not be construed as such. All we asked of the Director of Administration is how these pay raises are to be paid for now and in the future. We expected clear, concise and accurate information and we didn't get it.