



I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 36TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Senator Frank F. Blas Jr.

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July 20, 2021

Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'Hagan Guahån
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Adelup, Guam

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero,

Hafa Adai! I write this letter in support of Senator James Moylan's request that you use your Organic Act authority to call the Legislature into session to address how the implementation of Public Law 35-136 can be simplified, expanded, and expedited to get much needed financial assistance into the hands of our people. I join Senator Moylan in recognizing the urgency in this matter and ask that you reconsider your sentiment that this has not risen to a point needing immediate attention.

In January of this year, you allowed the legislation creating the RISE Act to lapse into law, and in May, through Executive Order, expanded the eligibility of the program to include more people. To reiterate your reasoning then, you believed that "...aid to more families will have a greater impact on the financial well-being of our community." I agree with your reasoning and now ask that you also see the urgency and need to simplify and expedite the process.

Many people have expressed their frustration with the requirements and the length of time it takes for their government to address the immediate needs of the community. They have lamented of the many assurances of expedient assistance, only to be confronted with excuses and delays. Their anger and discontent stems way before this current matter, and for many, it goes as far back as waiting for hours to finally receive food commodities right after they were laid off because the place they worked at was ordered to be closed.

As in my previous letter that I am hopeful you have already received, the urgency and need to address the financial welfare of our community cannot be overly emphasized. I have been receiving calls from people who were seeking assistance in paying for their overdue water and power bills. Conversations in chat groups tell of a rise in thefts and the increase in the prices of food and merchandise in the stores. And in as much as businesses are beginning to re-open, the reality is that there will still be thousands of individuals without a job when the federally funded unemployment and business recovery assistance ends. The expedient release of the All RISE Act money will significantly help.

Again, please recognize and reconsider your position in this matter so that we can collectively and expeditiously implement the All RISE Act. Our people need and expect us to work together, but more importantly, our people need help, and we have an opportunity to provide that to them.

I pray for your reconsideration and stand ready to work with you and your administration on this and many other matters to help our people and our island get through this pandemic and the challenges it has brought.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FF Blas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

cc: Lieutenant Governor of Guam
All Senators, 36th Guam Legislature
All Media