

Local

Rota backs destination enhancement initiative

Rota has answered the call for support for the CNMI's destination enhancement campaign.

The Rota Mayor's Office, Filipino Community of Rota, or FILCOR, and Hotel Valentino have signed up with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership, an initiative that encourages both the private and public sectors to help maintain and develop parks, landmarks, and tourist sites on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Under their five-year commitment to PPP, the Rota Mayor's Office, FILCOR, and Hotel Valentino have adopted the Songsong Village

and the Pinatang Park. The three groups have proposed to spruce up the old abandoned buildings at the main thoroughfare of Songsong and the concrete fence of the park.

Typhoons, businesses folding up, and residents moving out have left Rota with many abandoned buildings, while time and lack of funds for maintenance

CUC, mayor's office, Docomo tie up for tree trimming work

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Docomo Pacific recently agreed to collaborate with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to perform tree trimming on the electrical grid and digital cable throughout

have caused the continued deterioration of the concrete fence of Pinatang Park—a seawater park with several channels out to the open sea.

To start with their improvement project, the Rota Mayor's Office, FILCOR, and Hotel Valentino will be doing paint jobs in some parts of the abandoned buildings and

Saipan, which will kick off tomorrow, Oct. 13, 2020, starting on Isa Drive.

Tree trimming will be done on the High Voltage Primary and Secondary Transmission systems where power lines and Docomo Pacific's digital cable are suspended. This work will be performed to protect the integrity and reliability of both power grid and cable service.

According to a CUC statement, the collaboration identifies the importance of these systems and assuring resiliency and better quality of service. "This is one of the many ways that can build, maintain and share the cost of long-term maintenance on these vital service links," the CUC statement added.

trimming overgrown shrubs. They will also plant flowers and grow foliage in the target areas. The Pinatang Park fence will be assessed first so they could come up with a repair plan.

"We are excited to collaborate with Hotel Valentino and FILCOR and support the Public Private Partnership initiative. This program will allow members of our community to

In the event that a power interruption is required, then all protocols will be followed to ensure that the community is informed in advance.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to both Mayor Apatang and Docomo Pacific CNMI for assisting in protecting our critical infrastructure and community," said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho in the statement.

CUC regularly performs tree trimming and vegetation control around its power transmission and distribution infrastructure in order to minimize the chance of a power interruption during any kind of environmental event, typhoon, high winds, and heavy rains. *(Saipan Tribune)*

assist in helping beautify our island. My staff are ready to assist and intend to use this time we have now to help address the eyesore issue (abandoned buildings) that many members of our community have expressed concern with," said Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig.

FILCOR president Jesusa Calvo said their group believes that the beautification project isn't just about impressing neighboring islands

and visitors, but also about how residents work together to make a difference in the community they live in.

"The island is home to us and it's our responsibility to take care of the place that welcomed us with open arms. Since I came here in 1992, I always hear people saying 'Na'gatbo Luta,' which means 'Beautify Rota.' We want help do that. Together we can," Calvo said. *(PR)*

NMTI: 5 members a no-show at board meeting

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Only two board members showed up at a special meeting of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board last Friday, Oct. 9, resulting in a lack of quorum that abruptly cancelled the meeting.

Of the seven board members, only Richard Kautz and Deron Mendiola showed up, with latter present virtually. NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres was also present.

The board meeting was announced last Oct. 7 for a special meeting on Oct. 9 at 10am at the NMTI's facility. There was no announcement of a cancellation prior to the meeting.

The NMTI board members were to go over new business such as NMTI's reopening plans, alternative funding sources, and review of board chair Mario Valentino's letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. Both McPhetres and Kautz declined to comment on the line-item vetoes that Gov.

Ralph DLG Torres did on the fiscal year 2021 budget, particularly the one that affects NMTI, saying it would be appropriate to wait for the other board members.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres line-item vetoed the CW fund allocation that would have given NMTI and the Northern Marianas College \$600,000 and \$800,000 respectively for their vocational educational curricula, apprenticeships, or other training programs.

Additionally, the bill would have permitted the transfer of the CW funds to NMTI, provided that \$50,000 of the funds is reserved each for Rota's and Tinian's training programs. The bill would also allow the transfer of the CW fund to NMC provided that \$50,000 of the funds allocated to NMC shall be used for the Nursing Program equipment and supplies.

Another board meeting will be scheduled to talk about new business. Additionally, NMTI board members will also discuss the status of the employees such as annual leaves.

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- ☑ And if you are worried about your future livelihood, again, please consider voting for Manglona, Glenn H., #2 on the ballot

If elected on November 3, 2020, I will introduce the following revenue generating measures to help our people and to fund our retirees' pension, CHCC, CUC, PSS/NMTI, NMC, Youth Programs, Aging Programs, Medical Referrals, and to pay off our gov't debts.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Public Law 18-56, the exclusive gaming license within the Commonwealth and to authorize the creation of the CNMI's Casino Corporation that will be owned by people of the Commonwealth who are eighteen years of age (18) and who are Northern

Marianas Decent (NMD's) and/or US citizens; and for other purposes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize the creation of a public / private partnership/corporation that will explore the commercialization of the seafloor massive sulfides (SMS)

at the second Marianas arc thereby stimulating the marine and ocean science manufacturing industry; and for other purposes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize the establishment and creation of a CNMI flagged airline

as a public corporation; and for other purposes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize and create a public/private development of the Lao-Lao Bay Water Park and Board Walk; and for other purposes.

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