



# NEWSLETTER

## PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

September 2020

### Board of Directors

**Francisco G. Santos**  
*Chairman*

**Nathan T. Taimanglo**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Isa Marie C. Koki**  
*Board Secretary*

### Port Management

**Rory J. Respicio**  
*General Manager*

**Dominic G. Muna**  
*Deputy General  
Manager, Operations*

**Luis R. Baza**  
*Deputy General Manager,  
Administration & Finance*



### Board Unanimously Approves FY 2021 Budget



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### Notices

Under Governor Lou Leon Guerrero's Executive Order No. 2020-30, Guam continues to be in Pandemic Condition of Readiness 1 (PCOR1). Anyone entering the Port must wear a mask at all times. Port employees and tenants may obtain the latest guidelines and information relating to the Port Authority of Guam and COVID-19 by visiting our website at: <https://www.portofguam.com/covid-19-guidelines-and-information>

The Port Authority of Guam Board of Directors unanimously approved the agency's Fiscal Year 2021 budget on September 24, 2020.

The budget that the board approved during their monthly meeting takes a conservative approach based on zero-based budgeting principles. The FY21 approved Operating budget is \$47,833,255. The previous Fiscal Year budget for 2020 was \$48,011,259.

"The approved FY21 budget is aligned with the Leon Guerrero Tenorio Administration and Board's vision and goals and it keeps the Port fiscally responsible," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "This budget was prepared with a 'zero-based budgeting' mindset and focuses on fiscal discipline along with realistic spending plans while identifying continued potential cost savings. I am pleased that the Board recognized that this FY21 budget represents our best estimation of the resources, operational and capital requirements for the upcoming fiscal year. This budget builds our financial posture to meet our operational needs and exceeds the minimum requirements of the bond raters."

The Port's revenue projection for FY21 is based on the revenue collected from March 2020 through July

2020 and extrapolated over 12 months and projects federal reimbursements which provides a conservative revenue projection of \$48,063,533, which is roughly \$1.0M million less from last year's revenue estimate.

The FY19 budget included salaries and benefits that were not budgeted by \$2 million due to implementing a 25th market percentile salary. Through prudent fiscal management, strong internal controls, and cost containment, the Port managed to maintain the initial budget expense figure, absorbing the \$2 million shortfall and allocating \$3.1 million for past personnel issues. Because of these measures, the Port finished FY19 with a net income of \$3.5 million. The Port went from a loss of \$103 thousand in FY18 to earning nearly \$7.5 million in just one year. In the face of all the financial challenges the Port experienced in FY19, the agency accomplished a Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) of 2.3, almost a 100% increase as compared to the bond indenture requirement of a 1.25 ratio. The Port also notably improved the Daily Cash on Hand from 869 days to 966 days. A copy of the approved FY21 budget can be found on the Port's website at [www.portofguam.com](http://www.portofguam.com)

During the past several years the Port Authority of Guam has executed key modernization efforts through the Port Improvement Program which consists of the Modernization Plans and the Sustainability Plans for the agency. These plans have been funded by federal grants, bank loans, Port funds and the 2018 Port Revenue Bonds.

In its latest round of awards, the Port recently received a \$1.6 million grant from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), through the Office of the Governor, for the Port and its Owner's Agent Engineer (OAE) WSP USA Inc. to embark on a massive initiative to update the 2013 Port Master Plan. The primary objective of the 2020 Master Plan Update is to accurately and effectively articulate the Port's continued near and long term vision to modernize its facilities, infrastructure, systems and operations.

The \$1.6 million will fund the following projects:

- 2020 Master Plan Update
- Customs Inspection Facility Feasibility Study
- Port Solar Power Energy Feasibility Study
- PAG, Port Users Group of Guam (PUGG), and Customs Systems Integration
- Updated/Comprehensive PAG Wharves Conditional Assessment (F1 – F6)
- STS Crane Program Support
- Future Tariff Analysis
- IT Support
- Environmental, Health, and Safety Program Support
- CIP Program Support

Early in July 2020, Port management commenced its weekly meetings with representatives from WSP USA Inc. to define the Port Authority's near-term and long-term approach to modernization, to maintain fiscally sustainable operations and to promote increased awareness and consensus on its approach among all affected stakeholders. Since then, the team spearheaded by Strategic Planning Division, has been meeting with division heads and Port tenants and stakeholders to attain their input for the 2020 Port Master Plan.

The Port Authority has had a long standing relationship with the Office of Economic Adjustment and for the past several years they have been a key element in the Port obtaining federal funding to support and execute endeavors to develop Guam's only seaport. "Our partnership with OEA has been a critical component of our modernization program and the aggressive projects funded under this Program supports the necessary upgrades that will further enhanced the Port's core capabilities and resiliency", said General Manager Rory Respicio.

Also recently awarded to the Port was a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs under the Maintenance Assistance Program for the Welding Shop Project. The award of \$240,325.00 is matched with Port funds of \$240,325.00, for a total project cost of \$480,650.00 and is earmarked for two separate projects. The first project is the repair and Hardening of the Welding Shop for the procurement of roll up doors for the three open bays at the Welding Shop and to make repairs to concrete spalling within the Welding Shop. The purpose of the roll up doors is to mitigate damage to the building as well as equipment contained within the Welding Shop from both storms as well as everyday salt spray damage. The concrete spalling repair is to ensure employee safety as well as extend the life of the structure. The second project is the procurement of Specialized Welding Equipment to include a Stud Welder and Multi-Operator Welding Rack. The purpose of the new equipment is to increase efficiency of the Welding Shop in repairing the Port's Ship-to-Shore Gantry cranes in addition to other heavy equipment. The period of performance for this grant will run from August 5, 2020 through September 30, 2023.

Since the adoption of the 2013 Port Master Plan, millions of dollars in federal monies have been awarded to the Agency allowing the completion of numerous capital improvement projects, the acquisition of heavy duty cargo equipment and sustainability projects that are ongoing today. And still the Port continues to advance the modernization efforts to prepare for the future and to support all the stakeholder's reliance on the Port's services for the efficient delivery of basic good and commodities.



At the forefront of this effort is the Strategic Planning Division whose primary responsibility is to pursue federal grants to fund the Port's modernization projects. The office recently applied for federal grants totaling a little over \$23 million from various federal agencies for the following projects – Warehouse 1 Hardening Project, Installation of a Fuel Pipeline System for F1 Pier and Golf Pier Connectivity, Acquisition of Specialized Container Yard Equipment, Maintenance Support Project for PAG Welding Shop, Government Finance Training Program, and Wharves Service Life Extension-Ground Improvements project to improve the condition of F4, and F6. In addition to these grant applications, Strategic Planning is in the process of applying for approximately \$30 million in funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA)

for the purchase of 2 ship-to-shore gantry cranes and approximately \$15 million from United States Department of Agriculture for the purchase of a third ship-to-shore gantry crane.

The collaborative efforts and working relationship of the Board of Directors, Management, personnel, and Port Users have greatly contributed to the Port's success in accomplishing these milestones. Having completed major objectives, the Port is now better positioned to meet the demands associated with ongoing military buildup projects, organic growth, and the region's growing population. Today's self-sustaining Port reflects a dramatic growth in cargo activity and the dedication of its 368 Port Strong employees, all of whom are committed to providing efficient and reliable services.



### Port Pleased with Court's Decision in FOIA Lawsuit

Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio said that he is pleased with a ruling issued in Superior Court denying Attorney Tom Fisher's requests in a FOIA lawsuit he filed against the agency.

"We have said from the beginning that we fully complied with Mr. Fisher's FOIA request and we substantiated our compliance through documents and declarations," Respicio said. "Even the judge acknowledged that it appears that the email system being utilized by Mr. Fisher's law firm was not working properly."

Fisher filed a lawsuit claiming the Port never responded to a FOIA request, however, the Port did comply on the day required and emailed Mr. Fisher 63 pages of documents. The Port provided the court copies of the screen shots of the FOIA response email sent to Fisher as well as declarations by staff that the emails had been sent. The court noted that officials from the Attorney General's Office attempted to email Fisher but those emails were bounced back as

the law firm's email inbox was full and could not accept any more incoming correspondence.

Fisher asked Superior Court Judge Anita A. Sukola to issue sanctions against Respicio and the judge denied that request on her September 10, 2020 decision. Sukola added in her ruling that she would encourage parties to communicate with each other to avoid any outstanding disputes.

The Port Authority of Guam strives to be open and transparent and that is why we have so many of our reports posted on our website. However, if an individual is looking for a specific document, the agency will accommodate any request pursuant to 5GCA Government Operations Chapter 10 Freedom of Information referred to as the Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 as long as it is allowed under law. For ease of submission and access, individuals interested in submitting a request may go to the Ports website or send an email directly to [foiarequest@portofguam.com](mailto:foiarequest@portofguam.com).

As of October 1, 2020, the Port Authority has had nine cases of employees who tested positive for COVID-19. Everyone at the Port is keeping our fellow employees in our thoughts and prayers.

With the first employee to be identified positive with COVID-19, Port management took swift measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure foremost that employees are safe and that the chain of services are not disrupted. To date, a total of 325 employees have been identified as potentially being exposed to COVID-19 and they all have been tested. Once notified, the Port Contact Tracing Team immediately contacts all employees who may have potentially been exposed to the positive individual and, in close coordination with DPHSS officials, schedules immediate testing to minimize further spread of the virus. What does “potentially exposed” mean? It means being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes.

In early September, employees from The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency fell victim to the COVID-19 virus. Five of their staff members assigned to the Port Authority Customs office tested positive. All positive customs employees were secured from the port worksite and a new crew reported to the Port to continue their operations.

As the community continues to fight COVID-19, employees are

reminded to wear a mask, keep 6 feet apart from other individuals and wash your hands often, stay home if you are sick, and disinfect high-touch surfaces frequently. These all are very important ways to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Employees are also encouraged to download the Guam COVID Alert app, an exposure notification app that has the ability to alert users if they have been exposed to other app users who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

“Our island, much like the rest of the globe, is at war with an invisible enemy. But we don’t have to fight empty handed. While we know the effectiveness of contact tracing, when done manually it can be a time consuming process for our Public Health officials,” said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. “The Guam COVID Alert app digitizes contact tracing efforts and empowers each of us to stop the spread of the virus and save lives.”

After you download GUAM COVID ALERT on your iPhone or Android, follow the app instructions to turn on your Exposure Notifications. This allows you to be notified if you’ve likely been exposed.

The Guam COVID Alert mobile app is now available for download from the App store and Google Play. For more information, visit [guamcovidalert.guam.gov](http://guamcovidalert.guam.gov).



## Deceased Crew Member Delays Matson Operations

The Port Authority of Guam delayed the beginning of operations on a Matson ship that arrived the morning of September 9th due to a deceased crew member onboard the vessel.

Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio said he was notified early that morning by Bernie Valencia, VP and General Manager of Matson Guam, that a crew member was deceased on the ship. The Matson Papa Mau was docked at the Port's F5 pier at 7:25am. The ship's previous port of call was Saipan. According to Valencia, all crew members of the Papa Mau were recently tested and all were negative.

Once notified of the deceased crew member, the Port prohibited

any operations on the vessel and instead the Port's assistant operations manager escorted four nurses on board to swab the body. Three of the public health nurses were from the Port Clinic and one was a supervisor who came down to the Port to take the lead on the swabbing of the body. The nurses were escorted off the ship and the sample taken to DPHSS for testing. The test came back negative for COVID-19.

Respicio said the situation did not delay the arrival and operations of any other vessels that were scheduled to arrive that day. Meanwhile, the Port extends its condolences to the family of the deceased as well as to Matson on the loss of their crew member.



## Port Donates Masks to Tenants

The Port Authority of Guam donated masks to Port Tenants on September 15th as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to fight COVID-19.

The donation of the masks, given to the Port by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), took place at the PAG Board of Director's Conference Room. Port officials donated the masks to Seabridge, American President Lines, Norton Lilly, Marianas Steamship, Matson, Ambyth and Pacific Development Corporation.

"We are all working together to fight COVID-19 and to keep our Port, our Tenants and our community safe during this Pandemic," said Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio. From the onset of this Pandemic, FEMA has been providing a range of federal assistance to individuals, businesses and the Government of Guam to mitigate the effects COVID-19 has had on our community. FEMA's mission is to help people before, during and after disasters.



Ferdinand Santos of Pacific Development Corporation smiles after receiving a donation of masks for his company on Tuesday from the Port Authority of Guam.

## Labor Day Care Package

Staff from Human Resources Division prepared care packages for distribution to each employee of the Port Authority of Guam. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual picnic held at Ypao Beach was canceled this year. In spite of that, General Manager Rory

Respicio and Deputy General Managers Dominic Muna and Luis Baza still wanted to express their appreciation to the employees and praised them for their outstanding efforts and hard work this past year. Biba Port Strong Employees!!



## Decontamination Training

On September 24, 2020, employees from Safety Division and Maintenance Custodial Section attended a workshop offered by The Guam Memorial Hospital Agency (GMHA) which was held at the Port Authority training room. The presentation by Patty Acfalle (Chief of Environmental Services) and Nikki Decipulo (Higher Education Science and Technology) covered the following topics:

- Types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – demonstration of proper wear and removal

- Cleaning vs Disinfecting
- Selecting, labeling, storing of cleaning/disinfecting solutions
- Demonstration on most effective procedure for applying and cleaning with disinfectant solutions

The Port's Safety Division will continue to meet with GMHA presenters to review and adopt Port-specific protocols to enhance their capabilities and more importantly, for employees to perform their duties in line with safe methods and procedures.



## Port Welcomes Engineer Manager Masoud Teimoury



The Port Authority of Guam welcomes Engineer Manager Masoud Teimoury as its newest member to the Port Strong family.

Coming from an extensive educational and professional background, Teimoury brings with him a wealth of technical knowledge and experience. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1980 with B.S. in Civil Engineering and in 1983, he graduated from the University of Louisville with a M.S. in Civil/Geotechnical Engineering. If

that wasn't enough, Teimoury embarked on yet another personal ambition which was to complete the highest level of education in his field (doctorate in environmental studies and water resources of Guam) and completed his PhD degree requirements from the University of Fairbanks, Alaska in May 2018.

A registered Professional Engineer in Guam, CNMI, and the State of Kentucky, Teimoury has over 20 years of experience in the field of Engineering Design, Environmental, Construction & Construction Management, Teaching and Research involving projects in the Mainland U.S., Guam the Northern Marianas and Micronesia for local, federal and military institutions as well as private developers. As the president of Masoud & Company, Teimoury was responsible for a

lengthy list of projects that were successfully completed under his watch.

After managing a thriving private practice for more than 20 years, Teimoury decided to join the Government of Guam work force as his way of giving back and showing his appreciation to the island community. Prior to joining the Port Authority, he held the position of Chief Engineer with the Department of Public Works for more than a year and is currently serving as the Vice-Chairman for the Guam Board of Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors.

When asked of this thoughts on the Port Modernization, Teimoury replied "In my opinion a great deal has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time and there remains plenty more to be performed. Modernization is an ongoing process that is measured by the passage of time." His goals as Port Engineer Manager are to grow the Engineering Division, be able to assist other divisions as a true team player and provide/receive cross training to and from other divisions. With experience in Harbor Engineering and as an advanced diver, he is excited to apply his diving skills in order to facilitate project inspections and expedite the completion of key projects involving the Port's wharfs.

When not busy working, Teimoury enjoys listening to a variety of music and learning new languages – he is familiar with Turkish, Persian and Arabic.

*Welcome to the Port Strong family Masoud. We are all excited for you to join us on this exciting journey as we continue to strengthen the lifeline to our island through the upgrades and modernization efforts at the Port Authority of Guam.*

## Port Employees Celebrate October Birthdays

# Happy Birthday



Gary T. Cruz  
Patrick Q. Claros  
Kevin Lee T. Cruz  
Franklin J. Santos  
Quirino B. Cabe, Jr.  
Brandon J. Carbullido  
Jason M. Castro  
Francisco C. Okazaki  
Paul A. San Nicolas  
Janice H. Flores  
Frances T. Cepeda  
Christopher J. Calip  
Ionatana Faasualmie  
Jovonne Ybarra-Reyes  
Daryl M. Movida  
Jose P. Bamba  
Junior D.N. Topasna  
John A. Santos  
Matthew J. Charfauros

Estefanie C. Cordero  
Jesse James Eclavea, Jr.  
Corey V.C. Roberto  
Derrick M. Balajadia  
Jose G. Javellana, III  
Joy R. Quichocho-Cruz  
Pete M. Castro, Jr.  
Gus Alan D. Aromin  
Joaquin P. Pangelinan  
James Y. Cruz  
Rudy Q. Sanchez  
Raymond J. Gofigan  
Zachary J. Mendiola  
Leonore V. Leon Guerrero  
Terrence J. Siguenza  
David D. Duenas  
Glenn B. Nelson  
Benjamin P. Cruz  
Cara J. Chamberlain

## Be a part of the solution. Help save lives.

Download the Guam COVID Alert App today.



Download the Department of Public Health and Social Services GUAM COVID ALERT app to help protect our island while protecting your privacy.



[guamcovidalert.guam.gov](https://guamcovidalert.guam.gov)

## Recent Port Retirees

Congratulations to the following Port Strong employees on their recent retirement! Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and contributions to ensuring the successful operations of the Port

Authority of Guam. You are an inspiration to us all. We are sad to see you go but we wish you all the best in this next chapter of life and we hope it brings you endless time to do the things you love!



### Alejandro T. Retumban

October 9, 1998 Started at the Port as a Limited-Term Appointment - Laborer, Terminal Division.  
November 16, 1998 Hired as a permanent employee to the position of Cargo Checker.  
September 25, 2020 Retirement (Define Benefit 1.75 – Age Retirement)  
21 years 11 months Port Service



### Francisco Q. Mendiola

February 9, 2016 started at the Port as a Full-Time Equipment Operator II (Casual), Transportation Division  
February 5, 2018 Promoted to Crane Operator  
September 25, 2020 Retirement (Define Contribution – Age Retirement)  
4 years 7 months Port Service



### Charlene R.S. Yatar

January 11, 1993 started at the Port as a Full-Time Clerk III, Financial Affairs Division  
November 1, 1993 Promoted to Property Control Officer  
December 20, 1994 Promoted to Marine Traffic Controller, Harbor Masters Division  
August 27, 2012 Promoted to Assistant Harbor Master  
September 30, 2020 Retirement (Define Benefit – Service Retirement)  
27 years 8 months Port Service



### Anthony M. Blas

January 16, 1990 started at the Port as a Limited-Term Appointment as a Stevedore for Stevedoring Division  
August 21, 1990 Hired as a permanent employee - Stevedore  
December 12, 1995 Promoted to Winch Operator  
December 23, 1999 Promoted to Stevedore Leader  
December 3, 2001 Promoted to Stevedore Supervisor I  
September 29, 2020 Retirement (Defined Benefit – Service Retirement)  
30 years 8 months Port Service



### Jose M. Tedtaotao

October 11, 2001 started at the Port as a Full-Time Welder Supervisor, Equipment Maintenance Division  
September 16, 2020 Retirement (Define Contribution – Age Retirement)  
18 years 9 months Port Service



### Julian A. Taitano

October 1, 1990 – March 22, 1991 started as a Staff Assistant with the Guam Legislature  
March 25, 1991 Picked up as a permanent employee as a Clerk I, Financial Affairs  
November 20, 1995 Transfer & Promotion to Cargo Checker, Terminal Division  
October 9, 2020 Retirement (Defined Benefit – Service Retirement)  
30 years Government of Guam Service



### Simeon S. Delos Santos

July 6, 1987 Started at the Port as a Full-Time Capital Improvement Coordinator for Engineering Division  
July 17, 2002 Promoted to Engineer Supervisor  
June 27, 2007 Promoted to Engineer Manager  
May 22, 2020 Retirement (Define Benefit - Service)  
33 years 2 months Port Service



### Gerald F. Torres

July 26, 1990 Started at the Port as a Limited-Term Appointment as a Equipment Operator II for Transportation Division  
August 21, 1990 Picked up as a permanent employee as a Equipment Operator II  
August 4, 1997 Promoted to Crane Operator  
July 10, 2020 Retirement (Defined Benefit - Service Retirement)  
30 years Port Service