



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM  
REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023  
Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom  
Guam Judicial Center  
HYBRID/IN-PERSON**

★★★★

Hon. Robert J. Torres  
Chairman

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman  
Member

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido  
Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III.  
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzon  
Member

★★★★

Advisory Committee Members:

Hon. Arthur R. Barcinas

Hon. Vernon P. Perez

Hon. Elyze M. Iriarte

Hon. Dana A. Gutierrez

Hon. Alberto E. Tolentino

Atty. Jacqueline T. Terlaje

Atty. Frederick J. Horecky

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Administrator of the Courts:  
Danielle T. Rosete

Judicial Council Secretary:  
Jessica J. Perez-Jackson

Judicial Council Asst. Secretary:  
Petrina M. Ula

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Judicial Council was called to order by the Chairman, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, at the hour of 12:03 p.m.

### ROLL CALL:

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres  
Justice F. Philip Carbullido  
Justice Katherine A. Maraman  
Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III (arrived at 12:09 p.m.)  
Judge Maria T. Cenzon (arrived at 12:05 p.m. via Zoom)

Advisory Committee Members:  
Ms. Danielle Rosete, Administrator of the Courts  
Attorney Dean V. A. Manglona (Via Zoom)

Also present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:  
Ms. Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon, Chief Probation Officer  
Ms. Rhonda N. Calvo, Deputy Human Resources Administrator  
Ms. Grace L. Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator  
Mr. Carl Dominguez, Procurement and Facilities Management Administrator  
Mr. Troy Pangelinan, Marshal of the Courts  
Ms. Suzane Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney  
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations  
Mr. Andrew T. Perez, Staff Attorney  
Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Clerk of Court, Superior Court  
Mr. Baldwin L. Quibuyen, Management Information Systems Supervisor  
Ms. Hannah G. Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court  
Ms. Melissa M. Casil, Client Services & Family Counseling Administrator  
Ms. Ma. Erica R. Eschbach, Staff Attorney  
Mr. David Castro, Guam Daily Post

Ms. Petrina M. Ula, Judicial Assistant, Judicial Council Assistant Secretary  
Ms. Shelterihna T. Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff  
Mr. Andrew Jay M. Gimenez, Special Projects Coordinator

Also present via Zoom meeting platform:

Hon. John C. Terlaje, Superior Court Judge  
Hon. Alberto E. Tolentino, Superior Court Judge  
Ms. Marcelene C. Santos, Public Guardian, Office of the Public Guardian  
Ms. Trisha T. Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Probation Services Division  
Ms. Valerie Tenorio, Chief Deputy Clerk, Courts & Ministerial Division  
Ms. Dawn Blas, Judicial Educator, Human Resources Division  
Ms. Ma. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator  
Ms. Alicia A. G. Limtiaco, Office of Regulation Counsel  
Mr. David Welle, Court Interpreters Registration Program Manager and IFIK representative  
Mr. Joseph J. Leon Guerrero, Deputy Marshal of the Courts  
Public Access in the Atrium

## **II. PROOF OF DUE NOTICE OF MEETING**

Due publication of the five-day Notices of Meeting of the Judicial Council, as required under the Open Government Law, was published in the Guam Daily Post. Acknowledgments are on file.

## **III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

**Chief Justice Torres began the roll call. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido, and Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman identified themselves. This meeting determined a quorum with three of the five Judicial Council members present. Judge Maria T. Cenzone arrived at 12:05 p.m. via Zoom and Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III arrived at 12:09 p.m.**

## **IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: September 22, 2023 regular meeting minutes, September 22, 2023 executive session minutes, October 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes, and October 19, 2023 executive session minutes**

Justice F. Philip Carbullido asked to defer the September 22, 2023 regular meeting minutes as he requested that the minutes should reflect more detail on what transpired and offered to have Assistant Secretary Petrina Ula assist with editing the minutes. Chief Justice Torres tabled all four meeting minutes until the arrival of Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III and Judge Maria T. Cenzone because Justice Maraman was not present for the October meeting so there would not be sufficient numbers for a vote.

**Chief Justice Torres, later in the meeting with the arrival of Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III and Judge Maria T. Cenzone, circled back to entertain a motion to approve the minutes. Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to approve the minutes for September 22, 2023 Executive Session, October 19, 2023 Regular Meeting, and October**

**19, 2023 Executive Session. Associate Justice Carbullido seconded the motion. The September 22, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes remain deferred. All approved the September 22, 2023 Executive Session minutes, all approved the October 19, 2023 Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes, with the exception of Justice Katherine A. Maraman abstaining.**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Judiciary FY24 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law**

Chief Justice Torres proceeded to Old Business item A, with the remittances pursuant to law and asked Ms. Dianne Gudmalin, the Financial Management Division Administrator to report.

Ms. Gudmalin reported that in reference to the collections of allotments for General Operations P.L. 37-42, the Judiciary of Guam received approximately 15%, or 6.2 million dollars, of the total appropriated amount of roughly \$40,000,000.

### **B. Update on Capital Improvement Projects**

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts (AOC), provided an update on the capital improvement projects.

Ms. Rosete reported that the renovation of the Guam Historic Courthouse is ongoing with continued weekly meetings with the project manager, the contactor, and the internal team to resolve and address the completion of the renovation. She shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor renovation has been completed, pending the installation of carpet, cable lines, and employee workstations. According to Ms. Rosete, the remaining work on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor is the installation of ceiling tiles, floor tiles, and electrical and lighting fixtures, with the work slated for completion by the end of November.

Ms. Rosete explained that delays in manufacturing and delivery of the building's electrical switchboard are hindering the completion and occupancy of the building and she will meet with the electrical engineer and contractor to explore viable options with locally-sourced equipment.

### **C. Update on Typhoon Damage and Restoration**

Ms. Rosete explained that the Judiciary continues to work closely with FEMA on recovery efforts. She shared that all site inspections have been completed by FEMA and the Judiciary continues to work with them for damage, recovery work, and mitigation projects. Ms. Rosete reported that supporting documents for reimbursement by FEMA have been sent to FEMA's consolidated resource center.

Ms. Rosete updated the Council on the status of the building's back-up generator, reporting that a new leak developed and the generator is rendered inoperable. Ms. Rosete shared that the Judiciary continues to work with Cabras Marine Corporation on further repairs, and hopes to get it operable on a temporary basis while awaiting the procurement of a new permanent generator. In the meanwhile, Ms. Rosete reported that the Judiciary has purchased a smaller temporary 500kW generator, slated to arrive in late January or early February, while awaiting the procurement and installation of a permanent generator.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. **JC23-032 Relative to Ratifying JC Resolution No. 23-031 Memorializing the Passing of the Hon. John S. Unpingco, Former District Court of Guam Judge**

Chief Justice Torres requested the adoption of this resolution that ratifies the resolution memorializing Judge John S. Unpingco's passing and recognizing his contributions to justice on Guam. **Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adopt, seconded by Justice Maraman, with no objection by the Council.**

### B. **JC23-033 Relative to Amending the Appointments of Members on the Committee on Judicial Discipline**

Chief Justice Torres reported that this resolution means to clarify that the appointments made to the Committee on Judicial Discipline are four-year terms, commencing on December 16, 2021 and expiring on December 16, 2025.

### C. **JC23-034 Relative to Creating the Position of Payroll Supervisor**

Ms. Rosete requested for the creation of a payroll supervisor, who would fall under the purview of the Financial Management Division and be responsible for managing the constant updates to personnel rules and tax policies, and handling the new employee timekeeping system. **Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adopt, with Justice Maraman seconding, and no objection from the Council.**

### D. **JC23-035 Relative to Creating the Position of Data Analyst**

Ms. Rosete requested the creation of a Data Analyst position, who would fall under the purview of the Administrator of the Courts and would be responsible for collecting and managing data, preparing presentations of data, and regarding future course of action and the development of programs or services. As the branch looks to the future, Ms. Rosete reported that this position would be vital, as many jurisdictions across the nation have research and statistics divisions, while the Judiciary does not have one analyst.

**Justice Carbullido moved to adopt, with Presiding Judge Lamorena seconding, and no objection from the Council.**

**E. JC23-036 Relative to Creating the Position of Database Specialist**

Ms. Rosete requested for the creation of a Database Specialist, who would fall under the purview of the Management Information Systems division. This role would be responsible for understanding and managing databases, database design, and action planning critical for operations of the branch.

**Judge Lamorena moved to adopt, with Justice Carbullido seconding, and no objection from the Council.**

**F. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, December 21, 2023)**

Chief Justice Torres stated that the next Judicial Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2023. There was no objection from the Council.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Justice Torres requested that a letter from Judge John S. Unpingco's wife, Annie F. B. Unpingco, be read into the record. The letter expresses her appreciation for the Judiciary's condolences on her husband's passing and for recognizing his contributions to justice and law on Guam.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A. Guam Bar Association Board (GBA) – President's Report**

No report.

**B. Court Employees Association**

Mr. David Welle, Court Interpreter Registration Program Manager and IFIK representative, reports that the Judiciary of Guam holiday party will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency.

\*\*\*\* At 12:36 p.m., Chief Justice Torres called for a recess to Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation matters in a November 7, 2023 memo to the Judicial Council from Staff Attorney Suzane Santiago-Hinkel. Presiding Judge Lamorena motioned convene in Executive Session; Justice Carbullido seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called for an oral vote. All Council members voted in favor.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Justice Katherine A. Maraman, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena, and Judge Maria T. Cenzone attended. AOC Danielle T. Rosete joined them, along with Staff Attorney Suzane P. Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney Andrew T. Perez, Court Transcriber Carmelita G. Tenorio, and Judicial Council Assistant Secretary Petrina M. Ula.

**\*\*\*\* At 12:40 p.m., Chief Justice Torres entertained a motion to rise to Regular Session. Presiding Judge Lamorena made the motion; Justice Carbullido seconded. The public meeting of the Judicial Council resumed. A report was provided in the Executive Session and no action was taken.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn. Judge Cenzone seconded the motion, adjourning the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2023.

  
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JESSICA PEREZ-JACKSON  
Executive Secretary,  
Judicial Council of Guam

**As set out above, the Minutes of the November 16, 2023 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the December 21, 2023 Regular meeting.**

  
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**ROBERT J. TORRES**  
Chair

**Dated:**

12/21/23