

Hafa Adai, my name is Jamela Adapon Santos. I am the daughter of Nicolas Mercado Santos, and the late Emelita Adapon Santos. My ethnic origins are from San Juan, Batangas, Philippines, where my mother was born, and San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines, where my father was born.

I was conceived, born, and raised here on the island of Guam.

I have called Guam my home. I have left home, and I have returned home. Guam is the only place I know as home.

And even though I breathe the air I breathe; eat foods from the rich soil of this blessed land; drink of the waters; swim in the ocean abundant with life, even though my existence today is shaped and supported and nurtured by Guam, my *home*, I do not claim any identity as Chamorro, or as a *native inhabitant*.

That is not for me to claim.

I am clear that my people are from the Philippines. I am clear that the blood that runs through these veins is from a lineage of Filipinos and Filipinas whose ancestry comes from the Philippine Islands. Maybe at some tumultuous point in my adolescent years I claimed Spanish ancestry because I wanted to be associated with the supposedly privileged and desired lighter skinned folks, but I never claimed to be Chamorro, nor have I demanded to have the same status or rights as the indigenous people of this island.

That is not for me to demand.

The plaintiff, Arnold "Dave" Davis argues that his rights are being violated. Dave Davis is described as a "white, non-Chamorro male" who is a resident of Guam. Again, Arnold "Dave" Davis is arguing that his rights are being violated.

As a person of Filipino ancestry who calls Guam home, I do not feel that my rights are being violated because I cannot participate in the Political Status Plebiscite. If the question that came about at the very beginning was asking what the Chamorro people want their political status to be because it was **FORCEFULLY CHANGED FOR THEM** by their colonizers in the first place, then why in the world would I think that I have any right, or any say in this vote?

This vote is not for me. It's for my Chamorro brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, nanas and tatas. It's okay. I stand by you. I want you to be able to say how you wish to govern yourselves, make rules that make sense for you again. Because those were taken away from you against your wishes.

I think that I have heard crazy talk like, "If the Chamorros change their political status, you could be kicked out of Guam. They'll tell everyone who's not Chamorro to leave." It makes me laugh, and also it makes me really sad. Sad, not because I believe

that will happen. Sad because people think so black and white like that. The Chamorro people, like many indigenous people know--they have always known--about how to maintain balance and harmony. Colonization has been toxic. Colonization has poisoned the atmosphere, the psyche, the spirit of a people who danced and chanted in harmony, who fished and hunted and harvested with balance, who weaved, sailed, and navigated throughout Oceania.

The Chamorro people know harmony.

And somehow I am not afraid of getting "kicked out." I don't hear future voices saying, "Hey you Tagalog! Go home! Get the fuck out of my island!" I don't hear that. I don't believe that that is going to happen.

I believe that the Chamorro people just want to find that place of balance and harmony again, and so long as everyone else's rules and laws and statutes blanket and stifle the island, it will be very tiring, and a lot of work to find that harmony, that balance once again.

May I make this plea to my Filipino brothers and sisters to understand what it means to be an ally. Know that we can go back to the Philippines and, for the most part, know that we govern ourselves. We live on the lands of someone else who do not get to make their own rules. In the spirit of reciprocating or maintaining balance, we must be allies.

I am in support of the *appeal* of the Dave Davis case.

Saina ma'ase. Maraming salamat po.