



I Mina'trentai Tres na Kongressun Manhoben Guåhan

Al Edrich C. Labang, Vice Speaker (*Dededo*)

Vicente Blas-Tajjeron, Majority Floor Leader (*Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon*)

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Youth Congress Vice Speaker and Majority Leader Urge Youth Input in regards to spending the American Rescue Plan Funding

*With the Youth of Guam being the future, it is important to gather their input on how the
American Rescue Plan should be spent.*

Hagåtña, Guam- With the passage of the American Rescue Plan (APR), our island is allocated \$604 million dollars. This financial opportunity inherently proffers the Government of Guam a responsibility of spending the funds for the purposes of safely reopening the island in a fiscally responsible manner. With the future generations of our island in mind, the Vice Speaker Al Labang and Majority Leader Vicente Blas Tajjeron recommend the following budget allocations:

- Upgrading the Guam Memorial Hospital with new, advanced equipment that will last for generations to come.
- Building a new public hospital that would improve access to healthcare on Guam and enable healthcare professionals to better serve the rapidly increasing population of our island.
- Providing various industries with proper financial means to diversify our local economy and strengthen our fiscal infrastructure. This may include expanding the local aquaculture and agriculture markets to cater to an increasingly global clientele, as well as, investing in telecommunications that will build Guam's reputation as a hub in Oceania & Asia.
- Enabling the Guam Visitors Bureau to make necessary repairs to the Matapang Beach Park and assist in rebuilding the tourism industry through an allocation of \$38 million dollars.
- Investing in an unemployment insurance program that would help both public and private sector employees whose employment is affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Empowering small businesses through an allocation of \$30 million dollars to the Guam Economic Development Authority in order to ensure their stable recovery and continued success.
- Improving public transportation in order to allow citizens of Guam to travel through the island in a safe, efficient, and environmentally conscious manner.

We believe that **each of these investments will inherently improve the lives of *I Manhoben Guåhan* and allow them to live and prosper in a community that is safe, accommodating and conscious of the unique & everyday struggles one may face.** As the elected voices of our youth, we share and echo the sentiments of former Speaker Javan W. Santos and **we respectfully ask that our input and perspectives be taken into account.** We are the future of this land, and we recognize that the decisions made today will impact the lives of not only our future descendants, but us here and now. Therefore, **the Guam Youth Congress remains committed to serving the island's youth and amplifying their voices, concerns, and aspirations.**

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