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VOL. 48 NO. 124

**Hafa Adai,  
It's Saturday**



## TRUMP TIED TO 3,500 LAWSUITS

SEE STORY, PAGE 10



## PEREZ AIMS FOR SPOT IN RIO GAMES

SEE STORY, PAGE 32



## FestPac closing ceremonies are today



GUAM'S COMPLETE SOURCE

Vote and comment on today's poll.

### TODAY'S QUESTION:

Do you plan to attend the FestPac closing ceremonies?

Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**.

# CHURCH DENOUNCES 'LIES'

## Archdiocese challenges deacon's claims



Apuron

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The Archdiocese of Agaña announced Friday it is working with a prominent U.S. law firm and an independent investigator to look into recent allegations

made against Archbishop Anthony Apuron.

In a media release, the church responded to accusations made in recent days by a local deacon.

Deacon Steve Martinez, the former coordinator of a local church group charged

with reviewing sexual abuse allegations involving clergy, said at a press conference Wednesday that Apuron purposely kept the archdiocese's sexual abuse policy weak to protect himself.

On Friday, the church

said that this allegation is a "calumny of such magnitude that the only avenue, which we are following, is recourse to the civil and canonical legal processes to address these intentional

See **CHURCH**, Page 4



RICK CRUZ/PDN  
Delegation members of Fiji entertain festivalgoers with a cultural dance Friday at the Paseo Stadium in Hagåtña during the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts.

# FestPac closes today

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Andrew Houlia, deputy head of the Solomon Islands delegation for the Festival of Pacific Arts, said Friday that during their two-week stay on island, Guam made their delegates feel like they were home.

"We feel like we are just one people," he said.

Houlia wasn't alone. Other visitors to Guam for the two-week cultural festival expressed the same feelings.

Friday was the final day of activities for the major regional festival, which showcases the artistry of people who live on various islands

around the Pacific.

The festival's closing ceremonies will be held Saturday at Paseo in Hagåtña.

A portion of Route 1 — from Route 8 to Aspinall Avenue — will be closed from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. The closing ceremonies begin at 5 p.m.

See **DELEGATES**, Page 4



## Video and Photos Online

For video and more photos, go to [www.GuamPDN.com](http://www.GuamPDN.com).



# Delegates: Hosts created a feeling of home

Continued from Page 1

After Saturday, the next Festival of Pacific Arts won't be held until 2020 in Hawaii.

From the people who organized the event to the delegates who attended, to the residents who enjoyed the festivities, the opinions of Guam's role as host were positive.

Houlia, from the Solomon Islands, said Guam did a fantastic job, and everyone from his delegation felt fortunate to be in Guam for FestPac. The Solomon Islands delegates gave Guam a piece of their home — a woodcarving.

A similar gift came from Easter Island delegates.

The island of Rapa Nui, or Easter Island, donated a large moai statue called "Hafa Nui," which is a famous icon of the people. The delegates said it was a way to keep a piece of Rapa Nui in Guam and to show appreciation for hosting them.

The wood for the carving was from a tree that was cut down in preparation of FestPac. Gov. Eddie Calvo, who accepted the gift from the delegation, said they gave something that was dead a new life.

The moai was unveiled Friday in a ceremony that included songs, dancing and food.

Mark Mendiola, vice chairman of the FestPac coordinating committee, said the two weeks went by too fast.

"Guam came through. We gave them the Hafa Adai spirit," he said.

There were a few bumps

## Hagåtña road closure

Marine Corps Drive from Route 8 to Aspinall Avenue in Hagåtña will be closed from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. today.



along the way, he said, but despite some issues, the island showcased its hospitality and all the delegations have nothing but good things to say.

Mendiola invited the public to come to the closing ceremony being held Saturday at 5 p.m. at Paseo Stadium.

Delegations will participate in a parade of nations, and the governor will give out gifts from Guam.

### Guam residents' opinions

Dededo resident Joe San Nicolas, a blacksmith who's been to several festivals, said having it in Guam was nice.

"It's an experience to really see these people coming out to our island to express their culture," he said. "It's a good thing for our people to absorb and learn from the different cultures."

People can see both the difference and similarities between the island's cultures, San Nicolas added.

For Serina Balajadia, who's been working at Untalan Middle School, one of the places housing delegates, the festival has been a wonderful experience.

"We love them, and they love our island," she said.

Balajadia was planning to

take her family to the festival village Friday night in Hagåtña to see it one last time.

The delegates don't want to leave, and the workers at Untalan don't want them to leave either, she said. Being able to see all the island nations in one place and see their cultures has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"We're not going to see this anymore in Guam," Balajadia said.

### Hawaii to host in 2020

Mapuana De Silva, deputy head of Hawaii's delegation and a planning committee member

for the next FestPac being held in the "Aloha State" in 2020, said she was impressed with Guam's festival.

De Silva said she's been to five festivals since 2000, and each one offers something unique. But Guam's people and its hospitality, she said, have been something her delegation and others have loved.

People appreciated their delegation's performances, she said. Visitors talked to them and listened to their stories; they felt welcomed, like they were home.

De Silva said she was impressed at the enormity of the festival and how Guam, which is a small island, was able to undertake it.

"Guam has done a splendid job," she said.

With the next FestPac being in Hawaii, De Silva said she's both excited and a little fearful. There's fear that the things they want to happen may not go as hoped, she explained.

But they will continue to work to make the next FestPac a success, De Silva said.

FestPac in Hawaii is scheduled for June 11 to June 27, 2020, in Oahu, she said.

The plan is to have the main center in the Waikiki area and to have satellite sites in the outer districts of the island. Waikiki is a well-known beachfront area on the island of Oahu.

The committee is hopeful that leaders from Hawaii, who are in Guam and have seen the enormity of the event, will be able to help give them the needed funds for it, she added.

# Church: Deacon, Rohr 'conspiring to topple' Apuron

Continued from Page 1

lies."

The statement continues: "We are working with one of the most prominent U.S. legal firms to address these issues and with an independent investigator to inquire about this allegation and these rumors. These intentional lies oblige the Archbishop to take appropriate and immediate canonical measures in regard to Stephen Martinez."

The media release identifies Martinez as "Mr. Stephen Martinez." His title as deacon is not stated.

Martinez, when sought for comment, said on Friday the key word is "incompetence," adding that the archbishop was incompetent when he failed to investigate his own violation of the sex abuse policy regarding notification that Martinez advised him of in 2014.

The archbishop removed Martinez from his position as sexual abuse response coordinator after that.

Martinez said the archbishop was incompetent when he failed to initiate an investigation into recent allegations by Roy Quintanilla, a 52-year-old man who

said he was molested by Apuron as an altar boy, and Doris Concepcion, whose son allegedly told her he was molested before he died in 2005.

The archbishop decided to attack them "rather than reach out to them with care and support," he said.

He also said the archbishop was incompetent when he failed to step aside as the accused until the investigation has been completed.

### 'Unsubstantiated'

The Archdiocese, in its statement, said it is facing "one allegation — contradicted by other testimonies — and some unsubstantiated rumors of sexual abuse."

The archbishop, the highest leader of the Catholic Church in Guam, has twice been accused publicly in recent weeks of sexual abuse.

Quintanilla, who now lives in Hawaii, said he was sexually abused by Guam's current archbishop about 40 years ago. Quintanilla said he was a 12-year-old altar server for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, in Agat, when the alleged abuse took place.

Days later, Concepcion, of Prescott, Arizona, told Pacific

Daily News her deceased son, Joseph "Sonny" A. Quinata, was molested by Apuron when the latter was the parish priest in Agat in the late 1970s.

The archbishop denied the allegations. He has not been charged with any crime.

The Archdiocese of Agana's media release does not specify whether the law firm or independent investigator will look into the sexual abuse allegations against the archbishop.

When asked for additional details about the law firm's and the independent investigator's scope of work, the Archdiocese of Agana's Chancellor, Father Adrian Cristobal, said "at this time, the Archdiocese is not providing the specifics of the investigation but I wish to assure you that we are applying the sex abuse policy in this area."

The Archdiocese said the archbishop has always taken very seriously any allegations, and even rumors, of sexual abuse and acted on them.

It said this is what the archbishop did in the case of Father Paul Gofigan, who was removed when he refused to restrict from active and voluntary church activities a registered sex offender and murderer. Go-

figan was removed in 2013.

The Archdiocese said this is what the archbishop also did when he limited the faculties of Father John Wadeson following the surfacing of an old unproven allegation, subsequently cleared by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Wadeson left Guam in 2014 after the archbishop removed him from his position of priest.

This was also what the archbishop did when Father Luis Camacho was removed as pastor, and has had ministry limited, "when his only accuser was the same Stephen Martinez who was reporting rumors," the Archdiocese said. Camacho was accused of custodial interference in 2015.

### 'Incompetence'

Both the Archdiocese of Agana's statement and Martinez used the word "incompetence."

The Archdiocese said Martinez has distinguished himself "egregiously for his incompetence."

Martinez, for his part, said the archbishop was incompetent in at least 11 instances, from dealing with Father Wadeson's issue in 2014 to dealing with persons who have recently come

forward alleging sexual abuse by Apuron of two altar boys in the 1970s.

The Archdiocese said Martinez, as the former archdiocesan financial officer, unbeknownst to the archbishop, failed for six consecutive years to submit the required financial reports to the proper authorities at the Vatican.

"This glaring incompetence caused many problems for the Archdiocese," the church said.

"It is obvious that Mr. Martinez is part of the (Tim) Rohr group conspiring to topple Archbishop Apuron from his service as Shepherd and a successor of the Apostles, a service he had been doing for the last thirty years defending Guam from many immoral inroads and we challenge anybody to prove the contrary."

Tim Rohr, a local blogger who runs the website Jungle-Watch.info, which features articles on the local Catholic Church, was previously named by the Archdiocese as among those spreading malicious lies about the archbishop and the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese said earlier it plans to sue Rohr and his associates.