

DAVID DUENAS/DEMOCRAT

#### A. Real Estate Industry Related

1. The Governor's office has upgraded the classification of the real estate industry as an essential service during COVID-19 "Condition of Readiness" operating restrictions. However, Government of Guam agencies that are part and parcel of the real estate industry remain either closed or inactive. (The real estate industry encompasses private sector real estate activities as well as Government of Guam agencies that are involved in the processing of real estate transactions including taxation, recordation, land management interaction, construction and land use permitting, building inspections, building occupancy and document recordation.). Will you support the preparation and passage of legislation to classify the whole of the real estate industry encompassing both the private sector and related Government of Guam agencies as TRUE ESSENTIAL SERVICES?

It doesn't make any sense to upgrade the classification of the Real Estate Industry and keep the Government agencies closed or inactive these agencies are a crucial and go hand in hand in conducting real estate transactions/business. A definite YES I will introduce and lobby all other senators to get this passed into law.

2. The Guam Land Use Commission (GLUC) application processing system has been rendered inactive by GovGuam COVID restrictions since March 2020 with no apparent urgency to restore the system to full operation. The estimated value of development projects currently awaiting Department of Land Management and GLUC-related action since March is nearly \$2 billion. Will you support the classification of the GLUC application processing system (critical to improving Guam's economic well-being) as inessential service during the COVID-19 Condition of Readiness operating restrictions?

Again, a Definite YES! , With current technologies such as ZOOM conferences there is absolutely NO reason the GLTC and Land management cannot conduct and continue the application process and also entertain those development projects that are ongoing. This MUST be made essential just like opening the agencies that are directly tied in to the real estate industry.

## B. General Government

1. Will you support the creation, introduction and passage of a bill to change the operation of the Guam Legislature from fulltime to part time?

I am in favor of a part time legislature and have been for many years, I have spoken to a few new candidates as well as a few current senators who are of the same mind set on this issue. This can and will be a reality if I am elected into the 36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature, my job will be to lobby the other senators to get this passed. My count is we already have at least 5 who will support a part time legislature therefore I will focus on obtaining 5 more to make it VETO proof. 2022 just maybe the year it is implement.

2. Will you support the repeal of the 1% increase in the Business Privilege Tax/Gross Receipt Tax rate, i.e. restoring the BPT/GRT rate to 4%?

Yes, with many businesses having to close their doors due to the pandemic and small businesses struggling to stay open I will support and or introduce legislature immediately to repeal of the 1% increase and restoring the BPT/GRT rate to 4%. Our government will just **have to learn to live within their means** is all that must and will happen.

3. Are you in favor of increasing taxes and/fees to deal with Government of Guam revenue shortfall caused by COVID-19 imposed restrictions on private sector business operations?

NO, as I had stated with lower revenues coming into the government they **MUST** learn operate with the revenues they have or is appropriated by the legislature "LIVE WITHIN THEIR MEANS". Cut the fat as they say!

4. Will you support a significant reduction in Government of Guam expenditures including payroll during COVID-19 lockdown and PCOR2 periods in order to keep the Government solvent?

Yes, I have said many times, I am not happy with this governments hiring of new employees and Deputy Directors and issuing pay adjustments especially during PCOR 1 or 2. Essential government services must

continue if it means cutting payroll or terminating the deputy director position to fund the essential agencies YES! Sure there are other things this government can do to cut cost as well.

5. Are you in favor of increasing the local minimum wage and Why?

Yes, but not at this time with businesses closing at an alarming rate we should suspend the minimum wage hike till such time that the economy improves and businesses reopen.

6. Are you in favor of reducing taxes and fees to assist in the start of small businesses and in maintaining their viability?

I am in favor of reducing the BPT and GRT immediately, fees I am open to discussing which of those may be or can be done.

7. What functions of the Government of Guam do you believe should be privatized?

YES, Guam Power Authority and Water Works. As was done years ago with Guam Telephone Authority, if done properly Guam can see better service from these two agencies with possible lower rates, more reliable service. As a term of the agreement to potential buyers current employees must be provided an option to remain with these agencies after the sale as a first refusal clause.

8. Are you in support of the impending military buildup and the Marine relocation?

Yes I support the military buildup and relocation of the marines as it stands now Guam had already agreed to the military buildup years ago and up until just recently are now bring up other issues they did not bring up in the beginning. To late as they say.