



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

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Senators Work with Barrigada Mayor's Office to Put Tiyan Recreational Park Plan into Action, Develop Additional GFA Facilities

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Vice-Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Speaker Frank Blas, Jr., and Senators Vincent Borja, Shelly Calvo, and Sabrina Salas Matanane introduced two measures to expand community sports and recreational activities for Guam families.

Bill 325 authorizes the Office of the Barrigada Mayor to lease portions of Lot Naval Air Station *Agaña* 19 to community organizations and businesses consistent with the Barrigada Recreational Master Plan – Tiyan Complex (Park Plan). Mayor June Blas and her team developed the Park Plan to expand and guide future use of public property in Tiyan which the Guam Legislature assigned to the Office of the Barrigada Mayor in 2018 through Public Law 34-88.

“Through Bill 325 the Guam Legislature recognizes the clear gaps in our government’s ability to develop new and upgrade existing community parks and facilities,” Senator Gumataotao said. “The effects of Typhoons Mawar and Sinlaku on our sports facilities have only made our efforts to improve village parks and facilities more difficult particularly with limited public resources available annually for Barrigada and 18 other districts.”

The Park Plan designates sections of the Tiyan property for a variety of sports facilities including, but not limited to, a soccer field, covered driving range, beach volleyball courts, and a multipurpose practice field. Although P.L. 34-88 transferred the Tiyan Football Field, Tiyan Maintenance Building, Tiyan Upper and Lower Softball Fields, and the area previously used for carnivals to the Barrigada Mayor’s Office, the same policy restricts Barrigada from leasing the land, making it challenging for youth and families to enjoy the full potential of this central area of Guam.

The second measure, Bill 326, authorizes the Office of the Barrigada Mayor to lease Lot 5382N-R40 in Barrigada Heights to the Guam Football Association (GFA) for developing a Football Pitch and other community sports and recreational facilities. The measure builds on a policy recently approved by the Guam Legislature and the Governor that assigns undeveloped government property in *Hagåtña* for a football pitch, walking paths, and other recreational activities.

“I thank Guam Football Association President Tino San Gil and his team for reaching out to policymakers regarding their continued interest in creating more opportunities for Guam families to experience the sport of soccer closer to their homes,” Senator Gumataotao continued. “If approved, Bill 326 recognizes GFA’s capacity to convert dormant public lands into safe and accessible spaces everyone can enjoy through the sport of soccer.”

“These proposals represent the good created when policymakers commit public resources to fostering a safe and fun environment in support of overall wellness,” Senator Gumataotao stated. “At a time when Government must rethink how it prioritizes taxpayer funds in the face of a struggling tourism industry and as resources are redirected for disaster response and mitigation efforts, sustainable public-private partnerships can be key to developing and managing community facilities moving forward.”

For more information, please contact Senator Gumataotao’s office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.