

Reduction in Force Advisory No. 3

This is to notify Guamanians that an agency of the government of Guam submitted a layoff plan. This plan was submitted in an effort to reduce the expenditures of the government and, thus, fix the structural imbalance of the General Fund.

November 10, 2011

The acting Director of Agriculture this afternoon submitted his department's layoff plan. This is the third such plan throughout the government of Guam.

In the plan, he identified the following positions for layoff:

...within the Director's Office:

1. **Secretary I (Typist) - VACANT**

...within the Agricultural Development Services Division:

2. **Equipment Operator II**
3. **Livestock Caretaker**

...within the Animal Health Section:

4. **Veterinarian**
5. **Animal Control Officer II**
6. **Animal Control Officer I**
7. **Animal Control Officer I**
8. **Animal Control Officer I**

...within the Plant Inspection Station:

9. **Clerk Typist III - VACANT**

...within the former Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources:

10. **Chief, DAWR**
11. **Assistant Chief, DAWR**

...within the Forestry & Soil Resources Division:

12. **Administrative Assistant - VACANT**

Because of the submission of this plan, all hiring for positions within the same position class(es) as the above named positions are halted in the line agencies.

The acting Director of Agriculture has assessed the current manpower levels of the Department of Agriculture. In his letter (submission of layoff plan) to Department of Administration Human Resources Administrator Shane Ngata, he certified the following conditions exist at DoAG:

1. There is a lack of funds to sustain the department at its current levels.
2. His assessment of the agency found inefficiencies. He has also found positions for which no circumstances exist any longer for those positions to work. The severe inefficiency of the government-operated Animal Health Section led to the determination to outsource the entire section.

It must be noted that the reduction in force of these positions does not mean the *people* holding these positions will be released. A lengthy process will follow to determine *who* will be laid off. Employees have bumping or displacement rights, along with other rights pursuant to DOA Personnel Rules & Regulations.

The acting Director of Agriculture does not choose who will be laid off. This will be decided by a process that involves a retention register at the Department of Administration Human Resources Division. Here is a brief description of the process from this point:

- Employees of DoAG who are in these positions may have the chance to furlough their salaries in whole or in part. This does not protect the employee from the position being laid off. Such furlough also must be approved by the president. In his layoff plan, the president determines the need to reduce the force because of the structural imbalance of the General Fund, a lack of work and a lack of funding.
- Employees of DoAG who are in these positions may have the chance to transfer to a vacant position in DoAG or in another line agency in which he/she qualifies, or to demote to a lower position and pay grade.
- Any part time, short term, seasonal, provisional, temporary, limited term or probationary DoAG employees who fall under the same position classes as those identified for layoff will be released first.
- DOA HR will then run a retention register. Every DoAG employee who is in the same position class as those listed above will be included in this retention register. DOA HR, in this retention register, will consider these employees' seniority and performance evaluations. Points are awarded based on criteria set forth in Government of Guam Personnel Rules & Regulations.
- The person within the position class with the lowest score of points will be bumped. That bumped employee can then avail of the options to transfer to an available vacant position, or voluntary furlough. If those options are unavailable, that person is laid off.

Help for those laid off

A special Displacement & Re-engineering Program is available to assist workers who may be displaced by a government layoff. This program is being led by Agency for Human Resources Development director Frank C. Roberto.

In summary the program will:

1. Work with agency directors and the Department of Administration to identify laid off workers and bring them into the program voluntarily.
2. Offer a host of services to assist laid off workers enter the private sector workforce:
 - a. Skills assessment
 - b. Career counseling
 - c. Resume development
 - d. Job search skills training
 - e. Job placement training
 - f. Budget and financial management counseling
 - g. Stress management and mental health services
 - h. Temporary financial assistance
 - i. Information relating to child care, transportation and other needs
3. Encourage laid off workers to start a small business. Director of Labor Leah Beth Naholowaa will be partnering with the Small Business Development Center, Guam Economic Development Authority and the Veterans Affairs Office on ways to assist displaced workers to start a small business.
4. Subsidize college tuition costs for one year. Laid off workers who elect to go to school, part time or full time, may enroll at Guam Community College, University of Guam or an allied health training and certification service. The Workforce Investment Act funding will subsidize this cost.

This reduction in force signifies the tough decisions the government is making, which should have been incrementally made over the past 20 years. It is with deep regret the government must make these decisions to reduce personnel. This island, and the taxpayers owed their tax refunds, has not been able to sustain the size of the government for 20 years now. I will not suffer the children of Guam, and their children, to a future bankrupted by the inability of leaders to make the right decisions. My heart and my prayers are with those who may be dislocated by this process. I encourage you to enroll in this Displacement & Re-

engineering Program in the hope that your future prospects are even greater than the opportunity you took to serve the public.

RAYMOND S. TENORIO
Acting Governor of Guam