



HON. ROBERT J. TORRES
CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Administrative Office of the Courts
Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu. 96910
Tel: (671) 475-3544 • Fax: (671) 477-3184



HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III
PRESIDING JUDGE

DANIELLE T. ROSETE
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2023

TORRES PRIORITIZES INNOVATION, BROADER ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Chief Justice Delivers Remarks at Swearing-In Ceremony

(Hagåtña, Guam) - Pledging to broaden access to the court and balance safety in the community, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres unveiled his initiatives during his installation ceremony at the Judiciary of Guam this morning.

Torres was sworn in to serve his third term as head of the branch. He previously served as Chief Justice from 2008 to 2011 and again from 2014 to 2017.

“Here and across the world, our justice system stands at a crossroads. With the increased demand for judicial services come higher caseloads, a greater complexity of cases, and new and emerging crimes of concern,” said Torres. *“Our success will depend on our ingenuity and our commitment to make innovation our ally.”*

During his speech, Torres discussed efforts to streamline court processes, including the implementation of an e-probation system, online dispute resolution, and digital evidence management.

The Chief Justice also raised the need to improve indigent representation, pretrial detention, and bail practices, referencing the danger of detaining individuals based on financial resources, rather than future criminal behavior.

“Let me be clear: every one of us is accountable to the law, and anyone who commits a crime must pay their due...But we cannot simply punish our way to public safety. We must also treat the source that leads people into our system in the first place,” said Torres. *“This requires implementing best practices in the education of these individuals, investing in mental health and drug treatment, and expanding violence prevention and youth programs.”*

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the backbone of Guam’s justice system, Torres further urged a more competitive, yet equitable, classification and compensation program for court staff. Over the years, the Judiciary has lost valued employees—impacting the court’s productivity, institutional knowledge, and the administration of justice.

“In the last two decades since my appointment to the Court, I have seen the men and women who serve this institution. I have witnessed the depth of commitment to the work they do. I thank them for the often-unsung labor, and, with your support, I look forward to advancing our mission to provide the highest quality of services to the people of Guam.”

For more information, please contact:

SARAH HERNANDEZ

Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations

sehernandez@guamcourts.org

(671) 475-3491

“The Judiciary of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”