



CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF GUAM, INC.

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August 22, 2016

Statement

RE: Redemptoris Mater Seminary Property in Yona, Guam

"It is time to return the property to the Archdiocese of Agana."

Archbishop Hon's announcement is an admittance that the seminary property is not controlled by the Archdiocese of Agana.

An asset of the Church worth anywhere between \$40 million to \$75 million was given away for free, with no benefit to the local Catholic Church. Archbishop Hon also confirms that Archbishop Apuron did nothing to get the property back as directed by the Holy See. It was given away, it was done secretly against the advice of the local Archdiocesan Finance Council (AFC). And it was done covertly to hide the fact that Apuron was directly conspiring against the Holy See.

The RMS corporation was formed as a non-profit corporation under the civil laws of Guam. The Archdiocese of Agana, by the action of Archbishop Anthony Apuron, acting in his capacity as Archbishop of Agana, conveyed title and ownership to the RMS corporation in November 2011, when he filed a Declaration of Deed Restriction with the Guam government's Department of Land Management. He did so secretly against the advice of the local Archdiocesan Finance Council, which met in September 2011, when it officially advised Archbishop Apuron not to "alienate" or convey the title and ownership of the Yona property to the RMS corporation, a separately controlled corporation, which operates independently from the Archdiocese of Agana.

Unfortunately, Hon's announcement also falls short of actually getting back the property from the RMS corporation, which currently owns it under Guam law.

The RMS corporation, and the Neocatechumenal Way which actually owns and controls the property is being asked by Archbishop Hon to be obedient to the Holy See, and immediately convey, transfer and return the property by signing a Deed which will be filed with the Department of Land Management, instead of going to court. We ask: **"Will the board of guarantors and the board of directors of the RMS corporation do the right thing and return the property to the Archdiocese of Agana?"** Hon and his Chancery must follow up and get those documents signed and take ownership and control of the property.

Concerned Catholics of Guam brought this entire matter to Archbishop Hon when he led a delegation from the Vatican to Guam in January 2015, in a written report that was presented to him. Thus, had he read the report, he would have been prepared to address the main issues—which included the Yona property, within the first few weeks of his arrival on Guam.

But what's disturbing with Archbishop Hon's statement is, if the Holy See knew about this more than a year ago, it follows that he also knew about it since he had CCOG's report on this matter. And when he arrived here he would have found out that Archbishop Apuron did not do anything about this for more than a year. Thus it begs the question: **“Why didn't Archbishop Hon admit this after he arrived on Guam?”** And more disturbing is, **“Why didn't he take definitive action to take the property back immediately upon his arrival on Guam?”**

There is no benefit from this seminary and the property to the people of Guam. Our parishes, our Archdiocese in general, our Clergy, all do not benefit from this seminary in Yona. It is tucked away for the presbyters who are being formed as priests in the Neocatechumenal Way. Yet, the Archdiocese of Agana, by way of contributions from the laity, is funding this seminary, which does not provide local Catholics anything of value.

CCOG demands financial transparency. We want to know where our contributions are going. We are not interested in a budget plan and how the funds will be distributed, which the Chancery has published in the *Umatuna Si Yu'us*, the Archdiocesan weekly newspaper. We want to know the actual revenues and the actual expenses and actual debt payments. We want to see an actual audit report. We understand that the Vatican is also interested in those annual financial reports, which for several years were not being transmitted.

It is time to return the property to the Archdiocese of Agana.