

September 19, 2016

Most Rev. Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai  
Apostolic Administrator *Sede Plena*  
Archdiocese of Agaña  
196B Cuesta San Ramon  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Your Excellency,

It is with great sorrow that we, many Catholic faithful of Guam, are expressing our deep sadness at your recent statements about Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, where you treat him as if he has already been declared guilty; therefore, stirring a public lynching!

You are creating an enormous confusion amongst the deeply Catholic people of Guam, who have great love and respect for their Archbishop, because you attack, discredit, and smear constantly our Ordinary; even the Holy Father himself did not want to remove him from his seat without giving him an opportunity to defend his innocence through a serious process. Therefore, your letter goes directly against what the Holy Father has decided for Guam.

Your attitude of considering the Archbishop guilty is unacceptable from a human point of view and from a Christian point of view: common law says that "*every person is innocent until proved guilty*" and Pope Francis said recently, regarding accusations even graver made against Cardinal George Pell, that "*in dubio pro reo*".

If the Holy Father himself believes in one's innocence until guilt is proven, why do you presume to disregard His directives? Moreover, your attitude is not wise: a "*Savio*" attitude would have been that of suspending any judgement on Archbishop Apuron, defending in this way also the Archdiocese, while awaiting for the decision of canonical and civil courts.

Your constant public accusations have produced serious adverse consequences, which will affect this Archdiocese long after you have gone back to Rome. Not only you failed to speak against the bill recently approved by Guam legislators, but you encouraged the Guam Legislature to act on their emotions and approve Bill 326-33 (An Act to Lift the Statute of Limitations in Cases Involving Child Sexual Abuse). In fact the Committee Report, relying on your continuous denunciations and presuming your determination of guilt, quoted nearly 300 times the names of Archbishop Apuron as the fundamental reason for presenting this bill. Furthermore, Bill 326-33 violates three fundamental principles of law:

1. **PARTIALITY:** The law specifically targets only private institutions, and disregards, public institutions, namely, the Government of Guam. In this way the Bill clearly and unfairly targets the Catholic Church. What justice does this law provide victims who have been sexually assaulted by Government of Guam employees, officials, teachers etc.? Therefore in this case the LAW IS NOT EQUAL FOR ALL.
2. **RETROACTIVITY:** Bill 326-33 is intended as a law retroactively applied (*Ex Post Facto law*), which violates a fundamental principle of law expressed in the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Organic Act of Guam.
3. **LACKS FAIRNESS:** By lifting the Statute of Limitations, the Bill jeopardizes another fundamental principle, which is that of proving or disproving accusations that are decades old. Because there is no time limit

imposed, and no requirement that the perpetrator or the victim be alive, any person can bring an accusation against anyone, at any time, and the possibility to verify its credibility is very difficult or impossible.

We strongly believe that child sex abuse is heinous, and that victims of child abuse deserve justice. However, justice is not accomplished by Bill 326-33, and your actions do not reflect the 30 years of efforts by Archbishop Apuron to protect children.

We believe that your ideological hatred for the Redemptoris Mater Seminary, the Theological Institute and the Neocatechumenal Way – proved by many of your previous actions - have clouded your ability to see the damage you are bringing upon our Archdiocese. Your actions as the Apostolic Administrator Sede Plena will drive the Archdiocese, by your own words, bankrupt so that it will be obliged to sell many properties: you do not mention the seminary building but it is obviously implied.

Without the seminary and the theological Institute, Propaganda Fide will leave Guam, and the islands of the Pacific, without the possibility of forming missionary priests to serve in Guam and in the thousands of islands of the Pacific, which are right now abandoned by Catholic clergy for lack of vocations. Without priests, the Church of Guam will survive only by importing foreign priests that will often come for the wrong reasons.

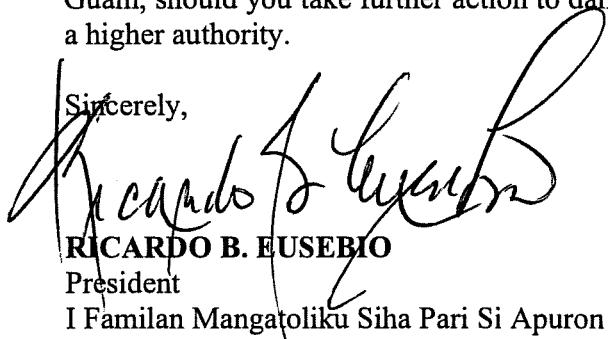
Without Archbishop Apuron, and his years of efforts to protect our island from the evils of gambling, Guam will become the Las Vegas of the Pacific! Guam is being eyed as the most succulent prize and big investors are preparing to land here as they landed with huge investments in Saipan bringing lot of money for the few and misery and moral devastation for the many.

Your Excellency, we appeal to your *sensum fidei*: Stop this devastating work! Respect the authority of the Holy Father, and allow the canonical and civil courts to decide; respect the Church of Guam.

We do not own faith! We borrow it for our children! We pray for Archbishop Apuron, for you, for our Archdiocese, for the people of our island, and for those who are victims of sexual abuse. We pray for justice in this situation, and truly believe that your actions are a further injustice being committed to all of us here in this Archdiocese.

We ask that you cease these extremely damaging efforts; considering the seriousness of the circumstances on Guam, should you take further action to damage our Archdiocese, we would be obliged to bring our appeal to a higher authority.

Sincerely,



**RICARDO B. EUSEBIO**

President

I Familan Mangatoliku Siha Pari Si Apuron (“Catholic Families for Apuron”)

cc: Prefect of the Congregation of the Evangelization of the Peoples, his Eminence Cardinal Filoni,  
Most Rev. Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap. D.D.