



Lou and Josh clarify Tenorio Ada attack ad

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2018

Lou Leon Guerrero and Josh Tenorio today are setting the record straight regarding misrepresentations of the truth in the latest advertisement released by the Tenorio Ada campaign.

“This latest attack by the opposition continues to highlight their flagrant disregard for the truth,” Lou Leon Guerrero said.

Today’s false advertisement claims that Lou Leon Guerrero was against a home for foster children. In fact, their ad said “Lou said NO.” That is a misrepresentation of the statements of Lou Leon Guerrero who indicated her concern was for the safety of the foster children in that area. In her written testimony to then Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz, proposing to locate a home for foster children in Tamuning, Lou opposed the cliffside location stating, “My main objection concerns the SAFETY of the children and the environment of where we place them. The property is on a cliff line that drops right down into the reef and the deep blue ocean.” Additionally, Lou points out the property “fronts a heavily trafficked road with cars travelling way above the speed limit.” She concluded, “It would be a tragic event if a child wanders off to explore, leaves the supervised site and travels off to the cliff side area, loses footing and falls. Or while playing outside, the child dashes out to the road and gets hit by a speeding car.”

Leon Guerrero stated that she supports the Rigalu Foundation and the efforts of Sister Brigid Perez to build the foster home for the children but simply wanted it to be in a safe location.

“This latest false attack ad by the Tenorio Ada campaign is even more offensive considering my family’s commitment to the Rigalu Foundation,” she said.

Background:

- Bill 332-32, introduced on May 6, 2014, is relative to a land exchange to build a Foster Home facility and identified Chamorro Land Trust property situated in Oka Point, Tamuning.
- Substitute Bill 332-32 was passed on December 17, 2014, had a provision that required the legislature to approve or reject by resolution within 90 days of its passage or it shall be deemed approved.
- Resolution 21-33, was then introduced on February 23, 2015, calls on the government of Guam to identify “a suitable lot to effectuate an exchange of government-owned



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property reserved for the Department of Public Health and Social Services for government-owned property owned by the Chamorro Land Trust commission pursuant to P.L. 32-226.” A legislative public hearing was held on April 24, 2015. The final version of this resolution in its passage, rejected the proposed Tamuning site.

Reason for opposition:

- There was public opposition to the use of the Oka property citing safety of the children, access to the proposed facility, and even security issues. This opposition garnered the attention of the Tamuning Mayor and members of the Tamuning Municipal Planning Council.
- Lou Leon Guerrero, in a letter addressed to Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz on December 17, 2014 expressed that her main objection to the Oka point location is “SAFETY of the children and the environment of where we place them. The property is on cliff line that drops down into the reef and the deep blue ocean. It fronts a heavily trafficked road with cars traveling way above the speed limit. When deciding where to erect this facility it is critical that the surroundings be assessed and all possible safety concerns be mitigated, addressed and resolved. It will be a tragic event if a child wanders off to explore, leaves the supervised site and travels off to the cliff side area, loses its footing and falls. Or, while playing outside, the child dashes out to the road and gets hit by a speeding car.”
- BOTA campaign runs a political advertisement depicting Lou Leon Guerrero that she said ‘No when Foster Children needed a home.’”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please contact Press Secretary Therese Arroyo-Matanane at 482-5486 for more information.



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Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
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December 17, 2014

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz
32nd Guam Legislature
324 West Soledad Avenue, Suite 101
Hagatna, Guam 96910


Dear Vice-Speaker Cruz,

I am writing in regards to Bill 332-32 relative to the exchange land for the building of a Foster Home facility. The proposed land is property that is held in Chamorro Land Trust situated in Oka Point Tamuning. I attended the first Tamuning Municipal Planning Council and voiced my concern in using this location for the Foster Home Facility. There were other individuals there who pointed out several issues ranging from the use of prime government real estate that could generate income to the government to protecting Chamorro land use inventory. My main objection concerns the SAFETY of the children and the environment of where we place them. The property is on a cliff line that drops right down into the reef and the deep blue ocean. It fronts a heavily trafficked road with cars travelling way above the speed limit. When deciding where to erect this facility it is critical that the surroundings be assessed and all possible safety concerns be mitigated, addressed and resolved. It would be a tragic event if a child wanders off to explore, leaves the supervised site and travels off to the cliff side area, loses its footing and falls. Or, while playing outside, the child dashes out to the road and gets hit by a speeding car.

Mr. Vice-Speaker, I am not opposed to providing a quality life for the foster children. I support the endeavors of the Regalo Foundation. I support the advocacy of Sister Bridget, I agree with Mayor Rivera that we should work to provide these "unfortunate children respectful care during the traumatic period in their young lives". I know that the endeavors of the Regalo Foundation includes the safety of the children, I know that Sister Bridget is focused on safety. Her previous Mission proved that. And, I especially know that safety is foremost in providing a respectful care. Locating the Foster Home in this Cliff side and heavily trafficked area is not the best solution for our foster children. I am sure that there are many other locations that can be made available to indeed provide the quality and safe living conditions for our Foster Children.

I ask that you reconsider placing this Bill on the agenda and perform further due diligence on the best placement of the Foster Children facility. In the course of this due diligence I ask that the safety issues of our children be further examined and scrutinized. Please do not be haste in your decision.

Respectfully submitted,


Lourdes "Lou" A. Leon Guerrero
Former Senator

Cc: Speaker Judith I. Won Pat
Cc: Senator Tina Rose Muna-Barnes
Cc: Senator Rory J. Respicio

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

Date: 12/17/14 Time: 2:55 pm

File No.: 32-936

Received By: JF