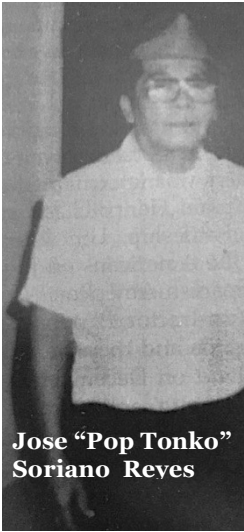


Hita La'mon: Hasso Independence Leadership



Jose "Pop Tonko"
Soriano Reyes

On July 15 and 16, 1944, WWII Japanese soldiers brutally massacred the strongest and most influential people of Malesso' at the Tinta and Fâha caves. Days later, a group of brave men avenged this senseless killing and freed their village.

"On July 20, [1944], with an old Springfield rifle that he had hidden, José Tonko Reyes led [at least] seven others and killed six Japanese guards at the [Atâte] camp [and] attacked Japanese soldiers at a small supply depot, killing four ... The [only] surviving Japanese fled into the jungle, leaving [Malesso'] the first village on Guam to be liberated, and the only one liberated by the Chamorros themselves."

-Robert F. Rogers, *Destiny's Landfall*

Matatnga

"strong personality/fearless"

"*Matatnga* is a specific form of courage. Someone with *matatnga* stands up for himself or herself with a certain fierce determination ... Across the turbulent course of three centuries of antagonistic interaction with Western powers, Chamorros have never lost a characteristic fundamental to them, that of being *matatnga*."

-Vincent P. Diego, PhD, *Guampedia*

"Tâya' pinekkat sin fegi."

"There are no footsteps without footprints."

Chamoru Leadership

"In ancient Guam, Chamorro leaders were usually the oldest members of clans and were looked up to for their guidance and wisdom. The male leader of a clan is referred to as the *maga'lâhi* and the female as *maga'hâga*. These leaders were held in high regard as they governed the clan for the benefit of the whole rather than the individual. People who provided leadership and guidance; were understanding; and had integrity were recognized as *ma'gas* as well. The *manma'gas* title was not voted on, but given by the people out of respect for leadership qualities."

-Lina Taitingfong, *Guampedia*

Successful Global Leadership Models

The small, isolated, Nordic countries of Finland, Denmark, and Sweden, as well as small independent countries in our region like New Zealand and Singapore are the world's best governed nations. Globally, these countries consistently rank high in all indicators of a healthy and thriving society, "from indicators like productivity and innovation to social ones like inequality and crime". There are many reasons for this, but *the Economist* suggests that much of the Nordics' success comes from their:

"...important qualities to transparency: pragmatism and tough-mindedness. On discovering that the old social democratic consensus was no longer working, they let it go with remarkably little fuss and introduced new ideas from across the political spectrum. They also proved utterly determined in pushing through reforms" (*The Economist*).

Singapore, which is an independent country very similar in size to Guåhan, now ranks as the world's 7th least corrupt country according to the "Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perceptions Index" in 2015. Singapore's rank is a testament to its "continued vigilance, commitment and zero tolerance in the fight against corruption". Although the country sits atop the index as being one of the world's least corrupt countries, it hasn't always been that way. In the country's earlier years, it faced corruption and crime, but is now known as "one of the cleanest countries in the region and the world."

In a corruption-free government, a government the people trust, citizens pay their taxes and play by the rules. These model nations can be used to inform an Independent Guåhan, which would have the political sovereignty to implement transparency measures and invest more in our people's educational, professional and leadership development.

Pura Vida! Costa Rica

“No puede haber libertad sin justicia social, ni justicia social sin libertad.”

"There can be no freedom without social justice, no social justice without freedom."

-José Maria Figueres Ferrer
Former Costa Rican President



In December of 1948, following 20 years of civil war and what is known as Costa Rica's bloodiest era, then-president Jose Figueres Ferrer declared the end of military force in his country. "Article 12" of the *Costa Rican Constitution*, which addresses the sovereign nation's military abolition, was made official in 1949.

As an independent island nation, today the country neither commands any military units, nor do they house any weapons of war. They do; however, maintain a military alliance with the U.S. in the case of war within the independent state of Costa Rica. The country does operate under what is known as the Public Force established by the Ministry of Public Security in 1996, to enforce laws, patrol borders and fight drug-trafficking.

In an article published in the *Harvard International Review* titled "The curious case of Costa Rica", Maria José Sada (2015) wrote: "...without a military to fund, Costa Rica's government has found itself with a surplus of funds to finance social programs, from high-quality health care services to universal education, all of which helped strengthen Costa Rica's workforce and laid the foundation of substantial economic growth. A combination of human capital and innovative economic policies, in particular economic openness, has also helped push Costa Rica forward."



Pura Vida, which is Spanish for "pure life", is the motto for Costa Ricans' way of life and holds many resemblances to the Chamoru value of *Inafa'maolek* ("to make good"). Many argue that Pura Vida is the value that inspired President Ferrer to shape a Costa Rica that promotes peace and protects all life, whether it be humankind or nature.

While Guåhan will have its own unique defense needs, like Costa Rica, through independence, we can determine our island's defense and other policies with full consideration of our history of war and the quality of life we would want for our future generations.

Nihi Ta Hassuyi Este (Questions To Consider):

1. What are some lessons you've learned about leadership from your family and village that could help shape an Independent Guåhan?
2. What can Malessó' teach the rest of the island about self-sufficiency and independence today?

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Independent Guåhan empowers the Chamoru people to reclaim our sovereignty as a nation. Inspired by the strength of our ancestors and with love for future generations, we educate and unify all who call our island home to build a sustainable and prosperous independent future.