



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2024

### CELEBRATING SÁNTA CRUZ AT HISTORICAL ATANTÁNO

*Piti, Guam* - Mayor Jesse Alig and the Piti Municipal Planning Council are hosting the annual fiesta in honor of Sánta Cruz or the Holy Cross at historical Atantáno in Piti. The nightly novena began on April 25 and will continue through May 2 at 6PM. The *finakpo' nobena* or last day of the novena will be celebrated on Friday, May 3, 2024 at 5PM with the Fiesta Mass in Chamorro and the traditional Na' Taotao Tumano. The island community is invited to join the festivities.

The Atantáno Shrine is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. It is a commemorative marker that was built in at least three stages since the 1700s. This year, we commemorate the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the planting of the coconut plantation and the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rice plantation at this location.

Many original landowners and former residents of the area have participated in the annual celebration since 2022 and are encouraged to be a part of this important cultural and historical renaissance. Mayor Alig comments, "Their stories and lessons of the past will guide our way forward as we perpetuate and uphold our Chamorro values. Atantáno is a special place because of its cultural, historical and religious importance enveloped on this beautiful land."

Call the Piti Mayor's Office at 671-472-1232/3 for more information.

\*\*\*