

The plaintiffs again pointed to

# Homeless problem 'complicated, serious'

By Amritha Alladi

Pacific Daily News

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Gazing out into an expanse of blue, Augustino Ikesakes sat under the shade in one of the Paseo de Susana's smaller outer pavilions, just yards away from the sea-side tent that he and his wife, Leilany, currently call "home."

It's one of the few places he won't be chased away by the authorities, he said.

"No government has no right to say something to me," he said.

Ikesakes represents one of more than 1,000 homeless people on the island, a problem which is becoming a "complicated, serious" issue, according to first lady Joann Camacho, who spoke to a group of Rotarians yesterday on the status of the island's homeless.

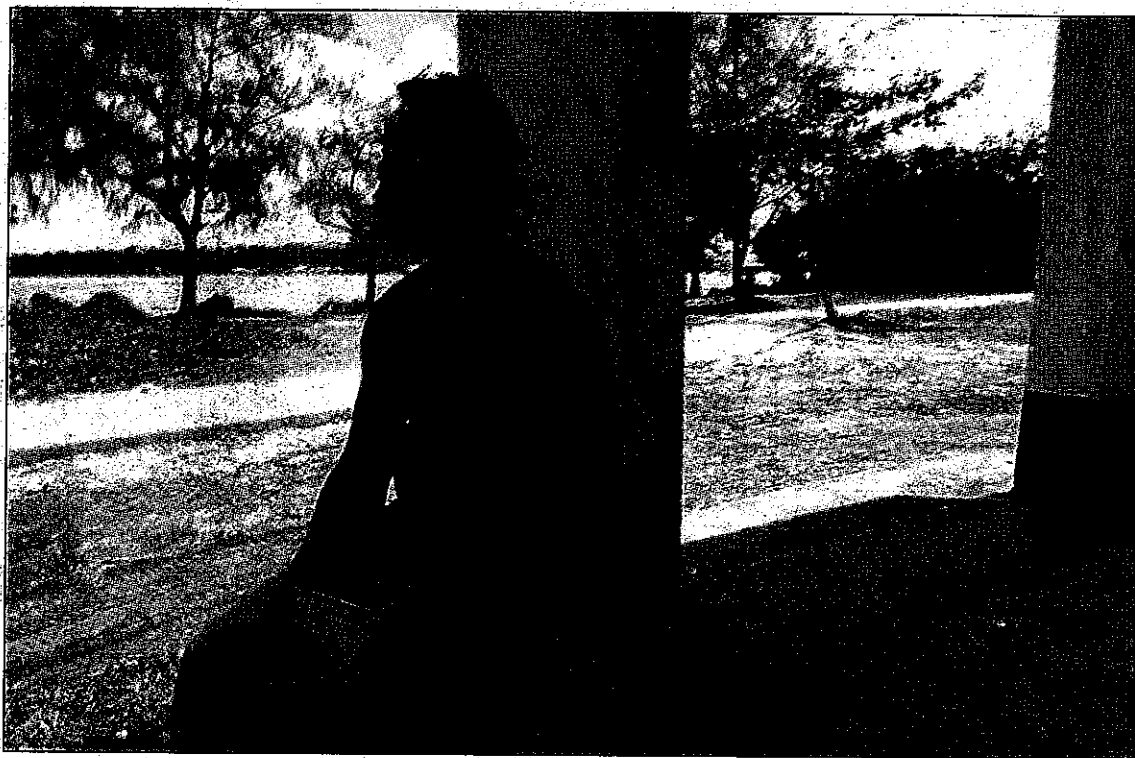
As of April 2009, the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority reported that Guam's homeless population stood at 1,088, according to Pacific Daily News files.

Speaking to the members of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam, Camacho said she has been working alongside several government agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement a 10-year plan to solve the problem of homelessness.

Catholic Social Service's use of stimulus money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Development to build a permanent homeless shelter in Dededo is a step in that direction, Camacho said. That shelter will include 17 bedrooms, two full kitchens, a study room, a meeting or library room with Internet connection, a laundry room and a yard, according to Pacific Daily News files. However, families will only be allowed to stay up to 60 days.

## Free services

Additionally, for the past two years, a one-day event at the



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

**Homeless:** Augustino Ikesakes hangs out at the Paseo de Susana Park in Hagåtña yesterday. Ikesakes said he and his wife have been homeless for six months.

## GET HELP

If you or someone you know is homeless, contact these organizations for assistance:

### The Salvation Army

▲ **Location:** Corten Torres Street in Mangilao

▲ **Phone:** 734-0066

### Guma San Jose

An emergency shelter for fami-

lies and individuals, as well as case management, counseling, transportation, educational workshops, clothing, food and referral services for up to 60 days.

▲ **Phone:** 637-2957

### Public Housing

To apply, call the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority

▲ **Phone:** 475-1367

But according to Ikesakes, those efforts haven't been enough.

He said he hasn't received any assistance from the government, and that's because he doesn't know where to start to procure it. He said he wishes government employees would seek out the homeless on the island and show them where and how to get assistance.

"I don't have any idea to do it," Ikesakes said. "Somebody is supposed to help me to do it. Why don't they come and ask me, 'What do you want us to do (for you) to stop (being) homeless?' Because we don't know where we gotta go."

For now, Ikesakes has been visiting the Kusinan Kamålen Karidát homeless kitchen near the Julale Shopping Center for the one free meal it serves, "just to make you survive for the whole day," he said.

In the meantime, Camacho said she's trying to obtain a federal grant to build a soup kitchen with showers and other facilities that the homeless can use on a temporary basis.

"It's not just an obstacle, but a significant lifestyle struggle," she said.



## In Your Voice

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Tamuning mayor's office has provided the homeless with screenings by the Department of Public Health, career training from the Department of Labor, issuance of ID cards and basic grooming services such as haircuts.