

# Guam Regional Medical City holds 'topping off' ceremony

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GUAM'S new private hospital is one step closer to completion. Yesterday morning, the Guam Regional Medical City held a "topping off" ceremony to celebrate the completion of the ancillary areas and the physical foundation of the medical facilities.

During the ceremony, dignitaries and special guests scattered coins into the wet concrete and raked more concrete over the coins to bring good luck to the facility.

In about 18 months, construction will be complete and the hospital will be open for business.

When the hospital opens in early 2014, it will provide services in cardiology, medical oncology, endocrinology, pulmonology, neurology, and other medical and surgical subspecialties.

The private hospital will have 130 beds.

The special occasion was attended by the Medical City board of directors from the Philippines and local dignitaries.

Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, president and CEO of Medical City, Gov. Eddie Calvo and Sen. Dennis Rodriguez gave speeches.

Rodriguez described the construction of the private hospital as "the most significant advance in health and prosperity in a generation."

Calvo reflected on the progression of health care on Guam, from the work of Chamorro suruhanu and suruhana to today's era of modern medicine.

Kevin Haws, GRMC chief operating officer, introduced the members of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) who will serve to counsel the new hospital in a variety of areas, such as education and training, government, Guam's health and medical community, and the business sector.

"We will draw from the community board members' expertise and experience in ensuring that we remain on course with our mission of service to the community," Haws stated.

## Update

Thom Keeton, senior project manager of dck Pacific Guam, gave an update on the project. He stated that by March 2013, the outer façade of the building would be up. By November, landscaping will take place and by February 2014, the finishing touches will be completed on the medical facility.

After comments were made by several of the members of the CAB, all dignitaries and special guests traveled to the work site to bless the facility.

The CAB members include Peter Sgro, president and board chairman of the Guam Healthcare and Hospital Development



Gov. Eddie Calvo, Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares, Dr. Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, Guam Regional Medical City COO Kevin W. Haws, GRMC CEO Margaret A. Bengzon and other dignitaries throw coins into the cement pour for good luck during yesterday's "topping off" ceremony at the Guam Regional Medical City construction site in Dededo. Photo by Matt Weiss / Variety

Foundation; Dr. John Ray Taitano, president of the Guam Medical Society; Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares; Dr. Mary Okada, president of the Guam Community College; Dr. Robert Underwood, president of the University of Guam; Dr. Annette David, director of Consulting Services Health Partners LLC; Katherine Dote, state director of the Pacific Council Society for Human Resource Management; Ruth Gurusamy, president of Health Services of the Pacific; Len Isotoff, general manager of Guam & Micronesia Matson Navigation; Attorney Rodney Jacob, Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP; and Fe Valencia-Ovalles, president and CEO of Guam Marianas Training Center.

GRMC is also preparing for its opening by securing the supply of cutting-edge medical equipment. Margaret A. Bengzon, GRMC president and chief executive officer, stated: “We are excited to enter this final phase of negotiations with our equipment vendors, Varian Medical Systems, Siemens, Zenith Medical Equipment, and Stryker Medical Products. Through these alliances with industry leaders, we are positioned to deliver world-class health care for the people of Guam.”

Construction of the facility began Nov. 11, 2011.