



# Indopacom head makes a short stop in Palau

 by Island Times Staff  
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Admiral Aquilino, Commander of Indo-Pacific Command meets President Whippets and his cabinet.

Adm. John C. Aquilino, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command lauded Palau's commitment's to international rules-based order and contribution to regional security.



Adm. Aquilino made a short stop in Palau on Feb. 23 and also recognized the nation's fight against COVID-19 as "admirable."

"I understand the importance of this historic place. The importance of our people to people ties, the importance of our common values of freedom, of human rights of all people have the ability to have an opinion and a voice, the adherence to international rules-based order all of those things we share," Aquilino said in his short remarks.

"When you thank me for providing security. Let me give you that right back. And thank you for contributing to our security," he added.

He also noted that Palau "by per capita provides more US service members than anywhere else."

President Surangel Whipps Jr. received the admiral in Palau and highlighted the nation's gratitude towards the partnership with the United States.

Whipps said its ties with the US is important, especially when faced with threats from people "disrespecting" Palau's boundaries.

"We're thankful and grateful to the partnership, some partnerships with the United States are grateful for the security that you provide. As you know, we are faced with threats all the time, especially people disrespecting our boundaries and our territorial borders, which seems to be a problem around the world. "

He said the US has been a strong partner that ensures the country's border is secure. The president also thanked the US's assistance in combatting COVID-19.

"During this time of Covid, it has been on display more than any other time. When we received the first vaccines last January from the U.S., that was the first ray of hope that we would be able to make it through this," Whipps said.