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Guam Public Health Leader Assumes Presidency of National Tuberculosis Coalition of America
Historic appointment elevates Guam's voice in national public health leadership

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) announces that Guam Tuberculosis Program Manager Chima Mbakwem has assumed the presidency of the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America (NTCA), becoming the **first representative from the Pacific Islands** to lead the organization in its 30-year history.

After serving two terms as NTCA Incoming President, Mbakwem now leads the nation's premier professional organization dedicated to tuberculosis prevention, control, and elimination. His appointment gives Guam and the Pacific region a stronger voice in national conversations that shape public health policy, collaboration, and disease prevention efforts. Mr. Mbakwem's selection affirms national trust in the quality, effectiveness, and leadership of Guam's TB Program.

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero congratulated Mbakwem on his historic appointment. "Through his leadership and service to Guam, Chima has helped strengthen tuberculosis prevention efforts across our island and region. His appointment reflects the caliber of public health expertise found within our community and highlights Guam's growing role in advancing public health solutions on a national stage."

Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio also recognized the significance of the achievement. "This historic milestone demonstrates that Guam's public health professionals are contributing to solutions that reach far beyond our island. Chima's leadership is a reflection of the expertise and commitment that continue to strengthen our public health system and serve our community."

DPHSS Director Theresa C. Arriola said the appointment reflects both individual achievement and Guam's growing role in public health leadership. "Every day, public health professionals work behind the scenes to protect families, strengthen communities, and improve lives. Chima's appointment is a powerful reminder that the work being done here in Guam is making an impact far beyond our shores. As DPHSS continues to modernize and strengthen the services we provide, we are proud to see one of our leaders helping shape the future of public health while carrying forward the perspectives and experiences of the communities we serve"

Under Mbakwem's leadership, Guam has strengthened regional tuberculosis prevention and control efforts through expanded collaboration with the Pacific Islands Tuberculosis Controllers Association (PITCA) and increased engagement with regional and international public health partners.

About the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America (NTCA)

The National Tuberculosis Coalition of America is the leading professional organization dedicated to advancing tuberculosis prevention, control, and elimination in the United States. NTCA works closely with federal, state, territorial, local, and international partners to promote best practices, education, research, and policy development to end tuberculosis.

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