



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

**PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO**  
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**SAIPAN MARATHON REGISTERS 785**

**CELEBRITY SUPPORTER HAZAMA HOSTS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The 7<sup>th</sup> Saipan Marathon this Saturday (March 3) in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) will field another strong showing of nearly 800 registrants, with celebrity supporter and NMI Tourism Ambassador Kampei Hazama also hosting a golf tournament on-island the following day.

The Saipan Marathon offers a full marathon (26.2 mi./42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km), a 10K (6.2 miles) and a newly added 50K along roadways through Saipan's quiet and green northern areas and tracing the island's western shoreline. This year, 81 of the total 785 registered athletes are slated to compete in the 50K ultra-marathon.

Meanwhile, Japanese comedian Hazama returns for his third marathon this year and will host the Kampei Hazama Golf Tournament for international and local golfers on Sunday (March 4) at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The tournament winner will receive \$1,000. Registration is limited and may be made by contacting Laolao Bay Golf Resort at 1.670.236.8888.

“In terms of quality and publicity, the Saipan Marathon continues to improve,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “We believe the marathon remains one of our most successful signature events and the event with the greatest growth potential.”

Individual participants are required to pick up their race packets on Friday (March 2) at 4:30 p.m. at American Memorial Park, with no exceptions. The full marathon and 50K will begin at 4:30 a.m. on March 3, followed by the next two races. The entry fee includes the awards banquet at Fiesta Resort & Spa, finisher's t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

“The Saipan Marathon is an excellent opportunity for the Saipan community to put our best foot forward in terms of hospitality,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “Drive safe on race morning, tie up your dogs, and cheer for the runners if you're on the race course.”

Major sponsors of the marathon are Delta Air Lines, New Balance Japan, Scalp D, Toyo Rice, Coca Cola Japan, and Japan Tobacco.

For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or <http://japan.mymarianas.com/saipanmarathon/> or contact Ed Diaz of the Marianas Visitors Authority at [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com) or 1.670.664.3210/1.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. Fly Guam/Fly Marianas provides direct flights from Hong Kong and Nagoya, Japan. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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