

Tinian Dynasty Casino
Before & After
Typhoon Soudelor
Compare & Contrast Essay

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EN101 ON101

I will be discussing the similarities and differences of the Tinian Dynasty's casino before and after Typhoon Soudelor. The Tinian Dynasty's casino has a history of financial troubles. From the raid by the Feds back in 2013, to its temporary closure this year. There are so many things to discuss, compare and contrast and that is what I will be doing on this paper.

The Tinian Dynasty's casino before Typhoon Soudelor was known for its financial troubles. It had gotten through the FinCEN raid back in 2013, where two TDHC employees were arrested by federal agents. The news of the FinCEN raid had made the monthly revenue collection of the casino drop. Players were not comfortable coming to the Tinian Dynasty to play where there was a history of conspiracies; which made the Tinian Dynasty a dangerous and open environment for gangs such as the Yakuza, or Chinese triad to come and play with "dirty money." There were high hopes that after things settled down with the FinCEN raid, that the Tinian Dynasty would find ways to advertise the casino to bring customers and players alike.

In the early part of August this year, Typhoon Soudelor hit the Marianas which impacted its tourism industry. Tinian's casino industry was economically damaged due to the lessened international flights from Saipan International Airport's damaged runway. Tourists were not coming in, and negative cash flow was becoming a problem for the Tinian Dynasty management. Communication between the islands had also become problematic because of the world, which practically disconnected the CNMI from the rest of the world. The damaged undersea cable lines caused the Tinian Dynasty to be a "cash only" enterprise until the cable lines were repaired.

Shortly after Typhoon Soudelor, the Tinian Dynasty management had decided to temporarily close the casino floor operations. The negative cash flow, decreased international flights and cash basis only situations had made it hard for TDHC to collect any form of profit. The management in a letter addressed to Tinian Mayor, JP San Nicolas had informed him of the

issues they needed to come back from before they could reopen the operations of the casino floor. The temporary closure had affected the employees of the Tinian Dynasty and those employed and paid under the Tinian Local Budget, due to lack of revenue collections.

Before Typhoon Soudelor, the people of Tinian were confident that the casino industry would find its way back to what was once prosperous and something to look forward to. The aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor had damaged the Tinian local economy; that had caused the people to look at it from a negative perspective. The employees of the Tinian Dynasty and those employed under the local budget were becoming restless and frustrated because they were not getting paid. The Tinian Local Leadership, Tinian Dynasty Management and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission were still finding ways to come to an agreement where all parties were comfortable. I hope that in time, the Dynasty will open and go back to what it once was before Typhoon Soudelor.

Tinian Dynasty Before & After Typhoon Soudelor

Introduction: The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has been known through social media and through public comment as “troubled,” in the past years. From the IRS raid in April 2013, to the \$75 million FINCEN fine for various anti-money laundering violations; to its temporary closure, to Typhoon Soudelor, both misfortunes occurred in 2015. Currently the present owners, existing investors, local government, and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission are all still trying to find ways to make things better for the company itself, and for the benefit of the Tinian residents; all while trying to uphold the integrity of the gaming industry on Tinian.

In mid-August, I, along with other employees of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission were informed of the temporary closure of the Tinian Dynasty Casino. The temporary closure was requested by the management of the present Tinian Dynasty Management Team.

In a letter addressed to Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas, from Hong Kong Entertainment’s Wai Chan, he expressed his regret on the topic of TDHC’s imminent closure on September 1st. In this letter, Chan stated that along with the casino, they would be shutting down hotel operations as well due to the lack of cash flow and insufficient guest arrival. Before this letter was made, it was on local newspapers that the Saipan International Airport would only be making daytime flights for Asian customers. Some tourists, even ended up stranded on Saipan because of the lack of flights. Because of this situation, it caused little or no tourists to make their way to Tinian, and even if they did at the time, there were minimal tourist attractions.

Before Typhoon Soudelor, events, such as the IRS raid back in April 2013 caused the \$75 million FINCEN fine for the Tinian Dynasty. They were fined for various anti-money laundering violations. The fine was given this year and two of Dynasty’s employees were arrested because they were found responsible for it.

Before Typhoon Soudelor, the people involved with the IRS raid were the Tinian Dynasty Casino employees: George Que, and Tim Blythe, other people involved were the management team of the hotel-casino, and federal agents. After Typhoon Soudelor, the people involved were the employees of Tinian Dynasty, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, and Tinian’s elected officials.

The people are affected by the closure in so many ways. Casino employees for the Tinian Dynasty were told that until the casino reopens they will not be reporting for duty. The management team informed the employees of ways they will assist them until things get better. Then, the Mayor announced that he had to release forty of his employees because of the closure, and that the way those employees were being paid was through the local budget which is made through the collection of monthly casino taxes. The next agency affected was the TCGCC

because, they too are funded by the monthly casino taxes. The community learned of the closure that caused misunderstandings as well as misinterpretations of the news.

Currently, the TCGCC, TDHC, and elected officials are trying to find ways to fix this. Some may say that if the new casino applicants were given a Casino License that things will be back to proper working order, but that will all happen in due time. Investigations still need to be made to find out if the applicants are found suitable enough to take over the operations of the hotel-casino.



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Q1: Address

Name	Emiliana Mangiona
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Q2: How would you describe the Tinian Dynasty Casino's situation before TYPHOON SOUDELOR?

It wasn't good nor was it bad. It was slow, but working. We were making money, and losing some; but that's how the business works.

Q3: How would you describe the Tinian Dynasty Casino's situation after TYPHOON SOUDELOR?

It got worse because of the temporary closure request from TDHC's upper management. And then, the cash only basis affected the hotel as well.

Q4: Why do you think Tinian Dyansty Casino is in their current situation?

In my opinion, it's because they have been uncooperative. Had TDHC, TCGCC and the Tinian elected official cooperated well, it wouldn't have gotten this messy.

Q5: Do you think the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission is at fault for the Tinian Dyansty Casino's closure?

No.

Q6: Do you think Tinian Dynasty will pull through with their current situation?

Yes, I really hope so.

Q7: Which time do you prefer, before or after Typhoon Soudelor?

Before, only because the industry was doing well.

Q8: What do you think Tinian Dynasty Casino should do?

Continue to cooperate and work with the Commission and continue to work on meeting the conditions they set for them.

Q9: With Saipan opening a casino, do you think Tinian's Casino will succeed?

I hope that it will benefit Tinian's industry, and that Saipan will help promote our industry.

Q10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

Nope.

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