



House Journal

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2006

Sixth Day

August 16, 2006

The House of Representatives of the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Sixth Day, Second Regular Session on August 16, 2006, at 10:18 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Oscar M. Babauta, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and seventeen members were present. Representative Martin B. Ada came in late.

Speaker Babauta: Clerk, for the record, take note that Representative Ada is on his way. Should he not show up for the remainder of the session, please mark him absent. Quorum is duly established for this morning's session, let me just call a very short recess so that we may accommodate a recipient, Mr. Chinen to be presented a House Resolution by Representative Dela Cruz. Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:20 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. Clerk, please mark, Representative Ada as duly present.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. L. B. NO. 15-45: A Local Appropriation Bill for an Act for the Third Senatorial District to reappropriate \$50,000.00 from Saipan Local Law 14-31, Section 2 (a); and for other purposes.

Offered by: Justo S. Quitugua and seventeen others

H. L. B. NO. 15-46: A Local Appropriations Bill for an Act to appropriate \$175,000.00 from the First Senatorial District Solid Waste Revolving Fund; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Crispin M. Ogo

Rep. Palacios: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: State your privilege.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, I do not necessarily want to question the author of this bill for introducing it. That is certainly the prerogative of every member of this Legislature to introduce whatever bill they want to introduce. But I want to get a clarification from our legal counsel. This is a Local Bill appropriating funds from a CNMI wide funding, is this Local Bill appropriating from the Solid Waste Fund?

Speaker Babauta: Without objection, counsel?

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: *The fund is coming from the First Senatorial District Solid Waste Revolving Fund. It is earmarked for the First Senatorial District.*

Rep. Palacios: Yes, it is earmarked, but the funding is a funding source and the enabling law statute that created this funding is a Commonwealth wide law. It allows for among others a 10% set aside or earmarked for Senatorial Districts for its Solid Waste program, therefore, the question is, is this local law infringing on that Commonwealth wide law? Although it is specifically earmarked for that, I believe in the past we have gone through the a CNMI wide having it as a House Bill and never a Local Delegation Bill. If that be the case, am I correct that if this is allowed, can the Saipan Local Delegation also appropriate funds out of the Solid Waste Revolving Fund that is allocated to Third Senatorial District?

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: *Yes. You are right. The origin of the funding is from a Solid Waste Bill. It is a House Bill, but that bill earmarks 10% to the First, Second and Third Senatorial District. So now that funding is clearly funds for the Third Senatorial District similar to like Poker Fees and it becomes a local...*

Rep. Palacios: No, it is not similar. There is a very big difference because the Poker Fees is left to the Delegation to respectively tax it and set those fees. In this case, it is a CNMI wide but in the provision of the Beautification Tax Law Statute, we set aside certain amount for each Senatorial District.

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: *Correct.*

Rep. Palacios: And if you look at the history of appropriations under this statute, it has always been done through a regular House Bill appropriations. It has never been in a Local Bill appropriation. My question also is that the Saipan Legislative Delegation authorizes with this type of precedence to again go in and appropriating funds set aside for the Third Senatorial District.

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: *I see no restriction.*

Rep. Palacios: You see no restriction?

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: *I would say yes.*

Speaker Babauta: Minority Leader, maybe better yet, because this is just introduction, the Local Bill would appear for three session Calendar so you are absolutely correct that any House member during a House Session has rights on Local Bills by members of the House for the respective Senatorial Delegation. The House can deliberate on those bills if it need be and will accommodate your concern on the Bill Calendar if it is...

Rep. Palacios: I appreciate that point, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that I would raise that issue and have it go through...

Speaker Babauta: Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 15-142: (8/3/06) Informing the House that S. B. NO. 15-45, SD1, HD2 (DPL Mining Permit) which was overridden by the Legislature **became Public Law No. 15-21.**

GOV. COMM. 15-143: (8/3/06) Informing the House that S. B. NO. 15-41, SD1 (Public Employee Legal Defense and Indemnification Act) which was overridden by the Legislature **became Public Law No. 15-22.**

GOV. COMM. 15-144: (8/10/06) Informing the House that he signed into law S. B. NO. 15-38, SS1, HD1 (Renewable Energy). [Became **Public Law No. 15-23**]

There was no discussion.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 15-79: (8/11/06) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HD3 (Government Austerity Holiday). [For info]

SEN. COMM. 15-80: (8/11/06) Returning H. J. R. NO. 15-8 (CDBG) which was adopted by the Senate on August 11, 2006, without amendment. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 15-81: (8/11/06) Returning H. J. R. NO. 15-9, HD1 (Open Skies) which was adopted by the Senate on August 11, 2006, without amendment. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 15-82: (8/14/06) Returning H. B. No. 15-156 (NMHC Loan-MPLT's investment transferred to the General Fund) which was passed by the Senate on August 11, 2006, without amendment. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 15-83: (8/14/06) Returning H. B. No. 15-158, HD3 (2007 Budget Act) which was passed by the Senate with amendments on August 11, 2006 in the form of **H. B. No. 15-158, HD3, SS1**. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 15-84: (8/15/06) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1 (Government Austerity Holiday) which was reconsidered by the Senate and passed on Final Reading on August 15, 2006. [*For action*]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I move to accept SEN. COMM. 15-79 thru SEN. COMM. 15-84 except for SEN. COMM. 15-83.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion on the motion.

Rep. Palacios: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: State your point.

Rep. Palacios: Is this just an acceptance?

Speaker Babauta: Absolutely.

Rep. Palacios: Once we accept, we are not...because I have seen in the past were we accept communications regarding legislations from the Senate and the...

Speaker Babauta: Be assured that the parliamentary procedure would be followed.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So clarified.

Speaker Babauta: Ready.

The acceptance motion except for SEN. COMM. 15-83 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion carries. Floor Leader for placement.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for placement on today's Calendar, SEN. COMM. 15-84 pursuant to Section 15 of the House rule.

The placement of S. B. No. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1 was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion carries.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, to reject SEN. COMM. 15-83.

The motion to reject H. B. NO. 15-158, HD3, SS1 was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion carries. Right now officially, I am appointing the Conferees from the House to be spearheaded by Chairman Crispin Ogo; Vice Speaker Quitugua, Chairman Aldan, Representative Yumul and Minority Leader Palacios. This is official as of this morning. I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Could I ask, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence. I would necessarily do it but can you allow me to perhaps appoint one of the other Minorities?

Speaker Babauta: The Chair has decided to include you, Minority Leader, as one of the Conferees. I sincerely appreciate you working not only for the Minority Bloc but for the entire House for that matter. So that is official now. I will be notifying the Senate President upon recess of our session this morning. Thank you. I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Rep. Tebuteb: May I ask just the composition of the old Conference Committee from both Houses if you...

Speaker Babauta: The Senate has yet to initiate the members. This is the House move to reject. I will be notifying the Senate President that the House had unanimously rejected the Senate amendment on the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. At the same note, I will be informing him of the House Conferees so we ask him to also expedite his Conferees Committee from the Senate so that the Joint Conference can start working on mutual consent. Okay. We will go right down to Bill Calendar.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, suspension and placement of S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1.

The suspension motion was seconded carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: Passage motion, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading, S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1.

The motion was seconded.

S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT A REDUCED-HOUR GOVERNMENT PAY PERIOD, ESTABLISH GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY HOLIDAYS WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a Substitute bill to S. B. NO. 15-51. Mr. Speaker, I passed out the Substitute.

Speaker Babauta: Does everyone have copies?

Vice Speaker Quitugua: The computer is so old and it left out the SS1. So could you please include the SS1.

The Substitute offered by the Vice Speaker was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Let us have a short recess and when we come back we will allow discussion on the Substitute. Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:41 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

(During recess, Chairman Ada walked in.)

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session and the motion that was offered by the Vice Speaker has been seconded. Discussion on the House Substitute version, and I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to offer an amendment to the Legislation on the Substitute. On page 8, Section 8, on the Furlough Provision, delete the words, “The Legislature requests that” and put a caps on “Upon and continue on.

The oral amendment offered by the Minority Leader was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Is everyone clear on the oral amendment? I recognize Representative Dela Cruz.

Rep. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe this a subject that forced the Governor to not sign the bill into law by inserting the word shall. We are merely again trying to force the issue on the separation of powers. I believe that this amendment will not reach first base once it gets to the Executive Branch. That is all, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Let me recognize the mover.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are points well taken and noted. Let me refer to our Constitution because that seems to be the hits that we have. Article 2 of the Constitution is the Legislative power. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Section 5 of the Constitution, there is no prohibition of doing this. The only prohibition basically is that the Legislature shall not enact any law which increases the class of non-alien except as those defined. So it has to do with creating different alien statues. It is not my intention to go back and forth with our Governor on this issue. It is my believe that we have the prerogative to do this. I would like to think and believe that this language is not necessary. The fact of the matter is that, on Monday’s paper I see that the Government of the Executive Branch is going to proceed with the furloughs of not just the 300 civil service employees that we have, but it has now increased to 462 according to our newspapers. The furlough that is being handed out is for one month period. We are giving the Governor the whole of FY 2007, the last Friday of August and September. This is the spirit of cooperation. We need to consider the needs of those individuals that are going to be affected by this one month furlough. These are people that have to deal without a paycheck for a month and a half or a month and have to deal with the rising of utility bills that have just kicked in, and all the other increases in goods. To me, it is practically the worst time to be furloughing our employees or any employee whether be it civil service or otherwise. It is for that reason only that I am insisting that we insert this. We need to begin to consider some of the implications and ramifications of this furloughs and austerity holidays. The austerity holidays would save the government a substantial amount of money over the next

fiscal year. Can we give 462 civil service employees a break because we will save at the end? We will save some. I understand the question of separations of power that is being raised and that is why we have Section 9. If Section 8 is to be deemed unconstitutional by any court, this legislation will continue to be in effect. Section 8 will then be taken out. I do not necessarily prescribe to getting into confrontation with our Governor. I also support the intent of this bill. But let me remind you. When the Senate President introduced this bill, he came out in the paper and said that this is the alternative legislation to the furloughs. What happened to that intent? This was intended to be the alternative. It means to me that if we pass this then we opt to rescind the furloughs so that we can save the problems that are going to be faced by our civil service employees. I think that the Legislature is within its right to insert something like this. I would like to think that we do not need to do this thing, but learning from experienced, a very recent experience, where we suspended the Retirement contribution so that we can avoid the termination of some employees in the Executive Branch, and I for one voted my conscience in trying to save those people and voted for that legislation just to find out that the termination of these employees indeed was carried out. I would give other members chance to speak.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. I recognize Representative Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the sentiments expressed here, but I would like to state that I some of us maybe operating on some false implications that somehow the Governor does not support the rescinding of the furlough. The reason why he is even willing to entertain this is specifically for that purpose. I happened to be at the press conference last Friday, when I heard the Governor said that he was prepared to rescind the furlough had this bill or the bill that previously came up from both Houses not contain specific provisions that he had objected to. Now, unfortunately, some of these provisions where the ones that I had objected to when we talked about the separation of powers issue. The bill that went up there was considered by the Governor and he found it unacceptable and he has that right to not sign it into law, and in a cooperative spirit, he allowed the Senate to recall this bill and they did that. They have cooperatively taken out the provisions or amended the provisions that the Executive Branch objected to. Now it comes to us and we keep saying that we are concern about the employees that are to be furloughed and we keep bringing up the difficulties that everyone would be suffering had the furlough been allowed to be implemented, but the longer that we sit around and split hair over this, we already know what it will take to remove the furlough. It is not a mystery. We already know that. So why do we continue to delay? Why do we not want to cooperate if that is what we really want to do? Let us cooperate and approve this bill as transmitted to us by the Senate with the amendment made by the Speaker. Let us not return it and go on this merry-go-round that continues to delay and continues to prolonged the eventual suffering of our people. I like this bill. As I said before, it spreads out the pain. Everyone take a hit. I volunteered before to take a pay cut to assume my own burden and I am sure that other members of the Chamber or this body are willing to do the same. So I ask you on behalf of our people, let us not waste anymore time. Time is not on our side. Let us move today, please. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Waki.

Rep. Waki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know we could say, sooner or later we are going to be a day late and a dollar short and it is unfortunate that this particular issue of trying to save the government some money and trying to have everybody pitch in so something like the furlough does

not occur. It has been in the books as a bill since April and we say that it is not needed to cut some hours or 10% of the pay so that in that way, overall everybody keeps a job and nobody has to take the hit for everybody else.

Rep. Palacios: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: State your point.

Rep. Palacios: Am I to assume that your positions then is that you support rescinding the furlough as the Governor has said?

Speaker Babauta: Say that again?

Rep. Palacios: Am I to assume that as the Governor had stated, you also support rescinding the furlough?

Rep. Waki: Yes, of course.

Rep. Palacios: Okay.

Rep. Waki: Bottom line here is, the furlough came about because other things not being done and the Governor basically is caught between a rock and a hard place, and bottom line here is, we are running out of time. In order for this furlough to be rescinded, we had brought in, as per the Minority Block asking for Tony Muna and Eloy Inos to come in and address the concerns of the Finance, and as they were addressed, we ask specifically, if this bill with everything that they are doing, if this is passed, will this furlough be rescinded? The Secretary of Finance, Eloy Inos says 99%. So for us to say that we need to tell the Governor that he shall do this when in all actuality we are telling another branch of power what to do; and this is not what we are here to do. We are here to work together. The longer we argue on this particular bill on a word that may cost the Governor not to sign it, will cause some of these civil service employees, up to 500 people, to be furloughed. That is the bottom line. He has that call and we are just trying to spread the burden across the board and I think we had all said that we are willing to help. The bottom line here is, everyday that we discuss this and deliberate and change this and change that, these people are going to go on furlough. And who is going to be the blame? Are we going to point the finger at the Governor? Or are the people going to point the finger at the Legislature? Are we ready to take the hit because we could have avoided this? This is all I am trying to get to that just for a word called, "shall" we are going to delay this and people right now, the furloughs are going to start here shortly because it needs to start at a certain payroll period and I for one will not go with the word so that way, when we give it over, and it goes back to the Governor, it will be passed and we can save those four to five hundred people that are going to be furloughed. It is better to take a little bit less on a paycheck than not to have a paycheck whatsoever. So what we are trying to do is trying to ease the pain as much as possible. We know that the government does not have that much revenue. We have seen it in the drop of tourism and we have seen it in the drop of the garment. We know that we do not have the revenue to keep the government as big as it is. It is unfortunate. We all are going to have to take the cut. We may not get a bigger cut in manpower, but we need to take a cut in ways like salary and everything else and this is what we are trying to do so that the government stays open for business. Unfortunately, we keep bickering about this and this and this and that. We need to work with the

executives. The executive employees are the ones that are taking the biggest hit. It does not happen in the Legislature. We have not said that we are going to lay-off our employees, have we? But the Governor says he will lay off his. But we have the right to lay-off some of ours so that we can save some money for the government, but we have not done that. So the Governor is trying to save the government, but are we helping? Is this Legislature helping? I will leave that up to the people in the gallery and the people that are going to be listening to this later on to figure out who is really helping who and I leave it on the table. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Taman.

Rep. Taman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in the vernacular so I can express myself clearly.

Speaker Babauta: Konsigi siñot. Direcho-mu enao.

Rep. Taman: Konrespeto para todú i man gatchong-hu guini na kongresita. Inasoku buenti na anai pago man halom hit guini gi mina kinsi na lehislatura na todos hit kumompreni hafa pinadesisita gi halom i gobietnamiento yan i publiko. Enao testimonio enao anai ta pasa eyu na aktu anai humuyong, Public Law 15-1 anai ta nahi i gobietno autoridat ni para u program fondu siha gi halom i fengkas gobietnamiento kosa ki siña tana libianu mona i taotao-ta. Testimonio enao. With all due respect, Congressman Waki, taya guini bickering. We are given the fiduciary responsibility to sit down and debate the best interest of our people. Ahi, ti man bickering hit guini. Ya yangin eyu ha para ta atiendi na klasen aktu eyu i para tatungo na para u fitma i gobietno, pues para-fa hit guini manmachochu? Para hit manman dibati? Ta sotta ha ya i gobietno hu chogui hafa malago-ña. Yangin estigui ginagagao na para ta chogue ni para ta protehi i interes taotao-ta, polu ya achogha ti hu fitma igobietno lao ta difendi i action ni ta chogue guini. Enagui i punto guini na man gaige hit. Ahe ti para ta sigi ha dumalalaki i minalagu gobietno. Sabidios lokue malago-ña i gobietno para u satba todú i problema. I problema-ta guini, i tachochogui adumididi hafa para ta satba i fengkas kosa ko todos hu fan nahong i taotao-ta. Meggai na taotao ma expresa i sientin niha na hunggan man willing siha lokue para uma aksepta i tinilaika siha. Lao esta dondista esti mampos. Sigi ta lay-off i taotao, sigi ha i power rate kumahulo. Yangin estagui na agumento para ta fan agumento pago na oga'an sa pot i separation of power nai, yangin separation of power ya guaha iyoña Constitutional Authority i gobietno para uchogue hafa malago-ña nai, so what then are we doing with this bill here in this House? With due respect, bai hu punta talo esti huyung na there is no such word as bickering in this body. We are trying to put our heads together, we are trying to debate the issue and the very debate that we are undertaking in this body is that, we are trying to come up with the best interest of our people. Para-fa yu salape. Para-fa yu savings yangin esta todú manmalago familiaku. Bula esta pumaketi siha, bulan taotao. Ekua kao in chehek esti bulan taotao ni esta dumingo isla. Hayi ta keke protehi guini kao I taotao-ta pat taotao otro banda? Si yu'us ma'ase, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you, Representative Taman. Before we continue on the amendment as offered by the Minority Leader, let us focus our legal interpretation on the discussion on the oral amendment. So without objection, I would like to request the counsel to briefly comment on the proposed oral amendment as offered by the Minority Leader.

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My position is essentially the same when we discussed this before. There are certain discretionary acts within each branches of government that

should not be preempted by another branch in order to avoid separation of powers issue. Just briefly, if this were adopted, one of three things could happen. The Governor could veto the bill and send it back, the Governor could sign it into law and then the issue still stands and would have to be litigated in court, or the Governor can sign it into law and then ignore the provision. In the second case, if the Governor signs it into law and acts on provision, that is of course, open to constitutional challenge. In the third case, if the Governor signs it into law and ignores the provision, which would be up to the Legislature to challenge it in court to require him to enforce the provision. Either of the second two options would require litigation and the Minority Leader is correct, there is severability provision that would eliminate it but that also requires the initiation of the lawsuit. It does not just happen automatically.

Speaker Babauta: We are actually trying to solve a problem here with respect to our Commonwealth government employees. I would continue to work with each and everyone of you, diplomatically and humbly, and consider all aspects of our fiduciary duty including the Constitution itself as what we are sworn to uphold and that is what I want to see this morning. Before I recognize the Minority Leader, I would like to recognize the other members whom wish to dwell on the amendment. I recognize Representative Tenorio.

Rep. Tenorio: Mr. Speaker, would I be off-line if I just talk on the bill itself just like everybody else?

Speaker Babauta: You may continue.

Rep. Tenorio: Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: I am just reminding you about the present motion.

Rep. Tenorio: I want to thank my colleague, Representative Taman for his very thorough comment in vernacular on how this bill would affect the population in general or the community on this island. I realize also that it is not easy. This is not a simple bill. We argue about the constitutionality of this bill, but it is a very substantive bill and I am really surprised. I have been in the Legislature for nine years now and if the Committee where to do a bill like this, the first thing that they would look at is the complete fiscal impact on how would this bill generate the necessary funds to address the Governor's concern or how would this bill address the furlough or the amount of money that would have to be taken off from those people that would be affected. How would this improve the lives of the community? I do not see anything in here and of course, we ask the Secretary of Finance and the Budget officer to come here and explain to us, but I did not get anything except the beat around the bush. If I get anything, what the Secretary of Finance says was that we are on target on the budget. We are about 1% off. In other words, we are pretty darn good as far as the collections are concern. Now, here we are doubling the price of fuel or maybe tripling it. At first the increase rates was going to be temporary then they are going to make it permanent. We talked out furloughing one thousand of our low income people for heaven's sake.

Speaker Babauta: Let me just clarify the doubling of the price fuel.

Rep. Tenorio: Mr. Speaker, it is all in the paper.

Speaker Babauta: The market dictates that and the Legislature does not double the price.

Rep. Tenorio: It did not say that the Legislature either. CUC is the one that is doing that not us. We are probably consenting to it by keeping our mouth shut, but we are not here to keep our mouth shut. I am not bickering. I am merely stating the facts and I am here representing the people from Precinct I, which is the most populist district on this island, and they do not bicker to me, they complain. This is our obligation and we all realize the fact that we have a big problem. All we want to know is to find out what are we doing with all these money that we are suppose to be saving? Where is the Committee Report that says, this is what you save from doing all of this and this is how you are going to spend it? I mean, give us some guidelines. We are dealing with people's lives here, Mr. Speaker. But if the Governor is really serious and really wants to help the employees and rescind the furlough, we will take away that "shall." All he has to do is write you a short note and say, Mr. Speaker, pass the bill and you have my assurance that I will lift the furlough and reinstate those people issued the marching orders. Very simple. Did he say that in the press conference? Is that so difficult to put in the paper and have the Governor to commit himself so that we do not have all these people sitting back in the gallery waiting for the furlough at the same time wondering what they are going to do with their lives. We just heard Congressman Taman mentioned that a lot of our citizens here are thinking twice about staying on this island. They are packing and going to better pastures. Do we want this thing to happen? I know that if you search your conscience, you would vote against this bill. What 16-2? For putting the "shall" in there and considering all these things happening, is there enough explanation why? I want each and every member to search their conscience because this is going to create a lot of suffering to our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Since you brought up a very hefty comment not necessarily arguing on the aspects, I love to, but let me add to your comment. I would like to officially during this session inform each and every member of this House that, yes, and I thank you for bringing that up. The Administration will and shall rescind those furlough if this bill is passed this morning as is. That was a commitment and I am sure that as some members stated earlier, it is not because we do not trust the Governor, it is not that the Governor do not trust us, let us just simplify this and trust each other because there is a commitment on the table that would save people's lives through wages and salary. As I indicated earlier, the Public School System is exempted during portions of Fiscal Year 2007, however, to be fair and equal to every CNMI government employees, and that includes also lawyers and doctors,...

Rep. Tenorio: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: One moment. Let me just finish. The 26 days as a result of the eight hour holiday for Fiscal Year 2007, which is equal to 26 days, would be absorbed by the Public School System after the school closes for school year 2006-2007. So yes, everybody would be equal. Now I recognize your clarification, Representative Tenorio.

Rep. Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that tomorrow is the deadline for some one hundred employees that were given marching orders or termination notices and I understand that if this bill was passed, that is also a commitment by the Governor to rescind the notices, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Babauta: Each and every comment that the Governor made with respect to the rescinding of the furlough is a commitment in itself and also stated in the bill, effective July 20, 2006. So the provision that the Minority Leader was trying to impress upon the members to adopt was merely sort of a force provision and I kindly ask the Minority Leader to reconsider so that we may have a diplomatic start of the sentence in that provision.

Rep. Tenorio: The answer is, yes.

Speaker Babauta: This is the seventh time the Minority Leader have raised his hand.

Rep. Palacios: You know, Mr. Speaker, sometimes I think that you are not even looking at me anymore, but be that as it may, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This would have been so easy Monday or Friday. Perhaps the Governor did not realize the conviction that we have regarding this issue. Perhaps he did not realize the degree and I know. I listen to Congresswoman Kaipat and I know that she is very serious about the impact that this will have, and she is very fortunate indeed that the Governor assured her. But as far as I am concern, absent the assurance, the Governor could have made this very easy. He should have send the leadership of the Senate and the House a one sentence and signed by him and say, I assure you that we will rescind this if you amend the legislation and I would have gone with that. Absent that, Mr. Speaker, I have reservation and I know why. I have been through this, a hard wrenching debate and so searching whether to vote for the suspension of the Retirement contribution so that people do not get terminated. But despite agreeing to that, people still got terminated. Where do I stand personally? I would have voluntarily be the one to delete this had I have a one sentence correspondent from the Governor. Is our Lieutenant Governor willing to come down? We will take a break and ask him to give us one sentence of assurance.

Rep. Tenorio: Move for recess, Mr. Speaker.

Rep. Palacios: That is the essence. You know, I weigh myself now and I cannot...Representative Waki brought up and he jokingly approach me last Friday and we were debating this during recess and he says, Eloy Inos says that 99%. But I said, you know, I heard that, but it is that 1% that I am scared of. It is just that 1% that I am not willing to sacrifice. I fully understand the legal counsels guidance on this, but this is an issue that considers or needs to be considered clearly and if there is an issue that I am willing to violate the Constitution in the separation of power, this is it. If it is a violation of the Constitution, so be it. This is one of those that I am willing to, so be it. Remember that cooperation is a mutual word. It takes two to cooperate. We cannot cooperate on a one way street. Some are very fortunate that you have been assured but my trust is very low because I had experienced being burned by my own action. It is a shame on me situation. You fool me once, shame on you. You fool me twice, shame on me and that is the reservation that I have. Now, give me an assurance. That is all we ask. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you, Minority Leader. It is always a pleasure to indulge to everybody. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got burned once and I am willing to get burn the second time for the sake of the poor employees that are being given notices for the furlough. Mr. Speaker, I will take the second burn, and as our Speaker, you just assured us that the Governor had relayed the message that if this legislation is passed, giving him the opportunity to recall the

furlough voluntarily, then I will continue to tell myself that even if the second burn hurts, I will take it for these people. Mr. Speaker, I for one, I feel for everybody in our Commonwealth especially our employees that supposedly to be furloughed, but I am here to help them if this is an alternative to helping them. So I trust, Mr. Speaker, that what the Governor relates to you stands, and as our Speaker, once again, I would take your words that the furlough will be voluntarily rescinded by the Governor. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. I have previously informed you and that would be the official record of the House as transmitted to all of you this morning. Although it is verbally, it should be in the Journal of this House. Members, be assured that the acceptance of this Senate Substitute would not perish in a sense where we would continue to achieve the intended goal which is primarily for those individuals that have been issued a letter already. I sincerely ask for your indulgence and understanding to continue on with what we are trying to achieve in this legislation. I recognize Representative Taman.

Rep. Taman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We trust that assurance that you have just given us, but I just want to go on record by saying that, history showed that many times when we go to court because we are being challenged on certain statute, we find that the very legislation that we pass which becomes law is somewhat inadequate because the legal scientist comes in and tries to circumvent that very law that we make. This happens all the time. I am so much concern with that verbal assurance as oppose to putting that language in there. If there is that verbal assurance, what is then wrong with that word, “shall” in this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Just for the benefit of some members, previously, even we had a case law also out of the CNMI District Court that has struck out some provisions of our existing law, therefore, it nullifies everything. It only contains now the saving clause. Okay. I recognize Representative Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: I believe the legal counsel has already explained the difference and I move to end debate.

Speaker Babauta: Before I recognize that motion, I would like to recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Rep. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I posted that question when we were discussing the Retirement reduction and you did also give us the assurance that those who were given their walking papers will be taken back. However, it did not happen and just like the Minority Leader, my trust is not as large as some of our colleagues in here. The message from the Governor has indicated to us that we have violated the Constitution and I go back again on the Legislative Branches or on Section 5, Article 2, which is also very clear by the Constitution. This is not really about delaying. The fact of the matter is that we already pass or already accept this Substitute from the Vice Speaker. So it is not delaying it. It will go back to the Senate for the changes that has been incorporated and should we also pass the amendment being made by the Minority Leader, if the constitutional issue on the “shall” is a debatable issue at this point, then it should not be on the Administration’s veto if your word would become true if they will rescind those furloughs. Contrary to what has been said and even if we go back to the record, I do care who gets the furlough notices. The bottom line also is that there has been Declaration of Emergency and to date, we have yet to receive what the status. Although we have received a letter from the Chairman on PUTC that there would be a meeting with

CUC this coming Friday, to date, we have yet to receive the status on not only the situation on CUC, as you know, we had a situation over the weekend and even that, we have yet to really understand what transpired on that note. Even contrary to some of those comments that were being made, it was the Minority who also proposed the reduction from the Legislature and voted down by the Majority of this House. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you, for clarifying some of those issues with respect to what we are trying to achieve here this morning. With that, I recognize the motion to end debate.

The motion to end debate was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Representative Tenorio, brief comment.

Rep. Tenorio: I just want to be on record with the clear understanding that if we delete that “shall” and go on with what the Governor wants, with the assurance that the Governor will rescind the furlough and rescind the termination letters, with that, Mr. Speaker, I will support this bill and pray that the Governor and the Administration will do whatever is necessary to correct whatever needs to be out in the community to provide the necessary public service. That is all I care, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you for joining me in your prayers and I urge all other members to join me too. Is that a subsidiary motion to withdraw? State your point, Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: That there are still other issues here and the debate that is going to be ended specifically on Representative Palacios’ amendment. I still would like to discuss other areas of the bill when we go back to the main motion.

Speaker Babauta: Yes.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, as much as I would like to withdraw this, I still have a very strong conviction and that I need this assurance. Why not just put it to a vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion to end debate has been seconded. Clerk, call for the roll on the oral floor amendment as offered by Representative Palacios.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1, HS3 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	no
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	no
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	no
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	no
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	no
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	no

Mr. Speaker, with your assurance that the furloughs will be rescinded by the Governor, I am voting "no."

Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	no
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	no
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	no

Speaker Babauta: It is a tie vote and we will continue to discuss the oral floor amendment as offered by the Minority Leader. Further discussion on the oral floor amendment and I recognize Representative Ada.

Rep. Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill includes reduction of work hours. Eighteen of us supported it. That is being contented with what we have to do. That is one for the Governor and for the situation that we are in; the floor amendment is for the people who are suffering. I will continue to support those who put me in office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: I am somewhat confused by that statement. It is like a discombobulated body. Obviously, this whole bill has to be implemented together in order for other parts to fit, to help all the people. You cannot just take out a part and say, this is for the Governor and this is for the people. All of it has to fit. It is like a car that has many parts, all of them have to work together in order for it to move forward. We can continue to sit here and prolong this debate. The fact of the matter is, if we do nothing, the furlough will stand as it is. That is what I do not understand. My colleagues, those of you who said, you want to take action to prevent the furlough, yet, there seems to be this misunderstanding that this big mistrust. Whatever happened to good faith? I am with the Vice Speaker who says he is willing to stand and get burned. I will get burn myself and I will continue to get burn for the right reason and that is, standing for the people. I do not feel that we need to be that dramatic in here. I mean, we are almost treating the Governor as if there is no respect here. We are an equal branch of the government and I said before, when this bill went up to him, he considered it and there were some provisions in here that he found unacceptable. He is working with us. The Senate recalled this bill and they made the amendment and brought it back to us to consider. Now, the Speaker has given us his assurance and contrary to what my good friend, Representative Palacios, when I stated that I had heard that the Governor said that he was willing to rescind the furlough notices on Friday, I was at a press conference along with other people there. So I do not want to give the impression that somehow I am having these private conferences with the Governor that somehow you are not privy too. You are all invited to meet with the Governor every week. That invitation remains open. The thing is, we continue to bring up all these same questions that we had asked before in the past and we had the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Finance was here, and we asked all the questions and voted on this initially. All eighteen of us voted to support it. Now, these few provisions that the Governor had objected to, I do not think that it is worth our holding this up. Your concerns that the furloughs are starting today, maybe even yesterday, I do not know, but let us take action now. Let us not prolong this. Let us vote and approve this and get on with it. Our people are suffering and I know that you are all concern. I am not the only one concern here. I recognize all your concerns and we are not after different thing and

I believe that we all have the same goals here to help our people, but there is enough debate about this. We need to take action and we need to approve this. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Ada.

Rep. Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I have been here for seven years and we say to put politics aside. Let us not kid ourselves. Either you are on one side heavily or you are not. When you go out there to the public, you hear their cries, people are pleading with you and these are people that are receiving less than \$15,000.00 per annum. Any new Administration that comes in always carries that big broom and we all know that. I respect that and I respect the Governor. Sometimes I support legislations that he caters this body to do. I always put my employers, I shall say, as those people out there, separation of powers, three branches of government, and we are one of those branches of government. I am doing my part here and I will continue to do my part here to support the people. I understand that he has to sweep some of those employees out, but at least what we are trying to do here with this furlough is, give consideration for another six months or one year for these people. You know, issuing out furloughs, telling people to go find a job in three months time, in our situation on this island, it is not really reasonable. Given a person six months ahead of time is a head start. I will continue to support what is good for the people. Of course, giving again the 72 hours reduction, eighteen of us voting, we are saying to the Governor that yes, we understand the situation and here it is. For your information, I had to opportunity to go to OPM and under the rules and regulations of the Civil Service; the Governor has the discretion under the language of economic crisis to carry out furloughs. Yes I did some of my homework and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

Rep. Yumul: Mr. Speaker, couple of reasons why I chose to vote, no. I saw the numbers and I wanted this to be a tie because obviously, I do not want everybody to walk away. If we need to sit here for another 24 hours and debate the bill, so be it. I spent a year in Iraq working 24 hours-a day anyway, so it is not a big deal for me. I can sit here and stare at everybody for 24 hours. My concern here in part is the bill itself. I had the opportunity to talk to the Senate President last night and during our conversation, he spelled it out pretty clearly that should any major changes to the bill happen with the exemption of the Vice Speaker's amendment, he will move to reject the bill and file it. He will walk away and say, if this is the consensus and we cannot agree then maybe perhaps the House should entertain a fresh bill. But then, what is going to happen to the furlough employees. Time is ticking. We are just wasting additional time and it is not going to solve any problems. Mr. Muna and Mr. Inos have explained that the clock is ticking and they will move with or without – I have some reservations too, but then again, I want to hear more debate about this critical word of “requests” requesting the Governor versus mandating that the Governor shall. If we go for a second round of votes and it looks like we are still going to be a tie, I am going to make a move to reject the bill and go into Conference Committee so we can iron this out right now. Again, as the witnesses sit behind us, they take no pleasure in this. This is a roller coaster ride for them. Thirty days of no pay is pretty drastic. So I do empathize and we need to come to a conclusion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Aldan.

Rep. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a short comment on this bill. First of all, I understand the question that was brought up to the legal counsel; then again, do we as Legislators accept the separation of power? I know we do. Yangen ileklek-ta na para ta sangani guato whoever is there in regardless kao hayi pago na gobietno gaige gui. Ya ilek-ta na antes di un hire enao na taotao, debi di un hanao magi guini gi i legislature ya hami bai in apreba or tisina man hire hao esta ki hami gi i legislature mu apreba. Ta bira hit tatti gi iyona intent esti na bill. The whole purpose of the bill was to save the furlough or to remove the furlough and save those people that would have been given the notice. Taimanu ha ilek-na si Representative Waki, I had calls from Tinian. Some of them are going out tomorrow and because of Constitutional questions, we are still here. At the same time, these people are out there man mananaitai na we should do something. Magahit si Representative Yumul. We were together with the Senate President last night and if there are any changes to this bill, fuera ki eyu I proposed gi Vice Speaker, they are walking away from this and we have to come up with something. The people expect us to do something about this. Tisina na para ta fan sigi man likuku talo un biahi. We have to deal with this. The Administration of implementing eyi furlough pago nai, it was not done yesterday. The Administration has a target that if they do not meet that money within that period, they have to take alternatives and one of them is the furlough. Eyu I furlough nai, ti...my take on this is it was not yesterday. Everybody knew about it. Is this legislature willing to act on it? Is it the constitutionality of the language or the word ni para una fan separao hit and we lose focus on the main thing? I ask the Minority Leader to please reconsider and let us take the vote again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, I note with interest my colleague from Tinian. I cannot help wondering why if indeed this could have happen, the Governor could have rescinded it yesterday or the day before yesterday. If he had that commitment to do that, he would have just ignore the “shall.” He would have been irrelevant and immaterial because like our legal counsel said, he could just ignore the “shall.” We do not even need to mandate him or require him. Those are the issues that kulan manma konfuefuetsa hit nai. It is something that we have to realize. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the indulgence of the House members to allow us to have a 5 or 10 minutes recess with the Minority so that we can discuss this issue and see what we can...I wonder if I can ask you, Mr. Speaker, as the Chair of this body to perhaps call the Acting Governor and see what he can do to further assure us.

Speaker Babauta: Before I call a short recess, I just want to inform you and let you know that in as much as I want to force one branch of the government to appear before us to answer a call, which is in some case if it happens; I am respectful of the separation of the branches of government. I would continue to impress upon you that yes, as your Speaker of this House, I would stand for you. Please take my word and I am hoping too that you will support me on whatever endeavor that I am trying to achieve for the benefit of our people. That is all I ask. Be assured that what I have told you officially on the floor is an official record of the House. Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:57 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:44 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. We are discussing the oral floor amendment offered by the Minority Leader. I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: I think, Mr. Speaker, that we have talked about the issue long enough and we made our points, both personally, individually and collectively that I think we can go back and revote again. After discussing this with members of the Minority Block, we have decided that we are ready to come back and vote.

Speaker Babauta: Is the recommendation to revote on the amendment or preferably withdraw the amendment?

Rep. Palacios: Just to revote, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Okay. Unless there is further discussion on the amendment, I will recognize the Clerk to call the roll...

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, before we call a vote, you need one member to be here.

Speaker Babauta: Okay. Please just sit down on your chair and we will call for a short recess.

The House recessed at 12:45 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our session and the motion now is to vote on the oral amendment offered by the Minority Leader. Clerk, recall the vote again.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1, HS3 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada yes

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan no

Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz no

Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero no

Mr. Speaker, para bai hu faisen hao lokue sa pot i taya ni un daggi hit, ya I hope na under your responsibility esti pago ni para ta bota kao yes or no, bai hu tulaika iyo-ku vote in what I believe in you.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero yes

Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat no

Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama no

Rep. Crispin M. Ogo no

Rep. Arnold I. Palacios yes

In as much as I really wanted to accommodate this legislation, I sought just a fraction more assurance and unfortunately, I was not able to get that. I will vote my conscience and I will vote, "yes."

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua no

Mr. Speaker, tarabia taya ni un burn yu, pues bai hu bota "no."

Rep. Benjamin B. Seman yes

Rep. Candido B. Taman yes

Bai hu polu inangoku gi palabras mu na ilekmu na yangin ta pasa esti siempre i Gobietno ha sigura hit na ufan mana'lalo tatti eyu siha i furlough notice ni esta munhayan manma issue. With reservation, man namasi eyu siha na los probis ni man gaige na man lalailai pago sa esta ma nanangga i ora ni para u efektibu eyu i furlough notice. Lao gaige ha disti pago iyoku contention na yangin siakasu na fiet eyu na commitment ni para umana'lalo tatti eyu siha i furlough notices, I do not really see a problem inserting that language in the bill as "shall."Pot enao na rason na para bai hu bota ha talo "yes."

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb yes

Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio yes

Mr. Speaker, hu honggi hao. Hu gos hongge hao ha lao sen ti mappot eyi yoku request ni para tafan ali'e dididi ya tafan ma assure in person maseha. I know that this bill is going to pass without our vote and I hope that they carry on ni hafa esta manma sangan na they will commit ni para uma rescind i furlough but I will stick to my vote.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres yes

Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr. no

Rep. Ray N. Yumul no

I would like to ask the legal counsel one last time, is this amendment by the Minority Leader infringing on the Administration's separation of powers as provided for in the Constitution, or not?

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: It is not possible to answer that with a hundred percent certainty, but yes, this is certainly a question that could be litigated and would probably result in being stricken.

Rep. Yumul: Thank you. With that again, my vote is "no" on the grounds of Constitutional issues.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta no

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 10 "no" and 8 "yes", the oral floor amendment offered by the Minority Leader is hereby defeated. Ready for the main motion?

Several members voiced, "ready."

Speaker Babauta: Clerk, call the roll on S. B. NO. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1, HS3.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass S. B. No. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1, HS3 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada yes

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan yes

Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz yes

Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero yes

With the Speakers assurance and the SAA's assurance, I vote "yes."

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero yes

Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat yes

Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama yes

Rep. Crispin M. Ogo yes

Rep. Arnold I. Palacios yes

I want to see that this government saves funds so that it can continue to operate. Despite the defeat of my amendment, I will vote, "yes."

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua yes

Rep. Benjamin B. Seman yes

Rep. Candido B. Taman yes

For the sake of our people who are now very uncertain regarding this issue and for the benefit of them keeping their job if this legislation hereby passes, I respectfully vote, "yes."

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	abstained
I am in conflict, Mr. Speaker.	
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 17 “yes”, S. B. No. 15-51, SD2, HS2, HD3, SS1, HS3 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Before I recognize the motion for recess, I ask the members indulgence to see if we can come back tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. I would like to get rid of all these bills in the Calendar. At the same note, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the respect that you have indulged this morning. I thank you all for that diplomacy and understanding among all of us. Floor Leader, motion to recess until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky T. Guerrero, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

First Appearance of a local bill is the day of introduction

SECOND APPEARANCE
None

THIRD APPEARANCE:

H. L. B. No. 15-41: To regulate the ownership and slaughter of cattle in the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. (Rep. Justo S. Quitugua)

H. L. B. No. 15-42: To appropriate \$5,000,000.00 from the revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2; and for other purposes. (Rep. Justo S. Quitugua)

H. L. B. No. 15-43: To appropriate \$300,000.00 form the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund for Fiscal Year 2007; and for other purposes. (Rep. Justo S. Quitugua)

H. L. B. NO. 15-44: To impose an annual local business license fee for roadside vendors in the Third Senatorial District by adding a new Article 3 to Chapter 8, Division 3, Title 10 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes. (Rep. Martin B. Ada)