



House Journal

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2006

Seventh Day

August 17, 2006

The House of Representatives of the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Seventh Day, Second Regular Session on August 17, 2006, at 9:33 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 fourteen members were present. Representatives Candido B. Taman and Florencio Deleon Guerrero were excused. Representatives Martin B. Ada and Manuel A. Tenorio came in late.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: If no objection from the members, I will be Acting Floor Leader for today's session.

Speaker Babauta: You caught me by surprised. That was my next line.

There was no objection.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

Acting Floor Leader Lizama moved for the adoption of the Second and Third Day, Second Regular Session 2006 Journals; the motion was seconded.

2nd Day, Second Regular Session (8/2/06)

3rd Day, Second Regular Session (8/8/06)

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, if no objection, I would like to request that those of us listed on the August 2nd Journal.

Speaker Babauta: Excused?

Vice Speaker Quitugua: I am requesting that those of us that were absent on this session be excused.

Speaker Babauta: What Journal are you referring to?

Vice Speaker Quitugua: The August 2nd.

Rep. Yumul: Mr. Speaker, the fourth line from the first page. Taya guini ma mentiona na fuera di i fifth na un excuse. So it is assumed that the rest were not excused.

Speaker Babauta: So noted. Where it says that they are in the building?

Rep. Yumul: Taitai iyon-mu Journal copy.

Speaker Babauta: What Journal? Is it the August 2nd Session?

Rep. Yumul: August 2nd.

Speaker Babauta: I have it.

Rep. Seman: With the exception of the Vice Speaker, everyone was present.

Speaker Babauta: Okay. I am sorry. The Journal was already duplicated when the Clerk changed it. So please make reference and that the record should reflect excused.

Being there no further discussion, the Second and Third Day, Second Regular Session 2006 Journals were adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

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

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. Speaker, so move for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 15-36 reporting on H. B. NO. 15-15.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 15-36: Reporting on H. B. N O. 15-15, entitled, “To adopt the ‘Model State Vital Statistics Act and Regulation Revision’ as recommended by the National Center for Health and Statistics and the Centers of Disease Control to establish a uniform system for handling records that satisfy legal requirements as well as meet statistical and research needs at local, state, and national levels.” *Your committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill in the form of a substitute.*

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Representative Torres.

Rep. Torres: If I am in line, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the adoption of this Committee Report be placed on today’s Calendar for action.

Speaker Babauta: Pursuant to the rules, it will. I would just like to clarify from the Committee; we did pass this in the Fourteenth, right? I know it got stuck in the Senate anyway. Okay. I recognize Representative Waki.

Rep. Waki: If I am not out of order, I think we missed a House Communication.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Let us just dispose of the motion then we will come back.

There being no further discussion, S. C. R. NO. 15-36 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion carries. We move back to item number 7 under House Communication.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

HSE. COMM. NO. 15-9: A LETTER FROM HOUSE LEGAL COUNSEL JOE BERMUDEZ RE: H. L. B. NO. 15-46.

Speaker Babauta: There is a copy by the our Chief Counsel, Mr. Bermudes, as a result of yesterday's request by the Minority Leader to clarify certain legal issues with respect to H. L. B. NO. 15-46, appropriating a CNMI earmarked funds. With that, I would like to include that as a House Communication this morning.

There was no objection.

Speaker Babauta: So ordered. I would like to request the author and the counsel as mentioned earlier to withdraw the bill and work on an amicable – to reach the objective of your desire. Thank you, Chairman Ogo. I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Rep. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we are on that subject, I believe there was a request made a long time ago during previous sessions to ask the good Chairman for the Ways and Means to report on the small amount of money that were appropriated for the reimbursement of “Typhoon Pongsona’s” vendors where we did not have specific information. I believe we are due of those information and if he could enlighten us on the specific details on the request that was asked two sessions ago.

Speaker Babauta: Under House Communication, Representative Ogo, briefly on whether you have any information with respect to the issue raised by Representative tebuteb.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the request of the members that time during the session. A letter went out to Finance to make sure that not only First Senatorial District but the entire District, should provide the expenditures of all Solid Waste Funds. However, until now, I have not received that. I specifically requested for the entire CNMI not just for the Senatorial District.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. I understand that your Committee have been burden with all the financial issues as a result of financial crisis that we are in primarily also the budget. So if you may, the Chair may continue to ask your humble support and cooperation to continue to seek information and hopefully sooner or later you can report those to the House. Is that amicable, Representative Tebuteb?

Rep. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not necessarily the Solid Waste...

Speaker Babauta: The entire expenditure that relates to Pongsona...

Rep. Tebuteb: I believe that we were specific in our request to the good Chairman and I think one of the specific was the small amount of money that we had appropriated for the First Senatorial District to pay for the reimbursement of the Pongsona and one of it was vendors that have not been paid while they did some work after the Typhoon. I am not sure if they have been paid and I hope that they did pay them already.

Rep. Ogo: I did research with our current Resident Director and in fact he requested if we can appropriate more funds to pay those vendors. The vendors have not been paid. They utilized the funds to purchase heavy equipment parts for our open dump and that is where they used the money for. For the vendors, basically, they have not been paid. That is the most current information that I can provide.

Speaker Babauta: They have been paid?

Rep. Ogo: They have not. With the \$175,000.00, Mr. Speaker, with the discussion with the legal counsel yesterday, portion of that maybe utilized to pay those vendors.

Speaker Babauta: Can you seek legislative remedy because the House as I understood and recalled were fully aware of those appropriations. If there is a deviation from those appropriations then I strongly recommend that you report to the House all those deviations that are not stipulated in the appropriation provision and were paid to other vendors, other than what is intended for in the appropriation. If you can get accounting of those funds, please do so.

Rep. Ogo: Let me just further clarify, Mr. Speaker. The Bill stated that heavy equipment parts shall be purchased including to pay the vendors. So the priority of the Resident Director is to procure equipment parts. In that Bill alone to purchase heavy equipment parts is included in that bill. So it depends on the priority of the Resident Director. Now, he made the heavy equipment parts as the priority, not the vendor. Like I said, with this \$175,000.00, hopefully we can finally pay those debts from those vendors. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Tebuteb.

Rep. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is what I am trying to align ourselves in so that we take care of this issue and part of this funding that is supposed to go to the vendors as we have discussed in the previous session when we requested the good Chairman to provide us the specific detail, is that these are also reimbursements from the FEMA. I am not sure whether those funds to be paid to the vendors come from those reimbursements or...now we are doing another appropriation so that we can take care of that dilemma.

Speaker Babauta: Like Clint Eastwood says, any which way you go, find out and inform the House members. I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to remind you, in the Thirteenth Legislature when we took up this piece of legislation that basically put together an additional excise tax. We had a very hard time and a long deliberation about this issue, but we had to do it primarily because of the Puerto Rico Dump issue that we were facing. We had a consent decree that was handed down by the Federal Courts, an Administrative Order by EPA to address the Puerto Rico Dump and to begin operation of the Marpi Landfill. One of the provisions of that order was that we find ways to fund a financial assurance so that if something goes wrong with the landfill, we can remediate it. That was the issue. So we had to look hard and find ways to fund this. It was not easy. The Speaker himself was very adamant that it goes to the particular project that it was funded or the funds were for and that it not be unnecessarily wasted out, otherwise it be no use to continue to tax our consumers because that is an excise tax that is being passed to each and everyone of us and to everybody. This is not an issue that we should take lightly. We ought to make sure that those funds are put in the appropriate projects expended appropriately. One of the reasons why we allowed the First and Second Senatorial District 10% of these funds is to begin to address their solid waste issue also. I do not have to get the numbers from Finance as to how much is being generated through the First, Second and Third Senatorial District respectively. But in the spirit of cooperation, we know that the

First Senatorial District and the Second was also looking at constructing a landfill. It was something that has to be done. So we allowed for the 10% earmarking of these funds for those purposes and nothing else. That was the original intent. I think we are beginning to deviate from that and we have seen numerous appropriation bills appropriating funds out of that Beautification Tax Fund. I urge the members to really look at the issue here when we appropriate funds for this. In fact, the law says that it should rest with the Department of Public Works and it should not be open for appropriations because it is suppose to automatically be used for expenditures of these facilities, which are the Marpi Landfill, the Rota Dumpsite and the Tinian Landfill if and when they do construct a landfill. It should not be appropriated out but we have allowed that over the past legislature and accommodate it. We need to go back to the issue, otherwise, we might as well scrap the tax. If we are going to continue to deviate from the real purpose and intent, we minus well give the consumers back the money and not continue to burden them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Earlier I recommended to Chairman Ogo and the author of the Local Bill to engage the Delegation in a dialogue and a Delegation Resolution requesting the outmost assistance and cooperation of our DPW Secretary to divert or otherwise provide those funding so that Rota and likewise Tinian improve their solid waste site. With that Clerk, note that Representative Ada and Representative Tenorio is duly present. Thank you. Any more under House Communication.

Several members voiced, “ready.”

Speaker Babauta: We will go directly to item number 16.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

Speaker Babauta: I informed the Acting Floor Leader as a request by many members in this Chamber that are present this morning that without objection...Minority Leader, before I recognize the Floor Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I would like to ask if we can go back to item 11.

Speaker Babauta: Okay. Item number 11 under Other Communications.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reference today's paper, *Marianas Variety* on page 2 regarding the Monorail Project. This is an article referring to an interview with our Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources, Dr. Dela Cruz. We all know that the Grotto area is part of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary that we have established in the 12th Legislature, and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you were a co-sponsor for that law. It is disturbing to read article because basically what it does is it preempts. It is already saying that there is no harm to the environmental. There is no environmental impact and I do not think that the Secretary should be doing this because in fact, there is no environment impact statement or report that has been done. If I am not mistaken, the Division of Fish and Wildlife had issued sort of a conditional permit to begin the environmental impact reports and assessments. So this one preempts and is already making a conclusion that there is no environmental impact and I think that this is a mistake. I want to go on record by saying that, until such time that all the reports and all the studies are done, we must be mindful that we cannot jump the gun and begin to come out in the paper and begin to take sides of the issue. I have been very quite on this issue. I have particular involvement over two decades in this sanctuaries and I have worked diligently through many legislature trying to get these areas be declared sanctuaries and fortunately our Legislators in the 12th Legislature so fit to include these areas, the Bird Island Sanctuary. We need to be concern about this issue and have a very objective impact studies done before we jump the gun. That is why I have been very quite on this issue and hope that when and if everything is done and all our reports are in, we objectively make a decision whether to go with it or not. To preempt the issue is basically an injustice to those people that are concern about the environment and to those people also that are willing to invest funds. I find this a little bit objectionable but maybe I could personally talk to our Secretary and Director of Fish and Wildlife. I know that he wants to talk to Representative Torres here. In fact, he says, he will try to convince Representative Torres not to object to the project. This is one of those issues where we really need to have our DEQ, CRM and regulatory agencies do their work diligently and come up with an objective report. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Any other comment under item number 7? If none, we will go straight back to item number 16 under Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. Speaker, if no objection, subsidiary motion to refer back to Committee H. B. NO. 15-146 and H. B. NO. 15-47.

The subsidiary motion to refer back H. B. NO. 15-146 and H. B. NO. 15-47 was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask why H. B. NO. 15-47 is recommended to go back to the Committee?

The Chair recognized House Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes.

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: You probably remembered that we passed S. B. No. 15-20, SS1 and became Public Law 15-16, which is very similar to H. B. No. 15-47. So we need to withdraw and look at Public Law 15-16 and make amendments from there because that is already a Public Law.

Speaker Babauta: So noted.

There being no further discussion, the motion to refer H. B. NO. 15-146 and H. B. NO. 15-47 back to the Committee was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: I now recognize the Floor Leader for the next bill.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: Passage motion, Mr. Speaker, on H. B. NO. 15-169.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 15-169: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$797,000.00) TO FUND THE ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AT GARAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE OLEAI HEADSTART CENTER RENOVATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I passed a paper yesterday to offer a floor amendment. I would like to officially offer this floor amendment to amend Section 1, line 6 through line 8.

Written floor amendment offered by Representative Ogo:

Floor amendment to House Bill No. 15-169:

Section 1, line 6 through line 8, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) \$652,000 to fund the additional classrooms needed for Garpan Elementary School.

“(b) \$95,000 to fund the repair of the roof of the Sinapalo Elementary School in Rota.

“(c) \$50,000 for matching to fund the Oleai Headstart Center Renovations.”

Speaker Babauta: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:02 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session and we will continue to discuss H. B. NO. 15-169, and Representative Ogo, you have the floor.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, I thought I just offered the floor amendment and I believe everyone should have a copy.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion on the floor amendment? I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, there is no question in everyone's – we try to accommodate everyone's need. I am going to request, Mr. Speaker, from my good colleague from the First Senatorial District to withdraw his amendment because the legislation that was first offered by the Vice Speaker is to address the dire need of one of our elementary school in Saipan that is – at the...In fact, Garapan Elementary School is now accommodating students over and above the student/teacher ratio. Basically, we are violating some of those policies. The amount that is being proposed for Garapan Elementary School, Mr. Speaker, is the amount that we need. No more, no less. This is the amount that we need. This amount comes from the PSS State Board seven-year Development Plan for Garapan Elementary School. If I may remind you, I introduced a legislation that was passed by the House and the Senate and subsequently it was vetoed by the Governor for this particular project because of some technicalities. There is no question in my mind that the Governor sees the need for these two but it was because of the funding source of the original legislation that had to be vetoed. We cannot cut off any fund from the Seven Hundred Thousand needed for Garapan Elementary School. So I ask the Representative Ogo to withdraw his amendment so that we can accommodate the dire needs that we have. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Any other member? I recognize Chairman Dela Cruz.

Rep. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to reiterate our good Minority's comments as we are all aware, the school here for the Kindergarden classes at Garapan was indefinitely held back because of the shortage of instructors. But to a higher note, the housing area of where the Kindergarden classes are being thought is in jeopardy right now. They have received a demand to vacate the housing units at the end of the school year. This jeopardizes the Kindergarden programs over in Garapan until we can find the proper classrooms. The amount that is being requested right now is insufficient to complete the additional classrooms on the second floor of this one wing building. We ask our good colleagues from Rota and Tinian to reconsider this amendment. This is very crucial. We do not hear anything from the other schools as far as being terminated from housing areas or the fact that there are not enough classrooms to accommodate the students. This is a very big concern especially in the very heavy populated area in our Precinct. So again, we ask our good colleagues to reconsider this amendment so that we can save these children that will be going to Kindergarden in Garapan next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Waki.

Rep. Waki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with Representatives Dela Cruz and Representative Palacios. Additionally from Garapan Elementary School, the Oleai Headstart Center because of its needed renovations, the kids had to be moved to the social hall of the church in Oleai because they cannot safely be in the building until the repairs are done. This is definitely a need and I can understand our colleague from Rota says he needs \$95,000.00 for the roofs in Sinapalo, but I have never seen him bring it to our attention in the past. There has been no cost in lay out or request that I have seen. What we are dealing with here, with the help of the Vice Speaker, is he had looked at the seven-year CIP Plan and see where we can help in the absolute necessity of PSS, and Garapan being

basically overcrowded, the rooms consistently have been needed and I think we have addressed some other areas and schools in reference to rooms in Kagman. We knew then that Garapan was the secondary priority, but we allowed for the assistance to Kagman. Now that we find the funds for Garapan and just a little for Oleai Headstart because of its absolute need, I have yet to see a costing from Rota and now he wants \$95,000.00. I feel that this is a bit premature. The Vice Speaker has done his diligence in looking for funds for priorities and I want to thank him from the Precinct III Representatives for helping, but I would like to address our colleague from Rota if he could withdraw his amendment because of the fact that if he does his diligence, we could probably find other funds for him at a later date because of the absolute need of Garapan and Oleai Elementary School. I know that colleagues from other Precincts probably want to at least look at some of their needs, but they are allowing and supporting this particular bill for passage. At this time, I would like to conquer with the Minority Leader as well as Representative Dela Cruz to ask Representative Ogo from Rota to withdraw his amendment. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is apparent, Mr. Speaker, of the request of the members most especially from Precinct III. However, Mr. Speaker, let me just share this. During the 14th Legislature, if I am not mistaken, H. B. NO. 15-247, and I am specifically requesting the legal counsel to find that bill because I specifically requested \$95,000.00 for the Sinapalo Elementary School and that was a year and a half ago. The fund came from part of our project, however, it was amended in the Senate and when it came down to the House, we never entertained it. So for the record, Mr. Speaker, during the 14th Legislature, I tried to appropriate \$95,000.00 for the Sinapalo School for that concern that we are basically talking about right now. Mr. Speaker, for me to withdraw the intended floor amendment, it makes me wonder. If I do that, what about the students in Rota that have been going to class for the past year and a half and when the rain comes, they see the leak. To me, Mr. Speaker, it has been a year and a half, and of the Third Senatorial District is really serious in accommodating the needs of Garapan Elementary School, I have a bill that the Minority Leader introduced and in fact, he requested for me to sign the recall request and I did. There is \$470,536.00 for the China Town sewer system, and if we are going to really look at what is priority in the list of the Third Senatorial District, I felt that the Garapan Elementary School is priority.

Rep. Tebuteb: Point of information, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: State your point.

Rep. Tebuteb: The House Bill that the Chairman is referring to can only be used for that purpose and not for the school.

Speaker Babauta: So understood. Thank you for the point. Continue, Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Basically, Mr. Speaker, if we look at all the projects that are available right now in the Third Senatorial District, guarantee that we can find \$150,000.00 to accommodate the request of the First and Second Senatorial District. We can sit down and come to the table and say, if Garapan Elementary School really needs \$300,000.00 more instead of just \$750,000.00, if they need a Million dollars to construct the necessary building, guarantee that we can find extra money

somewhere. I would like to plea to my colleagues that it bothers me really for a year and half, I know that there is a situation in Rota and I want to make sure that now that I see a fund that we can fund this \$95,000.00 project to repair the roof of the Sinapalo Elementary, I will not withdraw my amendment, Mr. Speaker, and I would rather go through voting. Let us vote and if the majority of the members decide to vote down my amendment, I will accept that. But I have conferred with my colleagues from Rota in the Senate to avail themselves with this House Bill so that when it reaches up there, it is their disposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Let me just make a short comment so that we do not see legislation being threaten primarily on the part of our students. Let us work this out diplomatically and legislatively so that we may not repeat what has transpired many years ago. Let me just call for a brief recess.

The House recessed at 10:46 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. Any more discussion on the written floor amendment. I have just one clarification before we vote on the amendment. Let me ask our Chairman from Rota, the intended purpose is to repair the leakage roof of Sinapalo Elementary School?

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, there are four classrooms that have roof leakage and it is going to cost about \$95,000.00 to repair them.

Speaker Babauta: Okay. Under Public Law 11-89, which provides for \$1.8 Million for Sinapalo Elementary School, is that concrete or semi?

Rep. Ogo: It is semi-concrete, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: I just want to get to the picture of what the intended purpose or why would Public School System through its A&E, or for that matter even their internal engineer if they have one at that time decided to implement a semi-concrete facility?

Rep. Ogo: Let me clarify further, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the Sinapalo Elementary School came from a donation or an impact investment or public contribution from Rota Resort. The Rota Resort gave the Municipality about \$2 Million dollars to construct that building, and it was their engineering and it was their own construction companies that build it. However, the amount was not sufficient to continue the construction so I think that was \$1.8 Million that was provided during the 11th Legislature which was the amount to finally finish the project. So that \$1.8 Million, Mr. Speaker, is gone. It is not even available because I remembered that the Rota Resort's donation was not enough to finish the project. So the \$1.8 Million figure that you mentioned is the finishing touch. The contractor at that time was S&M Corporation which is the Rota Resort construction company and they were the one who build that. It was not the Public School System. The \$1.8 Million that you mentioned, that was the extra to finally finish the project. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: May I officially request you as the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, since you have implied that there was a \$2 Million dollar public contribution made by the Rota Resort through S&M Corporation to build four classrooms,...

Rep. Ogo: No, Mr. Speaker, it is not four classrooms. I am just saying that the four classrooms have a problem with the roof leak. Sinapalo, if I am not mistaken, there are about ten classrooms and one cafeteria.

Speaker Babauta: Because this is getting to be excited, I am very much interested because it looks like we are alluding to another Rota Health Center fiasco. Can I officially request you, Mr. Chairman, to get an accounting if there is any with respect to the \$2 Million dollar public contribution made by S&M Corporation dba Rota Resort? Also, an accounting of Public Law 11-89, the \$1.8 Million because I do not see the rational building a semi-concrete facility knowing that the Commonwealth is in a typhoon alley. At any rate, just to make it short, because we are trying to help you, Mr. Chairman, we are trying to figure out why would over approximately \$400 Million dollars worth of investment is topped with tin roof and wood knowing that the facility is very important towards the school kids. That is my concern and I just want to ask you to do that for all of us.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, I will work on your request. However, that is the structure that we have right now.

Speaker Babauta: So understood. I recognize Representative Dela Cruz.

Rep. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to ask our good Chairman of Ways and Means to maybe since all public schools fall under the jurisdiction of the Public School System, to ask the PSS in regards to the leakages of these classrooms. As everybody has received all a letter from the Tinian Elementary School addressing solely...

Speaker Babauta: Is that also leakage?

Rep. Dela Cruz: This is to replace the roofing on the student center. I do not see any copy given for the Public School System. I think it may be fair to have complaints of schools especially public schools routed through the respective agencies of our Commonwealth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Aldan.

Rep. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This letter that came to me was addressed on June 17. That time, Mr. Speaker, we were trying to accommodate on our own local budget, but whenever we have projects in regardless of what Senatorial District, there has to be a sense of priority. We found the money but it had to go to different priority. Now this letter that I passed out is just for the members to look at it. It is addressed to me but since the issue of identifying funds to the school, I just brought up this letter in consideration of the members. Although this letter is addressed to me, I have no idea if PSS or BOE has got a letter in regards to this issue, but I am pretty sure that they should have because this happened during the last Typhoon and the report from the Typhoon assessment has to go to the Commissioner of PSS and the Board of Education, but it was never covered under FEMA. Mr. Speaker, I have not submitted any amendment to this bill, it is just for

your information and yes, it was never discussed on the floor, but for the sake of the priority of Saipan, I will not entertain this. But of course, like I said, the other different Senatorial District also have their priority. I will yield to Rota and I would let the members know that I am in support of Rota at this time and also, I am trying to get a hold of CDA to request as to this funding comes out monthly or quarterly so that in the next round that this comes up, I request the members' support to recognize the issue for Tinian and put it in the bill.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you, Chairman Aldan. I must say thank you for sharing that letter. We all know that you are not requesting, however, you just want to enlighten the members of the issue also of Tinian Elementary School and that is recognized. On the same note, you are not asking but the passage of the letter is germane to the discussion this morning. I am sure that with your homily this morning, the members of the Third Senatorial District would consider this letter not this morning on this bill, but hopefully tomorrow morning's appropriation measure. I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Rep. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker, not on the amendment, but the discussions that are on going. I am sure that Robin Hood will not beaker, but probably would be more slicker with what is being discussed today.

Speaker Babauta: Please, proceed.

Rep. Tebuteb: I believed that when we did the \$2.7 Million appropriation to Kagman Elementary and High School prioritizing some of those headstarts and one in particular is on its way, I believe the Kagman headstart is also being taken care of from those appropriation, the Public School System also came up with a report, besides the reimbursement from the typhoon damages, they also shared I believe in the 14th Legislature, I believe the Chairman of Education, the Vice Speaker now may have those information that you are asking the good Chairman of Ways and Means to produce. It is just for your information, Mr. Speaker. I am ready to vote.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Let me recognize Chairman Ada.

Rep. Ada: Just for clarification. How many classrooms does Garapan Elementary School really need for the Kindergarden level? Four?

Speaker Babauta: \$175,000.00 times four.

Rep. Ada: I rest my case, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, since my good colleague is not amendable to withdrawing his amendment, let me try to discuss more on the amendment itself. If I may recall, Mr. Speaker, in the 14th Legislature, we went through a very lengthy deliberation regarding some appropriations and reappropriation legislations by the First Senatorial District. In fact, it was offered by my good colleague, Representative Ogo at the time. At the time, the Representative was trying to reappropriate \$1 Million dollars from an already existing law, 13-28. It was \$1 Million dollars from a \$1.5 Million appropriation in the 13th Legislature. The \$1.5 Million was supposed to be for the

dialysis project, but through his research and meetings with the dialysis experts and professionals, they were able to just come up with a \$600,000.00 for their dialysis program. He introduced, H. B. NO. 14-279, reappropriated, and these funds came from the bond proceeds that was supposed to be for the Third Senatorial District. Ways back in the 13th Legislature, we had to submit to the demand of the First and Second Senatorial District at the time and Saipan had to give away close to \$3 Million dollars so that we can proceed with an appropriation to complete the prison project, and because it was almost a desperate appropriation bill, the Saipan Delegation decided to accommodate the First and Second Senatorial District so that the bill does not get hostage. So we gave away \$1.5 Million dollars to the First Senatorial District at the time for their dialysis. Then in the 14th Legislature, they took the \$1.5 Million dollars and reappropriated \$1 Million dollars of that and that is from the Third Senatorial District. In that reappropriation, we had the East Harbor, Public School System, a Sinapalo Indoor Sports Facility, a Health Center, Baseball Field lighting fixture, Shrimp hatchery and a Rota Liaison Office cover parking on Saipan. For crying out loud, this was a Million dollars reappropriation that could have accommodated this roofing problem at the Sinapalo Elementary School, ten times over. I do not want to be confrontational about this issue, but I want to be clear about this. All we are asking is to move this money so that we can accommodate our children. Garapan Elementary School for your information had to take the back seat, we had these funds, but we had to accommodate another school which is the Kagman Elementary and the High School because at the time, it was – at the time also. We had to move money that was appropriated for this to Kagman because of the overcrowding problem last year. Now that the Vice Speaker has sourced out some funds, again from proceeds for the Third Senatorial District, please do not hostage this anymore. Let us cooperate with each other. We have been very accommodating. I have been here for the third term and we have been very accommodating to all the needs. You have prioritized your \$1 Million dollars to other projects other than the roofing for your school. We are asking now to leave this alone and proceed with it so that we can begin this project to accommodate the children in Garapan Elementary School next year. We do not have much time to do this. Let me clarify that and I hope that what I just said clarifies the issue. It is regrettable and I think my colleague from the First Senatorial District probably regrets making that statement, but I think that it is a regrettable statement when he said that he had already talked members of the First Senatorial District in the Senate to take a look at this. To me, that is almost threatening that it be hostaged up there. I hope that is not the case and that if we are going to move on with this appropriation so we accommodate the needs of our students and our people, those kind of spirit should never be injected into the deliberations and the spirit of legislations in this legislature, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. I recognize Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the third time, I just want to ask the legal counsel his opinion. The \$60 Million dollar interest, is it for the Third Senatorial District alone?

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: Without looking at the legislation that enacted that measure, I cannot state at this time unless you give me time to look at the enabling legislation.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, alluding to my question, I would prefer if we have a recess because when you look at a \$60 Million dollar interest, in my opinion, that is for the entire CNMI and it bothers me to hear my colleague, Minority Leader, just now filtering his language and his testimonial that this is for the Third Senatorial District. Mr. Speaker, the interest, in my opinion is for everybody and I am specifically requesting an amount to finally address an issue that has been brought to my attention

for a year and a half. I can go back and also address the issue of the \$1 Million dollar that I did try to reappropriate. I want to go and further discuss this. However, I want an answer from the legal counsel before I continue my deliberation of that interest bond. I request, Mr. Speaker, for a recess so that I can get an actual answer on that issue because it bothers me to think that this interest is just for the Third Senatorial District. If the Minority Leader is alluding that during the 13th Legislature, the disagreement or the hard ill feelings at that time which I remember reading the media, it is the same issue and if the Minority Leader is saying that this interest is solely for the Third Senatorial District, that is excluding us.

Speaker Babauta: Before I acknowledge that request, let me just once again, caution or ask each and everyone of you not to inject anything that would otherwise display or perhaps through emotional deliberations on issues confronting the House and primarily the Commonwealth in general with respect to geographical language and the likes. So let us focus our attention to the general needs of the intended legislation as proposed originally as we discuss amendments. Public Law 11-119 is the result of Public Law 11-111. This is the \$60 Million dollar that was floated for the Public School System emergency crisis and that is overcrowding, termite infested classrooms throughout the Public School System. Over the years, as you can see from the unofficial report of CDA, the interest has been continuously appropriated to various important projects and the last one is Public Law 14-20. So in general, the interest earned by the \$60 Million is available several years ago and I hope that this would also be available once this legislation becomes law because it has to be certified by the CDA board. So what we are doing here is counting the chicks before the eggs hatch. I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: The share, Mr. Speaker, is 1/8. Am I correct, Mr. Speaker? You have been here longer than I have.

Speaker Babauta: It was the 702 concept that was taken and also back then, Public School System have certified through a proper capital improvement request and that it supplied the 11th Legislature a comprehensive infrastructure facilities primarily all classrooms.

Rep. Palacios: I do not have any problem going into recess, Mr. Speaker, but let me say that I do not believe that it is even reasonable time for our legal counsel to be able to come back with his answer because he would have to go and search the archives of the Finance department. Even if we have these public laws, we have reappropriated and reappropriated funds out of public laws. I know for a fact that when we went through the deliberation for the Prison Project, that it was agreed and it is in the minutes of the 13th Legislature and the 14th Legislature as to where these funds are or where they came from and where it went. I know that we had to provide \$1.5 Million of programs reappropriated from Saipan projects to accommodate \$1.5 for the dialysis on Rota. That specifically came from an appropriation for projects in the Third Senatorial Districts. No question about that.

Speaker Babauta: Chairman Ogo is actually requesting for the counsels clarification on the Enabling Act, which is Public Law 11-119. So I will call for a very short recess to have the counsel look at the provision. Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:25 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:43 a.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. We will continue to discuss the written floor amendment as offered by Representative Ogo. I recognize Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, we went on recess to get an opinion from the legal counsel...

Speaker Babauta: My due apology, counsel do you have anything.

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: The only thing that was codified regarding the issue on the floor is in 4 CMC § 10502, which provides for pledging of Covenant Funds to back up CDA or any CDA Capital Improvement Projects through bond proceeds. It does mentioned that 1/8 share of proceeds shall go to the First and Second Senatorial District and up to \$126 Million dollars. It also talks about, they shall not receive no less than 16% percent of the net of each draw downs for CIP Projects, but in terms of trying to figure out whether they got their 1/8, it is practically impossible for me. I am not an accountant. You have to go through all the stuffs that were appropriated and reappropriated. So that is the extent of my opinion.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you, counsel. In essence, you are saying that you are – you are a mathematician but you are not a certified financial...I understand that these funds have been continuously appropriated and reappropriated. Vice Speaker, do you have anything to add?

Rep. Ogo: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: I am sorry. Go ahead, Representative Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: I just want to further clarify. When the counsel says 1/8 goes to First and Second Senatorial District that means that even 1/8 of the interest? My sole question here, Mr. Speaker, is the interest. We are here deliberating on the interest of that \$60 Million dollar bond. So does that mean that the interest of that \$60 Million bond, 1/8 should go to First and Second Senatorial District?

Speaker Babauta: Counsel, you want to basically say, yes or no.

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: I am going to answer it with...

Speaker Babauta: Abstention?

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: No. I would venture to say, yes that it probably includes the interest because the interest came from the principal amount, but again, somebody has to figure out the 1/8 part on the \$126 Million that is provided under 4 CMC § 10502. Unless you want me to read it but it is quite lengthy. It says, 1/8 share of the net proceeds of each bond draw down up to draw downs accumulative amount of \$126 Million and draw downs which in the accumulative exceeds \$126 Million, the First and Second Senatorial District shall each receive no less than 16% of the net of each draw downs for CIP Projects. So you have to go through all the draw downs that were made and do a calculation whether it exceeds \$126 Million or not. If it does then 16%, if not then 1/8.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, it is really clear that we have a take. I am just trying to take my take.

Legal Counsel Joe Bermudes: *That is only partially clear because...unless you answer the 1/8 and the 16%, then that would make it really clear.*

The Chair recognized the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, there is no question. Nobody disputes that. Absolutely not, you have your take, but I think you have already taken your take and we have given you. There is no question in my mind. I would bet the farm but you know it is okay. I am not here to confront you with that. We were accommodating in the past and even the Speaker has been here for sixteen years for crying out loud. He knows. Yangin un un tungo man resibe, debi di un tungo man nahi.

Speaker Babauta: I would allow every two or three minutes on the amendment so that we may move on. I had promised the members and the staffs most importantly the Bureau staff to get out by 12:00 p.m. I recognize Representative Waki.

Rep. Waki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, the question has been answered by the counsel so I call for end of debate and I call for the question on the amendment.

Speaker Babauta: I recognize that motion to end debate but let me just recognize Representative Tenorio.

Rep. Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Kadada esti ya bai hu sangani hao na esti na problema, sina mohon gaige i PSS, I know what we are trying to say na estigui iyon mami na share yan estigui iyon-miyu share. The point is, kumo gaige i PSS ya siha uma identify manu ni para uma set i priority, esta man munhayan hit. Sa yangin mas impotante i Rota, achukha they have their take. I will give it to him yangin ilekna i PSS na they are in dire need of this. Yangin an man sosobla hamyo giya Luta, daggao dididi magi Saipan sa bula taotao guini. Lao, I think this kind of decision should be up to PSS. Let them decided where the priority is and whether you need that additional 5 or 6 rooms so that they can accommodate Rota or vise versa. But we are making decisions for something that perhaps they are better off making it especially right now that we are scrounging for pennies. Taya salape. Sigi ha ni man adagi guini lao enagui nai yahu na klasi ni para u guaha understanding sa ta tungo ha na for guidelines ma alao eyi 1/8 and so forth, lao I rather go based on the needs and the priorities ni much could be better of articulate by the Public School System, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Vice Speaker, do you have anything to say as the author of the bill?

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, after looking at the PSS' seven-year CIP Plan, the additional classrooms for Garapan is on the very top priority. As a matter of fact, the \$259,000.00 that was reappropriated from the Northern Islands supposedly to construct classrooms cannot go anywhere at this time because there is just not enough money to construct the additional classrooms at Garapan. So having these amount of money, will have PSS proceed with the additional six classrooms that they need. There is a problem of overcrowded at Garapan Elementary School, and I think everybody saw the front page on the local paper that Garapan and PSS have been given final notice to remove their students from the MIHA housing area. If we do not take any action to provide Garapan

Elementary School with these additional classrooms, then Mr. Speaker, I really do not know what we are going to do once those kids are put out on the street due to the eviction from MIHA. Mr. Speaker, I talked to PSS CIP Coordinator this morning and she advised me that she is not very much familiar with the extend of the roofing problem at Sinapalo Elementary School. However, she mentioned that there were some repairs done using PSS' funds for the leaks at Sinapalo, but she is not so sure whether how much is actually needed for the remaining if there are still leaks at Sinapalo. I mentioned the amount of money that is requested for the leaks which is \$95,000.00, and she said the amount might be to excessive if it is only for the leaks. The problem, Mr. Speaker that I mentioned to Liz is that, to please ask your school principals to coordinate PSS' needs through their Commissioner of Education and not to be coming directly to the Legislature. Once they come to the Legislature, we will be setting their priorities and not them. That is the reason why I call her this morning to verify their priorities, and yes, Garapan Elementary School is on top of their priority listing. Mr. Speaker, further, whatever we do with this bill, whether we accommodate Rota this time or not, I would like to ask everybody from the gentlemen's point of view, that the next quarter allotment proceeds, we accommodate the needs of First and Second Senatorial Districts. For Tinian, the roof that they were requesting was funded by FEMA, and FEMA fix the roof already. However, the school would like to see concrete roof instead of tin roof. But FEMA would not provide funding for concrete. If it was concrete roof that broke then they would provide for concrete, but if it is tin then they will only provide for tin. They will not provide funding for concrete. So that is the situation in Tinian. I would really like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Delegation Representative of Tinian for expressing the needs of the school, and at the same time also, realize the needs of Garapan Elementary School and I thank him for that. I would also like for whatever disposition we do with the amendment, to ask everybody that the next available funding to accommodate the two Senatorial Districts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I happen to speak with Mr. Oscar Camacho from CDA this morning to request also on the interest of the \$148 Million. His respond was, Mr. Chairman, it has been three months that they have been trying to find the actual interest of the \$148 Million. Three months and it is so sweet to hear the Vice Speaker with the offer of the next quarter to be given to the First and Second Senatorial District. It is very nice. With the respond of Mr. Camacho who makes me think that if I am to agree with the next quarter, probably Mr. Camacho is going to take another three to six months to figure out the next quarterly report of the interest of the \$60 Million dollars. Mr. Speaker and members, I cannot really think and put it in my head and sleep good at night knowingly that within six months that the students of Rota Elementary School will continuously – for the past two weeks we have been having a lot of rainfalls – for the students of Rota Sinapalo School to sit in there while the teacher conduct their regular session and teachings and the kids would be wondering and looking at the leakage. I cannot bare that. Whatever the result of this amendment today, Mr. Speaker, I just want to offer an alternative, and I am happy that Representative Tebuteb mentioned that H. B. NO. 15-71 cannot be utilized for any other purpose. During recess, I went to our legal counsel and I ask him if he could give me his opinion on H. B. NO. 15-71 that we cannot reprogram. I want to go on record once again, our legal counsel, because \$470,000.00 for sewer system for Precinct III – if Garapan Elementary is priority, then we can utilize portion of \$470,000.00 to accommodate the need of Garapan Elementary. Mr. Speaker, once again, I want to ask the legal counsel for his legal opinion on what Representative Tebuteb comment because I still feel that we can reappropriate portion of \$470,000.00.

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

Speaker Babauta: State your point.

Rep. Palacios: As a favor to the legal counsel who is going to look into this, check with Vicky and MPLA.

Speaker Babauta: One moment, change of tape.

[change of tape]

Speaker Babauta: You may continue.

Rep. Palacios:...because if he insists, let me make it clear. Any 702 Funds appropriated into a project inside a homestead area, the matching fund for that CIP money comes from the Department of Public Lands Homestead Improvement Funds. Those matching funds cannot be taken out of a homestead program because it is specifically for a homestead. That is why it cannot be taken out for any other purposes than within the homestead area. We wished we could have taken it out of that, but it cannot. That is a simple fact. I move to really end debate.

Rep. Ogo: I am not done yet, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Representative Ogo, aside from the oral floor amendment, let us contain the discussion on the bill itself and the oral amendment. The other Representatives are merely just making comments with respect to the CIP because a question arises as a result of the pending appropriation measure on the table, but we would not discuss other appropriation measure until such time that the House bring up that particular bill for discussion. I hope that is understood so that we may be in proper parliamentary procedures so that we not deviate our focus on what has been moved and made into a motion. Is that understood to everyone? Thank you. For the very last time, I recognize Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, I point out H. B. NO. 15-71 because that is a project for the Third Senatorial District. What I am trying to say here, Mr. Speaker, is we can sit down and look at other projects from the Third Senatorial and see how we can accommodate? I understand that you are just requesting that we do not get into that subject, but I am just saying that there are other projects that we can accommodate Garapan Elementary out of the Third Senatorial District's budget or funding for projects. Mr. Speaker, like I said, I cannot bare the thought for the next six months for the Rota Elementary School students to continuously see the leakage while they are in class. Thank you.

There being no further discussion, the motion to end debate and the amendment offered by Representative Ogo was defeated by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion carries. The written amendment offered by Representative Ogo is hereby defeated. Ready for the main question?

Several members voiced, "ready."

Speaker Babauta: Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 15-169 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	excused
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
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	excused
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: With a vote of 16 “yes”, H. B. NO. 15-169 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, motion for withdraw.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Motion to recall from the Calendar, H. L. B. NO. 15-46 that appears on today’s Order of Business.

The motion to recall and remove H. L. B. NO. 15-46 from the Calendar was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion carries. Floor Leader, recess until...I recognize Representative Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Just a reminder to all the Conference Committee members. We will have a meeting tomorrow at the Speaker’s Conference Room at 9:30 a.m.

Speaker Babauta: Representative Ogo, please be advised that we will recess until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m., so we will continue to dispose of all these bills in the Calendar.

Rep. Ogo: So we will make that Monday.

Speaker Babauta: If the Chair can indulge with the Speaker and the rest of the members to probably allow it for the afternoon meeting.

Rep. Ogo: That is fine, Mr. Speaker, for 1:30 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: That is better. Thank you. I recognize Representative Yumul under Miscellaneous

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. Yumul: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that we spend pretty much the whole mornings the past few days sessions discussing one or two bills because we had recalled a lot of bills from Committee and place them on the Calendar for action. It is obvious that this is how we are debating the bills now, in its full entirety, hours and hours of discussion. So it is just a request that if this is the stage we set, I do not have a problem having recess and returning back in the afternoon's to continue on the Bill Calendar because we have been elected to work eight hours a day, and I do not see why we are only working four hours in the morning and taking the afternoon off.

Speaker Babauta: Are you finished Representative Yumul? I share your concern and that is the very basic reason that I wholeheartedly request not only the Standing Committee Chair but the entire members to refrain from continuously making a recall petition during session because there are bills that are substantial, meaning, when changing certain provisions of law and primarily new policies that this House would like to set. I recognize to certain extent the urgencies but perhaps we can reconsider in allowing ourselves to force ourselves or compel the issue of recall. Let us take it one piece at a time. That is the reason why I continuously call this sessions because I hate to see the Calendar filled with – this morning as a result of the Majority Members and I would not say the Leadership, but the Majority members of the House wishes to refer to committees and one of them as being a Public Law through a Senate Bill and one needs some thoughts with respect to that particular bill. So it is with that reason that I humbly again request to let us all play it day by day and issue by issue so that we also give time to the Committee to work on legislations not knowing that we passed a bill today and the ramification came two or three days later from the affected agency that they cannot handle that particular change of law because of some unusual circumstances that they do not have the resources or for that matter, they do not have the personnel or equipment. So let us look at it in a brighter perspective. Okay. I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Rep. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to debate that and I could not agree more with your statement, and I am sure that Friar Tuck would probably tell Robin Hood to make sure that you stay on your topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: This is not a debate on the Miscellaneous Calendar. I assumed that was just a refreshment thought for the day. However, let us take this seriously and do it properly. Now that we have officially have Representative Yumul not registered his complaint, but he was alluding to actions that we have went through for the past several days. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, the afternoon break is really helpful because when a bill is withdrawn from the Committee especially if you are not a member to that Committee, there are ample time to at least in the afternoon to contact people that are directly affected with the recalled bill, or visit their office and sit down and ask for their comments or quick input on the recalled bills.

The Chair recognized Representative Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, I look forward for a session in Rota and Tinian. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you for the reminder. As I have discussed with you privately sometime ago, I think that was last week and also this morning, as soon as the Governor approves our budget, I

would make it a point that we have a session in Rota and also in Tinian so that we can apprise our local people there about the legislative issues. That is a wonderful invitation and encouragement and I wish to caution the members to put some for Rota and Tinian. As you all know, we will be accepting hopefully as recommended by the Minority Leader, the Governor's submission on the Legislative Budget plus a 10% on top of what we have. Let me remind you that I told you so. At any rate, Floor Leader, motion to recess until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. Speaker, before I do that, maybe if I am not out of order, it is an honor, Mr. Speaker, and privilege to just wish one of our colleague from Precinct I, a Happy Birthday.

[applause]

Speaker Babauta: Happy Birthday and many more to come, Chairwoman. Thank you for being with us on this special day. That is the reason why...I think the Lord above impressed upon me to cut off the session short because there is something going on today. On behalf of the Bureau staff and the members of the House, we wish you the best. Happy Birthday. Floor Leader, proceed.

Acting Floor Leader Lizama: So moved, Mr. Speaker, to recess until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:16 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

H. L. B. No. 15-45: To reappropriate \$50,000.00 from Saipan Local Law 14-31, Section 2(a); and for other purposes.

H. L. B. No. 15-46: To appropriate \$175,000.00 from the First Senatorial District Solid Waste Revolving fund; and for other purposes.

THIRD APPEARANCE:

None

