



SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2010

Third Day

Monday, February 1, 2010

The House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Third Day, First Regular Session on Monday, 1st of February 2010, at 10:01 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Felicidad T. Ogomoro, Madam Speaker of the House, presided.

Madam Speaker Ogomoro, recognized Representative Santos for a short prayer and a moment of silence.

Representative Santos: Lord Jesus, thank you Lord for this day, time and life. May you continue to guide, bless, and protect us today and always in Jesus' only name, Amen.

Madam Speaker Ogomoro: Thank you. Before we begin I would like to note for the record, members, the Speaker called me earlier this morning and asked that I preside over our session today he is not feeling well to be in our session this morning. The Clerk will now call the roll.

ROLL CALL

Representative Ramon S. Basa	present
Representative Diego T. Benavente	present
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	present
Representative George N. Camacho	present
Representative Trenton B. Conner	present
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	present
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	present
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	present
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	present
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	present
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogomoro	present

Representative Joseph M. Palacios	present
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	present
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	present
Representative Teresita A. Santos	present
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent
Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio	absent (excused)
Representative Stanley McGinnis Torres	present
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	present
Representative Ray N. Yumul	present

House Clerk Evelyn C. Fleming: Madam Chair, eighteen members are present and two members are absent.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, House Clerk we have a quorum. The next item on the agenda is, Public Comments.

For the record Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb, arrived after the calling of the roll and was duly marked present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Are there any comments to be made at this point. If none, we move on to Adoption of Journals.

The House did not receive public comments on the items listed on the day's agenda.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: There is none, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Are there bills to be introduced today? The Chair recognizes Representative Conner.

Representative Conner: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I believe there is a bill that I would like to introduced this morning that is being passed out.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Please, proceed Representative Conner please read out the title of your bill and a brief explanation as to the purpose of the bill.

Representative Conner: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce House Local Bill 17-5, a local appropriation bill for an act for the Second Senatorial District to appropriate \$38,000 from the local license fees collected from pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District and for other purpose. The appropriation is for the monthly subsistence allowance for dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, cervical and vascular accident patients from Tinian which is \$4,000; Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the Tinian Little League for the 2010 CNMI Little League District Tournament to be held in Tinian which is \$4,000; and the Municipal Scholarship which is \$30,000.

Representative Conner introduced the following House Local Bill with majority of the members consent made part of the day's agenda:

HOUSE LOCAL BILL 17-5:

To appropriate \$38,000.00 from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

Sponsored By REPRESENTATIVE TRENTON B. CONNER of Tinian, Precinct 6
First Legislative Day Appearance

Madam Speaker Ogunoro: Thank you. Are there any other bills for introduction this morning? The Chair recognizes Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I have House Bill 17-15, a bill for an act to authorize the Governor reprogramming authority for Fiscal Year 2010 to provide relief to the Northern Mariana Housing Corporation for the agency to meet its guarantor obligation in home loans and for other purposes. The purpose of this legislation is real simple. After our meeting with Ms. Esther Fleming from the Governor's office the Chairman and I have met with Ms. Fleming and her request is to ask for reprogramming authority under the Executive Branch, which is what this bill is for. The additional purpose is to provide relief to NMHC in order for the Corporation to meet its guarantor obligation, but more especially to give them the time that they need to in the long term seek financing solutions to protect mortgagees that are under this program. I believe it is under the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development 502 program. Thank you. If anyone would like to cosponsor please see the Clerk. Thank you.

Representative Tebuteb arrived at 10:11 a.m.

Representative Yumul introduced the following House Bill with majority of the members consent made part of the day's agenda:

HOUSE BILL 17-15:

To authorize the Governor reprogramming authority for Fiscal Year 2010, to provide relief to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation for the agency to meet its guarantor in homes loans; and for other purposes.

Sponsored By REPRESENTATIVE RAY N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, REPRESENTATIVES TEBUTEB, CABRERA, JOSEPH PALACIOS, DELA CRUZ, SABLAN, BENAVENTE, JOSEPH DELEON GUERRERO, CONNER and RAYMOND PALACIOS)
Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Madam Speaker Ogunoro: Thank you, Representative Yumul that is House Bill 17-15. Are there any bills for introduction? Representative Tebuteb, did you have something?

Representative Tebuteb: Please, let the record reflect that I am present today.

Madam Speaker Ogunoro: Okay, thank you. Let us move down to House Legislative Initiatives, are there any to be introduced this morning?

There were no House Legislative Initiatives introduced.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: The Chair recognizes Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I have a prefiled local bill to introduce, House Local Bill 17-4, to rename an existing road in Susupe, Saipan; and for other purposes. The bill was recommended by the Saipan Municipal Council as well as constituents from the area surrounding Susupe Lake and they are encouraging me to draft up a bill to rename the existing Agway Road to *Tun Jesus Kabayu Road* since that is well-known for the family. In fact, the family still resides in that area, so I am introducing this bill to rename the existing Agway Road to *Tun Jesus Kabayu Street*. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Representative Raymond Palacios introduced the following prefiled House Local Bill:

HOUSE LOCAL BILL 17-4:

To rename an existing road in Susupe, Saipan; and for other purposes.

Sponsored By REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND D. PALACIOS of Saipan, Precinct 2
First Legislative Day Appearance

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Raymond Palacios. Are there any other House Local Bills for introduction? If none, let us move down to the Resolutions. Are there any resolutions for introduction this morning? The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Before we begin could the Chair recognize the Clerk to mark Representative Tebuteb present for the day's session.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Please, do that House Clerk.

Floor Leader Camacho: In order to move forward so that we may adopt our House Rules, (House Resolution 17-2) on a later date, I would like to move that we suspend Rule 9 Section 8 so that we can place House Resolution 17-2 on the Resolution Calendar.

The motion was seconded.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: There is a motion on the floor to suspend our Rules so that we can place House Resolution 17-2 on the Resolution Calendar today and has been seconded, discussion on the motion.

There were no discussions and no objection on the floor the motion to suspend Rules was carried by voice vote.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Floor Leader Camacho.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker, with that, I move to place House Resolution 17-2 on our Resolution Calendar.

The motion for placement was seconded.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: There is a motion on the floor that has been seconded, discussion on the motion.

There were no discussions and no objections the motion was carried by voice vote.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Are there any other resolutions for introduction this morning? Representative Raymond Palacios recognized.

Representative Raymond Palacios: I have a prefiled House Resolution 17-3 to recognize and congratulate Mr. Vicente “Ben” M. Babauta on his selection as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Person of the Year. If there are no objections, Madam Speaker I would like to introduce this as committee of the whole. Thank you.

There were no objections.

Representative Raymond Palacios introduced the following prefiled House Resolution:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-3:

To recognize and congratulate Mr. Vicente “Ben” M. Babauta on his selection as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Person of the Year.

Sponsored By Representative Raymond D. Palacios of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, and REPRESENTATIVE DEMAPAN)

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Next item on the Order of Business, unless there are any more resolutions for introduction.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Alright, so let us move down Messages from the Governor.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: Madam Speaker, there is one communication from the Governor. Copies have been passed out to the members.

GOV. COMM. 17-10: (1/23/10) Executive Order 2010-1 – Declaration of a State of Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services, Continuation #18.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Are there any discussions?

Several members voiced ready.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: If none, let us move on to Item 7.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: There is only one message from the Senate Madam Speaker.

SEN. COMM. 17-1: (1/22/10) From Senate President Paul Mangloña regarding LB Director Glenna Reyes' employment contract.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: On House Communications.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: *Madam Speaker there are two communications from the House.*

HSE. COMM. 17-11: (1/20/10) From Speaker Tenorio to Ms. Glenna SP Reyes regarding her status as LB Director.

HSE. COMM. 17-12: (1/21/10) From the Leadership of the 17th House of Representatives appointing Mr. Daniel O. Quitugua to serve as the Director of the Legislative Bureau.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: I see that there are no communications from the Judicial Branch or from the NMI Delegate. Let us move down to Communications from Departments and Agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE NMI DELEGATE

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Representative Torres recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Madam Speaker, can we go back to House Communications.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: You may proceed.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Representative McGinnis-Torres: I noticed that the agenda for today under introductions of bills, the bills that were introduced on our last session are repeated under introduction of bills. I do not know who idea it is and it is okay with me, but instead of putting under introduction of bills as it is, maybe it should be noted as bills introduced on last session indicating that this is a repeated information only, also so as the resolutions.

Representative Benavente: Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Please proceed.

Representative Benavente: I turned around and asked one of the Clerks how the introduced legislations that appears on the agenda differs from that of those that were prefiled but have not been introduced and she informed me that the bold and you can see on the House Resolution part of the order of business that has been prefiled by Representative Raymond D. Palacios, is in bold letters, whereas the one I introduced which is House Joint Resolution 17-1, is in a smaller font and I guess that is what the Clerk has done so far to distinguish the difference between those that have been

formally introduced in the House and those that had been only prefiled, but that is what the difference is right now, I guess it will be up to this body to decide if they wish to change that because we do have to recognize which one has been formally introduced and which ones has not. I leave it to the direction of the Speaker.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Your concerns are noted and we will take care of that. Thank you and let us proceed with our order of business. I apologize, the Chair recognizes Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Speaker, because Representative Torres had asked to move to House Communications and if I am still in order and are still under that item.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Yes, please proceed.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I want to raise a point of clarification or a clarification. I am looking at House Communication 17-11 and 17-12 regarding the issue of the Director of the Bureau. I see the two communications are basically stating that one, Ms. Glenna SP Reyes is not the Director of the Bureau and the other an appointment letter to Mr. Daniel Quitugua appointing Mr. Quitugua to serve as Director of the Bureau, but on the prior communication from the Senate you have the Senate President basically stating that the contract for Ms. Glenna SP Reyes has been signed and that basically the Court will decide if that contract is valid. I just want to get some clarification, who is the Director of the Bureau now.

HSE. COMM. 17-11: (1/20/10) From Speaker Tenorio to Ms. Glenna SP Reyes regarding her status as LB Director.

Hse. Comm. 17-12: (1/21/10) From the Leadership of the 17th House of Representatives appointing Mr. Daniel O. Quitugua to serve as the Director of the Legislative Bureau.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: As of now Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero my understanding is that, as of now, I am not aware of anything else that would be saying to the contrary that it is still Ms. Glenna, unless there is something that we have, but as of now, I am only aware of Ms. Glenna still being the Legislative Bureau Director.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you. If there is something in the contrary that I am not aware of we will bring that thing up in our next session. If there is no further discussion and if there is no objections from the members that we move down to Item 11.

There were no objections.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: Madam Speaker there is one communication from Department and Agencies which is the annual report of the Department of Labor.

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 17-1: (1/15/10) From Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, Department of Labor, submitting the 2009 Annual Report to the Legislature.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Item 12, Miscellaneous Communications

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: *Madam Speaker, there are two communications under Miscellaneous Communications.*

MISC. COMM. 17-1: (1/13/10) From Ms. Glenna SP Reyes providing a copy of her employment contract to Speaker Tenorio.

MISC. COMM. 17-2: (1/26/10) From Mr. Donald D. Logsdon, Global Sun Wind & Power Corp requesting a meeting with the members of the House on February 2, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. regarding wind power electrical generation..

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: The Chair recognizes Representative Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Madam, Speaker and I apologize to the members, can we go back to Senate Communications?

There were no objections.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: You may proceed, Representative Torres.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Representative McGinnis-Torres: If I am not mistaken and I stand to be corrected the Senate President, Paul Mangloña's letter regarding the LB Director is calling for a certified question.

SEN. COMM. 17-1: (1/22/10) From Senate President Paul Mangloña regarding LB Director Glenna Reyes' employment contract.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Let us go on a brief recess.

The House recessed at 10:26 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:27 a.m.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: This House is back in session. In response to Representative Torres' concern, I am not aware and there is nothing in front of me that says that the Senate is calling for a certified question action. You may continue, Representative Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Just to clarify, I have seen and read that letter from the Senate President mentioning that unless the Court decides that the contract is invalid. I do not know what happened to that letter, but I have seen that. Is there anything from the Clerk?

Representative Benavente: Clarification, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Please proceed Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Yes, the letter did in fact state that the Director has a current contract and that the way I understood the letter from the Senate President is that, if you propose to challenge that contract then only the Court can make that decision, but in reading the letter for myself, it does not look like it is proposing a certified question to the Judicial Branch. So it just refers to the fact that if the Speaker wishes to challenge that contract then he would basically have to sue and make the Court decide as to the validity of that contract. So I think the question raised by Representative Torres is, whether the President was proposing that we send this as a certified question to the Courts, but again, the way I read it – it did not propose that.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Madam Speaker, since we are mentioning it I think that the House should initiate some kind of communication to the President of the Senate to take on that issue and get it over with. The more we delay we are in limbo – let both Houses bring this matter to the Supreme Court and get their interpretation of the validity of the contract so that we can move on.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Torres that is noted. The Chair recognizes Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Again, so that we move I think it is very clear from what the Senate President has stated and what he has been quoted in the media, that he at this time respects the contract and to offer a certified question on this matter would require both the Senate President and the Speaker both Leadership sending this certify question. I think we should move on and respect the fact that the Senate President has made his decision on this matter. Thank you.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Is there anything else before we move on to the next item? Thank you.

There were no more discussions under House Communications.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: I see that there are no reports noted here. Let us move on to Item 14.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: Madam Speaker, there is none.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: On Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: There is none Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: On Resolution Calendar.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: There is one resolution placed on the Calendar, Madam Speaker, but I think action would be at the next session.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you Clerk. The Chair recognizes Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Madam Speaker, may I ask the Clerk or the Legal Counsel or the Floor Leader, if House Joint Resolution 17-1 would qualify to be placed on today's Resolution Calendar under the Open Government Act requirement?

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Let us take a short recess.

The House recessed at 10:32 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:38 a.m.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: This House is back in Session. It will not contradict the Open Government Act to place on today's Calendar. So we will go ahead and entertain that. I place it now on the Calendar for discussion and action. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Madam Speaker can you go ahead and also place House Resolution 17-3 on the Calendar so that we can act on it also?

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Yes, House Resolution 17-3 is also placed on today's Calendar and let us dispose of that first. Floor Leader recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you Madam Speaker, I now move for the adoption of House Resolution 17-3.

The motion was seconded.

H. Res. 17-3:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To recognize and congratulate Mr. Vicente "Ben" M. Babauta on his selection as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Person of the Year.

REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND D. PALACIOS of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*), REPRESENTATIVES ANTONIO P. SABLAN, ELICEO D. CABRERA, JOSEPH M. PALACIOS, JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO, TRENTON B. CONNER, RAY N. YUMUL, RAMON A. TEBUTEB, AND FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ, RAMON S. BASA, GEORGE N. CAMACHO, FREDERICK P. DELEON GUERRERO, RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN, SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL, FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO, TERESITA A. SANTOS, FROILAN C. TENORIO, STANLEY T. MCGINNIS-TORRES, AND EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ)

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2010, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce selected Mr. Vicente "Ben" M. Babauta as the 2009 Business Person of the Year, as the fourteenth recipient of such a prestigious award, Mr. Babauta now joins the Commonwealth's elite business entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Babauta joined the workforce in his early years, from 1985 to 1987, he worked part time as an Operation Supervisor for Building Maintenance and Services Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Babauta then joined DFS Saipan Limited in 1987 as a Merchandise Assistant and with hard work, dedication, and commitment he managed to climb the corporate ladder holding various positions, including Team Leader, Shop Supervisor, Assistant

Store Manager, Store Manager, Group Sales Manager, Associate Store Manager and currently as the Assistant General Manager for Operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Babauta is also the current Managing Director of Instant “Massive” Bingo, a position he has held since 1993; and

WHEREAS, as a part time employee of DFS Saipan Limited from 1990 to 1993, Mr. Babauta briefly worked as a Computer Operator for the ITT/Federal Electric Corporation, Saipan Tracking Station (1990-1991) and as a Financial Analyst for the Commonwealth Health Center (1991-1993); and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Tournament of Champions Saipan since 1996 to present, President of the Northern Marianas College Foundation since 2007 to present, General Member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce since 1998, General Member of the Guam Visitor Bureau since 2001, and his most recent appointment as Director of International Services, Rotary Club of Saipan, and Member of the Board of Governors, Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, Mr. Babauta has unselfishly volunteered his time and effort for the betterment of our community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Babauta has shown his commitment and dedication in helping the community involvements that include, Vice President of the Associate Students, Northern Marianas College from 1985 to 1986, President of the Associate Students, Northern Marianas College from 1986 to 1987, Assistant Scout Master, Troup 902 from 1990 to 1994, Board of Directors, American Red Cross – CNMI Chapter from 1990 to 1993, President of the Saipan Swim Club from 2004 to 2006, Board of Director of the NMC Foundation from 2004 to 2007, and from 2005 to 2009 yearly appointments, respectively as a General Member, Director Vocational Services, Secretary, and President of the Rotary Club of Saipan; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years of his community service and noble accomplishments, Mr. Babauta has proven to be of remarkable integrity and character, an inspiration for the people of his great Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature is proud and honored to recognize the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Person of the Year, Mr. Vicente “Ben” M. Babauta;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House congratulates Mr. Vicente “Ben” M. Babauta for being selected as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Person of the Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Mr. Vicente “Ben” M. Babauta, the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and Mr. Douglas Brennan, President of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Discussion on the motion.

There were no discussions on the motion to adopt House Resolution 17-3 was carried by voice vote.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: On House Joint Resolution, the Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I now move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 17-1.

The motion was seconded.

H. Joint Res. 17-1:

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Supporting the alliance between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam through the MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE ASSOCIATION (MILA); and for other purposes.

REPRESENTATIVE DIEGO T. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Joseph M. Palacios, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Trenton B. Conner, Ray N. Yumul, Eliceo D. Cabrera, Antonio P. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Francisco S. Dela Cruz)

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam are both strategically located in the Western Pacific chain of islands known as the Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, the indigenous people of these islands have for long freely established contacts and interacted with one another before being “discovered” by Westerners; and

WHEREAS, the Mariana Islands that was once one was separated by geopolitical necessity and strategic convenience; and

WHEREAS, both the CNMI and Guam proudly share the same indigenous culture, language, ethnicity, and history; and

WHEREAS, both island entities share common interests and concerns such as in the tourism market, barriers to economic development in part due to the unanticipated effects of federal statutes and regulations and indigenous ancestral ties; and

WHEREAS, with anticipated military build-up on the island of Guam, it opens an opportunity for the Commonwealth to benefit; and

WHEREAS, the signing of Public Law 110-229 by then President George W. Bush, which took over immigration of the CNMI, tourist markets such as China and Russia were excluded in the visa waiver; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese and Russian markets are fairly new, they’re fast market and a vital part of the ailing tourism industry in the CNMI and Guam; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best public interest that the Legislatures of these two island entities work cooperatively for their mutual interests, concerns and benefits with the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring;, supporting the formation of the Mariana Islands Legislature Association (MILA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter transmit certified copies to the to the Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Speaker of the 30th Guam Legislature; the Honorable members of the 30th Guam Legislature; the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam; the Honorable members of the 17th Commonwealth Legislature; the Honorable Melchor Mendiola, Mayor of Rota; the Honorable Ramon Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, the Honorable Donald Flores, Mayor of Saipan, the Honorable Ramona T. Rubuenog, Mayor of the Northern Islands; and the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Discussion on the motion, the Chair recognizes Representative McGinnis-Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: If I am not mistaken this is about the creation of the joint legislative association, I would like to just point out my concerns. The Executive Branch and some of the Guam Legislature are opposing the military build-up or asking for the suspension of the military build-up. Would that be an issue between the two Legislatures or the Association of the Marianas?

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: The Chair recognizes Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Thank you. Yes, I believe that and many other issues of mutual concerns could be discussed and possibly addressed by both Leadership of the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through any of the proposals that could come out of this joint legislative association. Again, as I pointed out when I introduced this joint

resolution, with the experience that we have had in similar associations, such as, the APIL (Associations of Pacific Islands Legislature) which is actually a larger body than what this resolution proposes to do we have experienced benefits from these joint meetings of Leaders of the region and in this case the people of Guam being so close to the people of the CNMI and both being an insular area if you will, under the United States both have similar economic revenues through the Tourism Industry, I truly believe that having an association of the Legislative Branch, I know the Administration through our Governor and the Governor of Guam would meet and have met several times to work or discuss issues of mutual concerns in the Administrative level and I am merely proposing that we – and also other Government Agencies that have the same matters have come together to discuss issues of mutual concerns where it could benefit the people the of the CNMI but as well Guam. So I believe that in that spirit we can also use this Association as elected Representatives or Legislative Branch of Government both in the CNMI and Guam and hope that these talks and discuss issues of legislative-wise on these agendas. I believe the potential is a lot in which we can get a lot of benefits to our people. To clarify even further, as I mentioned when I introduce the resolution, in the past and I do believe that this is the third time that we have actually offered this association through joint resolution and in fact, I have attended one of those meetings in which the Guam and CNMI Legislature met, but because of the different election years we cannot get the continuity that we had with other associations because of Guam having their election year in even years and we having our election in odd years and therefore have only one year in which the same leaders come together to discuss and normally when we have elections and we change the Leaders it removes the continuity or the possibility of continuity in the Organization, but now, we have changed our election to that of even years. After Guam's election this year we will have a full two years in which the Legislative members of Guam and the Legislative members of the CNMI can actually come together for a two year period and discuss issues of mutual concerns. Thank you.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Are there any other comments of House Joint Resolution 17-1? Read.

There being no discussions the motion adopt House Joint Resolution 17-1 was carried by voice vote.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: House Clerk we are done to Bill Calendar, Item 17.

BILL CALENDAR

House Clerk Evelyn Fleming: There is none on the Calendar, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: At this time the Chair recognizes Representative Santos.

Representative Santos: Thank you, Madam Chair. Although, the Speaker is not in today's session, I would like to put this on record, that on behalf of the Luta Man'amko and the Rota Little League Association, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Speaker for the donation of \$2,000. The amount of which is going to be divided between the same and if there is going to be further donations I would greatly appreciate it because the more the merrier or the bigger the better. Thank you Madam Speaker. (Appendix A)

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Santos. The Chair recognizes Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I just wanted to get another clarification, Madam Speaker. I was kind of surprised this past weekend one of my constituents had asked me would be the new Speaker, because apparently the Speaker was interviewed by *KSPN* and made a statement about stepping down. It is really news to me I do not know what is going on and I want to ask if somebody perhaps knows what is going on can they clarify?

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Representative Deleon Guerrero, in answer to your question the only thing that I know is that everything is okay. In my last conversation with the Speaker over the weekend he had assured me that everything is okay, which means that he is still the Speaker. Are there anymore discussions under Miscellaneous Business? Please continue Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Madam Speaker, it has to do with this new thing with reading the bills we would have to summarize on it. Madam Speaker, I guess it is the prerogative of the Chair to ask to do that. Right now we do not have any pending matters on the Bill Calendar, nothing major. Last session it took over an hour and fifteen minutes to be exact just for the introduction of bills and I wanted to recommend that perhaps we may consider just reading the findings – I mean the heading already tells you what the bill is for, the Findings and Purposes summarizes what the bill is for. The Open Government Act already gives every member 72 hours to read the bill and understand what it is for, and so given all of that to read it again and explain it again may take up a lot of time that we can use towards debates, especially when we have bills on the Calendar that we should act on and Madam Speaker, a lot of reasons why the bill is being introduced will be discussed during the debates and discussions when the bill is on the Calendar, and so because of that I was just going to recommend that we can dispense with that. Now, if it is still the prerogative of the Chair to ask but it is also the prerogative of the members to answer. So I just wanted to toss that in – Food for thought. Thank you.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero. Are there any more discussions? The Chair recognized Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Madam Chair, just in line with Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero I believe that it is because the Speaker is new, but if the group can talk to him we can do away with this explanation during introduction, because like what Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero had said we can deliberate and we can explain more. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Raymond Palacios. Are there any more? None, let us move down to Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENT

No announcements were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Madam Speaker Ogumoro: The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho moved to adjourn until Friday, February 5, 2010, at ten o'clock in the morning; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Linda B. Muña, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND APPEARANCE: NONE

H.L.B. 17-1:

A Local Bill for an Act for the Third Senatorial District to suspend the implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008; and for other purposes.

By: **REP.** Stanley T. McGinnis **TORRES**, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

H.L.B. 17-2:

To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, 10 CMC §3511

By: **REP.** Ramon A. **TEBUTEB**, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) and **REP.** DIEGO T. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1)

H.L.B. 17-3:

To appropriate \$126,000 from local license fees collected for Poker and Pachinko Slot Machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

By: **REP.** Teresita A. **SANTOS** of Rota, Precinct 7.

THIRD APPEARANCE: NONE



Representative Teresita Apatang Santos

Chairperson, House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The House of Representatives
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
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The Honorable Froilan Tenorio
Speaker of the House of Representatives
17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Subject: Acknowledgement of your donation of \$2,000.00

Dear Speaker Tenorio:

On behalf of the Luta Man Amko and the Rota Little League Association, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for your donation of \$2,000.00 that you conveyed to me last Friday, January 29, 2010, in the Speaker's Room.

The aforementioned amount was received and acknowledged by Senator Juan M. Ayuyu, Chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, on February 1, 2010. The money will be presented to said recipients by the Rota Legislative Delegation on Rota at the earliest opportunity.

Once again, thank you for your generous support and contribution.

Sincerely,

Teresita A. Santos
7th Election District, Rota

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY [Signature]
DATE 2/2/2010 TIME 9:00am