



**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2010

Fifth Day

Monday, February 23, 2010

The House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fifth Day, First Regular Session on Tuesday, 23rd of February 2010, at 2:10 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Froilan C. Tenorio, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and nineteen members were present; Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero was excused.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: And, therefore, a quorum is present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: And now, we would like to hear from the public, if anybody in the audience would like to say something, this is your opportunity?

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

1ST DAY, FIRST REGULAR SESSION JOURNAL, JANUARY 11, 2010
2ND DAY, FIRST REGULAR SESSION JOURNAL, JANUARY 28, 2010
3RD DAY, FIRST REGULAR SESSION JOURNAL, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Mr. McGinnis-Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, let the record show that I am present for today's session.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: So noted. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move for the adoption of the Journals, First Day, First Regular Session, Second Day, First Regular Session, and Third Day, First Regular Session.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion, Mr. Benavente recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like, without objections, if we can be allowed to make grammatical changes that we see and work this out with the Clerk. This is something that we have done in the past and I believe that if the members would agree to it, that it should not be a problem just as long as we do not change the substance of the comments only grammatical corrections if necessary. Thank you.

There were no objections on the floor.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Vice Speaker recognized.

Vice Speaker Ogumoro: Mr. Speaker, just to ask that for the First Day, First Regular session's journal, I noted that when they were passed out that comments that were made by the members or at least the comments that I have made be inserted in the journal and it was not there, I just wanted to know and make sure that the statements of members be included in the journal - it is included in the journal okay, thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Mr. Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, along that line of the Vice Speaker's comments, I also went through the Organizational session and I understand that there was an equipment failure and if we could be allowed to submit a copy of our comments to be included in the journal.

There were no objections raised on the floor.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Mr. Benavente recognized.

Representative Benavente: It is also my understanding that speaking to the Journal Clerk that there were problems with the equipment towards the end of the Inaugural Session and so they could not pick up the comments and the Journal Clerk is asking if we have a hard copy of our written statements that were read out during the Inaugural Session that we submit that to her so it can be included in the journal. That is the situation presently, and I guess, again, without objections that we allow members to submit their statements during the Inaugural Session and be included as part of the record of the Inaugural Session journal.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Let us have a voice vote.

There being no further discussions on the motion to adopt the First Day, First Regular Session, January 11, 2010, Second Day, First Regular Session, January 28, 2010, and Third Day, First Regular Session, February 1, 2010 it was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: The Journals are hereby adopted. The next item on the Agenda, Clerk.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Mr. Demapan recognized.

Representative Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, today I would like to introduce House Bill 17-25. This bill is to repeal and amend certain sections to the Commonwealth Code dealing with Immigration functions and for other purpose. The short title for this bill is the “Immigration Conformity Act of 2010”.

Representative Demapan introduced the following prefiled House Bill that was part of the day’s agenda:

HOUSE BILL 17-25:

To repeal and amend certain sections of the Commonwealth Code dealing with Immigration functions; and for other purposes.

Introduced By REPRESENTATIVE RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)
Referred to the Committee Judiciary Governmental and Operations

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Mr. Demapan, can you elaborate more on what the intention of the bill is?

Representative Demapan: *Tres esti na asuntu pago ni attataka esti na bill, i fine’nina*, dealing with the possible preemption of the Commonwealth law by the Federal actions, the second is providing needed flexibility for the Department to deal with our on-going economic crisis and the difficult problem of providing full employment for all our US citizens here in the Commonwealth, and third, is conforming the umbrella permit program that keeps foreign workers available for our tourist and other industries.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: House Bill 17-25 is referred to your Committee on Judiciary Governmental and Operations (JGO). Representative Iguel recognized.

Representative Iguel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have one bill to introduce before this body. This is a revenue generating bill that will hopefully help our ailing economy and at the same time help our local businesses selling drinking water. This bill is House Bill 17-26 to impose an excise tax on the self imported bottled drinking water. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Iguel introduced the following prefiled House Bill that was part of the day’s agenda:

HOUSE BILL 17-26:

To impose an excise tax on the sale of imported bottled drinking water; and for other purposes

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (for himself)
Referred to the Committee Health and Welfare

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: May I ask how many excise tax are you imposing Representative Iguel?

Representative Iguel: One cent (\$.01) per one fluid ounce, Mr. Speaker. One bottled of drinking water will be charged twelve cents (\$.12) per bottle.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Excise tax of twelve cents per bottle.

Representative Iguel: That is correct.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Iguel and your bill is assigned to the Committee on Ways and Means. Representative Joseph Palacios, recognized.

Representative Joseph Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I was going back on a bill that was previously introduced by our colleague here, Representative Villagomez House Bill 17-17. And later on after I have done what I have researched on amending 4 CMC §§ 5554 and 5555 is actually in lined with what Representative Villagomez had introduced, but the only difference is that we wanted to add on the hours of off-sale of selling of alcohol rather than just for on-site, which is like the night clubs or bars, but also wanted to include retail stores. I would like to withdraw my bill House Bill 17-27 and I would like to work with the Committee on JGO on House Bill 17-17 to see if we can amend and add the “off-sale” portion that is not included in House Bill 17-17.

There were no objections on the floor that House Bill 17-27 be withdrawn by the author, Representative Joseph Palacios.

HOUSE BILL 17-27:

To amend 4 CMC § 5554 and 4 CMC § 5555; and for other purposes.

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH M. PALACIOS of Saipan, Precinct1 (for himself)

**Legislation was withdrawn by the author.*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Demapan recognized.

Representative Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce House Bill 17-28 to empower and define the authority, duties, and responsibility and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch and for other purposes.

Representative Demapan introduced the following prefiled House Bill that was part of the day’s agenda:

HOUSE BILL 17-28:

To empower and define the authority, duties, responsibilities and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch; and for other purposes

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)

Referred to the Committee Judiciary Governmental and Operations

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: I believe that this is the bill that the Marshal in the Judicial Branch are requesting to be armed (side-armed) is it the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Branch, does it have to go through the Legislature? I just wanted to point that out.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Can somebody answer that question? Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the Marshal Service, if they are not authorized to carry a weapon by law, there is one other way that they may carry and that is through the direct authorization by the Commissioner of Public Safety. But the intent here in this legislation is to have them be included as part of the law enforcement officers that are assigned weapons after they have gone through the proper training and I think it would be appropriate to establish it by law instead of by having the Commissioner authorize it – if that is the intent in part of this legislation. I see that on page 4, lines 7 through 9 where it authorizes the Office of the Adult Probation such as the Division of Youth Services Juvenile Probation Unit to carry Chief Marshal, Deputy Marshal – it is a policy issue.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: So this bill, if enacted, will authorize the Marshal's to bear arms – to carry arms?

Representative Cabrera: One of them, yes, one of their duty. Right now, they cannot serve warrants, but if we authorize them by law then they can be serving warrants – act like a police officer inside the Court building. But right now only the DPS are allowed to do that – to serve warrants act like a police officer in the judicial building.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Yes, I brought it up just so that the members know. One more question – did the Supreme Court, Chief Justice and the Superior Court, Presiding Judge endorse this move? If they do then I have no problem.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Cabrera.

Representative Cabrera: Yes, I had met with them and I think they have met with somebody else.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Demapan.

Representative Demapan: To Representative Torres' question, yes, I did have communication with the Justices.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I understand, Representative Demapan, that this bill was requested by the Chief Justice.

Representative Demapan: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and along with Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: That is right, the two of them. Representative Torres, do you have a copy of the bill?

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Not in front of me – I am not sure if it is in my binder, but anyway, I am just posing the question for information and I am satisfied if the Presiding Judge and the Chief Justice are okay with it.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: House Bill 17-28 is referred to JGO. Representative Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, I have a prefiled bill, House Bill 17-30, to repeal and reenact Title 4 § 51405 of the Commonwealth Code as established by Public Law 15-36 to regulate recycling businesses operating in the Commonwealth to establish the offense of theft of copper and for other purposes. This bill is a new version from the bill that my colleague, Representative Yumul had introduced a month ago, and the Committee on PUTC recommends that Representative Yumul's bill be filed or leave it in the Committee to collect dust and so the Committee came up with a new version not exactly the same with Representative Yumul's bill. There is a tiff to it that a recycler or buyer of copper to be banned from further purchasing copper wires in any form other than other recycling materials, that is the intent of this bill is, to shut off the recyclers or buyers from buying because they are the cause of the problem that recyclers are enticing or hanging a big cash in front of the people that are doing the wrong thing because the price of copper is very high. So the only way to stop this copper wire theft is by telling the buyers that it is a violation for them to buy more copper wire. Mr. Speaker, I would like to calendar this bill on the Bill Calendar for action in the next session.

The motion was seconded.

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

HOUSE BILL 17:30:

To repeal and reenact Title 4 §51405 of the Commonwealth Code as established by Public Law 15-36 to regulate recycling businesses operating in the Commonwealth; to establish the offense of theft of copper; and for other purposes.

Introduced By REPRESENTATIVE STANLEY T. MCGINNIS-TORRES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself)
*Placed on the Bill Calendar for action in the next House Session.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you, Representative Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, just to inform the members that this new version was cosponsored by seven other members other than myself. They are all members of your Committee on PUTC and that is why it is sort of reporting as a substitute bill. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: There is a motion to place it on the Calendar and it was seconded, discussion on the motion. I understand Representative Torres that even if we approve to place this on the Bill Calendar we cannot act on it today. Please proceed Representative Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, as long as it is on the Calendar it will shorten the period rather than assigning it to a Committee again, and if you are going to assign it to my

Committee it will be the same process. So I ask that it be place on the Calendar for action, not necessarily today, but to meet the OGA, I am for it.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay, there is a motion and has been seconded, discussion.

There being no discussion on the motion to place House Bill 17-30 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Mr. Iguel, recognized.

Representative Iguel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have House Bill 17-29, this is a bill to require the Department of Public Lands to fund an independent study to conduct an environmental sampling and consultation of areas within the CNMI possibly contaminated with chemicals of concern; and for other purposes. Mr. Speaker, Tanapag village has been contaminated with different kinds of chemicals from the negligence of the Department of Defense. They have been pushing to investigate the other chemicals of concerns, but only PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) has been addressed and for that reason that I am requesting assistance from the Department of Public Lands because they are partly responsible for the negligence had they done the environmental impact assessment, I do not think they would have open the sub-division for homestead and for that reason that I am requesting assistance so if they can provide funding for independent testing and find areas to be above what is considered safe then we can obligate the Department of Defense to come back to do remediation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HOUSE BILL 17-29:

To require the Department of Public Lands to fund an independent study to conduct an environmental sampling and consultation of areas within the CNMI possibly contaminated with chemicals of concern; and for other purposes.

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (for himself)
Referred to the Committees on Health and Welfare and Ways and Means

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you, House Bill 17-29 is referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objections from the author I would like to cosponsor that bill.

Representative Iguel: I have no objections, and I welcome any other member to do so as well.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay. Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this is an unnumbered bill to amend 4 CMC § 8182 to avail NMC CREES of the special water rates established for farmers and ranchers and for other purposes. Thank you. And everybody is welcome to cosponsor as well.

HOUSE BILL 17-31:

To amend 4 CMC § 8182 to avail NMC CREES of the special water rates established for farmers and ranchers and for other purposes.

Introduced By REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself)

*Legislation was withdrawn by the author

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objections could we have that - that bill numbered as House Bill 17-27, since Representative Joseph Palacios has withdrawn his prior bill.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Cabrera, recognized.

Representative Cabrera: Going back to the bill that Representative Iguel introduced, House Bill 17-29, *attan fan yan na ma'na'i lakkue guatto gi Ways and Means because the Ways and Means can move funds from the Department of Public Lands ni para u ma fund i programaña – combine it with the Health and Welfare Committee yan na'i i lakkue guatto i Ways and Means Committee yangin ma submit i budget niha we can move some money and put it down specifically for the study at the request of Chairman Iguel. I think it is also appropriate to also have that in both Committees.*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: So ordered. Representative Santos, recognized.

Representative Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. My local bill is only for introduction and not for action. I would like to introduce House Local Bill 17-7, a local bill for an Act for the First Senatorial District to increase the poker and pachinko slot machine annual local license fees in the First Senatorial District by amending 10 CMC § 1901 and for other purposes.

HOUSE LOCAL BILL 17-7:

To increase the poker and pachinko slot machine annual local license fees in the First Senatorial District by amending 10 CMC § 1901; and for other purposes

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself)

*Legislation was withdrawn by the author.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Legal Counsel.

LC M. Meyers: *I believe we need to vote to add that to the Agenda.*

Representative Santos: That is correct, it is just for introduction.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: This is for the Legal Counsel. Representative Santos' introduction automatically puts the bill on the Agenda for three appearances we do not need to vote on that – after that it will be referred to the Delegation. It is not for action.

LC M. Meyers: I understand that it is not for action – my understanding to fulfill the requirements of the OGA if the bill is not prefiled then the body needs to vote by majority to place on the Agenda.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: We are not placing it on the Calendar it is just for introduction.

LC M. Meyers: I think that the requirements are clear that it needs to be voted on to, if it is being introduced on the floor then it needs to have a majority vote to add it to the Agenda – that is my understanding if that is what is occurring.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, let us vote now and place that on today's Agenda.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Dela Cruz, recognized.

Representative Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a House Local Bill and as such this will end up with the respective Senatorial Delegation. As Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero had stated it takes three legislative appearances of any legislation within the House – this will not sit in as an agenda for the House since it will be a Delegation legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Counsel, let us vote and place on today's agenda because it is not written in the agenda that is what the Counsel is saying so it will appear as first appearance.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Santos, I thought you are just introducing the bill.

Representative Santos: That is correct, Mr. Speaker and I gathered that after consulting with the Legal Counsel who has indicated that it must meet the 72 hours time period because of the OGA, but apparently, as it is today, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case based on Representatives Joseph Deleon Guerrero's and Dela Cruz's opinion.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Well, can we ask the Legal Counsel again.

LC M. Meyers: Well, other than being confused now, I still think we need a majority vote, but if you all want to take a recess then that will be fine with me and we can hammer this out.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:45 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: This House is back in session. I would like to turn over the floor to the Legal Counsel to explain not so much about the local bill as introduced by Representative Santos, but about the three House Bills that were introduced in this session.

LC M. Meyers: Mr. Speaker, thank you, my understanding my reading of the OGA is that to bring a bill up in a legislative session if it has not been prefiled requires a majority of the members that is all. It is a very simple procedure if we are arguing that – that is not required I am not sure what the language in the provisions of the OGA mean. So that is the only meaning that I can attach to that. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Legal Counsel. If Representative Santos, prior to her introduction of House Local Bill says a simple statement – if there are no objections from the members I would like to introduce a House Local Bill and then continue on with her statement – will that be sufficient? And of course if there is no objection and she continues to read off of her bill will that be acceptable?

LC M. Meyers: For civilized adults, that should be just fine, but for our purposes, I think no. The language says majority of the members so let us just stick with that and ask for a majority vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero, recognized under point of clarification.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Yumul used the House Local Bill as an example, and with House Local Bill it is just an introduction and as we agreed – if it will be appearing in the next legislative session on the agenda we do not have to vote on anything. If it was a House Bill, yes, and I think that was the point that you were trying to make, but for House Local Bill, no.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Alright, House Bills 17-25 to 17-28, were prefiled 72 hours ago. So the concern of the Legal Counsel is if that is the case then his opinion is that all the bills that were introduced today in order to get by that 72 hour notice – we should all vote to allow that. Under point of information, I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Matt, so if House Bill 17-29 which was introduced today, if we do not vote on anything today, will that bill appear in the next session as part of the agenda.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Proceed, Legal Counsel.

LC M. Meyers: Representative, I think it would because by bringing it up at a session you are giving – although actually probably not by the terms of the OGA because certain things are required to give notice. Although the OGA does provide for a vote, which is what I am asking for to get around these...

Floor Leader Camacho: It is not for action today, it was not prefiled but it is filed today. So we are not asking for it to be on the Calendar or anything it is just being filed today.

LC M. Meyers: The provisions of the OGA – the reason that I am sticking to this majority vote requirement is I believe that the provisions in the OGA would be meaningless if...

Floor Leader Camacho: In essence you are saying that we cannot introduce any bills unless it is prefiled.

LC M. Meyers: No, I am saying that you can introduce bills by majority vote of your colleagues.

Floor Leader Camacho: We cannot introduce any new bills during sessions unless we vote on it.

LC M. Meyers: That is my interpretation.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Under point of information, I recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Thank you. The rationale here is because the mere introduction should be allowed is real simple – the Clerk which controls one booklet. The booklet contains unnumbered bill numbers and that book is sitting in front of us – the Clerk currently has it – it is not at the Clerk’s office. So if I were to walk over there right now to prefile say, for another session, I would not be able to do that because the book is here, hence, it would be more appropriate for me to introduce it here for the purposes of introduction. Now, to add on to that, if the members would look to page 7 and 8 of the Agenda there is a section that the Clerk had inserted – it is called “appearance of measures introduced in the House floor during the House session prior” which was February 5. All bills that were introduced on the floor on the 5th of February were placed on today’s calendar in this section. So the rationale here is so that the members that introduce bills today, although, it is not on the front page under Item IV, it will appear here at the next session. Unless, we are trying to act, meaning we made a motion earlier to place a bill on the Calendar – that is where I agree that we do need a clear majority vote, but if it is just for introduction of bills just so that we can conduct ourselves in an orderly matter by moving along I think that this is appropriate.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Yumul, if that is the case then there is no need for us to be prefilng anything because then we can introduce bills on the floor, but then we are circumventing the 72 hour notice.

Representative Yumul: Yes, Mr. Speaker, again, the issue is not to act it is just a function we are just merely introducing a bill either we do it through prefilng which would make it a lot easier for action or if we are just going about our own legislative duty by introducing a bill today, not to act on it but just to get a bill number assigned to it to have it appear at the next calendar as a bill that was introduce on the floor.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Yumul, when the bills were prefiled and then the notice was circulated where ever it was supposed to for 72 hours, they were prefiled and the people knew about it and now you are saying that anybody can introduce a bill on the floor today and does not have to comply with the 72 hour notice.

Representative Yumul: Yes, because we are again, making a motion that if there is no objection we would like to introduce a measure. The session today is actually open to the public it is not like we are doing this in executive session.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I am sorry Representative Yumul, but we have a 72 hour notice here that we have to comply with and I do not think that we can just get by around that by just saying without any objection we should go ahead and do it. Representative Benavente, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to discuss this with the former House Legal Counsel Antonette Villagomez and apparently hearing this argument from those of us who have been here from the Sixteenth Legislature who have since the implementation of the Open Government Act have been doing it this way, but apparently upon her review she is in agreement with our own Legal Counsel now, that the OGA, if we are going to be allowed to introduce a bill that was not prefiled and did not meet the 72 hours so that it will appear on the agenda that we would have to vote and have a majority agreeing to allowing basically, not necessarily placing but allowing members to introduce unnumbered bills and bills that have not been previously prefiled to meet the 72 hours requirement. So at this time, I feel that maybe, to move on that we accept our Legal Counsel's recommendation and allow the vote in order for all the other bills that were just previously introduced that did not meet the 72 hour deadline to be allowed to be introduced today.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Alright, the next question Legal Counsel is whether we vote first to allow it and then have the sponsor introduce it or they have been introduced can we just go back and just say whether we all agree that House Bill 17-29 be introduced so that we do not have start all over.

LC M. Meyers: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think that would be appropriate to just refer to the bill by number since they have been introduced and do a majority vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay, so let us vote on House Bill 17-29, ready. Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: We are going back to the 72 hour notice as required by the OGA – can we ask the Legal Counsel whether voting by majority necessarily beats that 72 hour – I mean if we are talking about the 72 hour notice voting by majority here does not necessarily mean that the public has been granted the 72 hour as intended by the OGA. So where are we going with the voting?

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Legal Counsel, recognized.

LC M. Meyers: Well, at some point Representative Sablan, I am going to be required to make a comment on the artfulness of legislation as it is written and I do not really see that really is my position other than to read the legislation and to interpret it the best way I can. Sometimes these bills have contradictory purposes or the purposes might not be exactly clear as they are written but they have been passed and they are law now so we have to just do our best as I see to follow the requirement.

Representative Sablan: But does the majority vote necessarily or legally addresses the 72 hour notice issue.

LC M. Meyers: The provisions of the OGA provide for a prefiling – if a prefiling does not occur then it requires to add something to the agenda, it requires a majority vote of the members – that is all it says.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay. Ready.

There being no further discussions and by majority consent of the members House Bill 17-29 has been made part of the day's agenda.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: On House Bill 17-31, ready. Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Tebuteb: Objection on the motion, Mr. Speaker. Point of Information. I would rather withdraw the bill and ask our friends for caution so much so for our Clerk, I withdraw so that I can prefile.

Representative Tebuteb objected to the motion for allowing House Bill 17-31 to be made part of the day's agenda, and has withdrawn the measure for introduction.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Do you want to tell us why?

Representative Tebuteb: So that to make things simple.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Alright, so House bill 17-31 has been withdrawn by the author, Representative Tebuteb. Representative Cabrera, recognized.

Representative Cabrera: Mr. Speaker, if I may, under the Constitution, my colleague Representative Tebuteb is in line with the language that he is using. We are authorized under our Constitution to use either, Chamorro, Carolinian, or English. So I do not understand what he just said but I agree with him because it is still within the Constitution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you. On House Local Bill 17-7. I recognize Representative Santos.

Representative Santos: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to withdraw and I would prefer to prefile.

There were no objections raised on the floor.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay, House Local Bill 17-7 has been withdrawn. Under privilege, I now recognize Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this is just for our information - to not complicate it further and delay the process, please let us all prefile ahead of time – we have all the time to prefile bills why the last minute and why during session time. I strongly recommend that we prefile so that we do not delay our future sessions – this is only a recommendation, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, may I ask my colleague from Rota why is she withdrawing her local bill?

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Santos, recognized.

Representative Santos: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is my prerogative, it is my bill and I thank Representative Torres for his concern.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Yes, we know that, but why did you do that, Representative Santos?

Representative Santos: Again, Mr. Speaker, no further comment on this.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, I was ready to vote yes, for allowing her local bill to be placed on today's agenda so that it will appear as "first appearance". But if she decided to withdraw then as she said, it is her prerogative. I am only concern because if she is going to go through the prefiling then that is another day in another session lost for – I mean I am just curious and I am sorry.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you, Representative Torres.

Representative Dela Cruz: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Dela Cruz.

Representative Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I hope I am not repeating myself, but in the case of House Local Bill 17-7 or a local legislation the appearance will also be there as she will have to file under the First Legislative Delegation. So the local bill is merely an appearance in the House – after the third appearance she would have to introduce this amongst her Delegation, which will then meet the OGA – just a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Well, Mr. Dela Cruz, I do not think we are concern here about the thirty day period our concern here is about the 72 hour advance notice. Regardless of whether – she can wait for fifty days from today, but the fact is that according to the new amendment to the law – like the regular House Bills which require a 72 hour prefile notice the House Local Bill should comply with that requirement.

Representative Dela Cruz: And like I said, Mr. Speaker the Delegation will also be required to have this 72 hour notice for their session in the First Senatorial District or any respective Delegation whether in the Second Senatorial or here in the Third Senatorial District. And all that I am saying is the local bill will appear 72 hours prior to their Delegation session.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay, thank you. I guess this issue is moot since Representative Santos withdrew her motion, but in the meantime, I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to further review this issue for our next session.

LC M. Mevers: Of course, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Item V, Clerk.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: I would like to yield to Representative Santos.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Santos, recognized.

Representative Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, House Commemorative Resolution 17-2, I would like to introduce to this body. This particular Commemorative Resolution, Mr. Speaker, goes out to the late Albert Songao Toves, Jr, which reads, conveying the sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the bereaved family of the late Albert Songao Toves, Jr. on the occasion of his untimely passing and to pay fond tribute to his memory, and this has been filed since February 10, 2010. Also, Mr. Speaker, House Commemorative Resolution 17-3, a House Commemorative Resolution conveying the sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the bereaved family of the late Fidel Atalig Mendiola on the occasion of his untimely passing and to pay fond tribute to his memory, and this Commemorative Resolution was also filed on February 10, 2010. Thank you

Representative Santos introduced the following prefiled House Commemorative Resolution:

HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION 17-2:

A House Commemorative Resolution conveying the sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the bereaved family of the late Albert Songao Toves, Jr. on the occasion of his untimely passing and to pay fond tribute to his memory.

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE TERESITA A. SANTOS, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*, REPRESENTATIVES RAMON S. BASA, DIEGO T. BENAVENTE, ELICEO D. CABRERA, GEORGE N. CAMACHO, FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ, FREDERICK P. DELEON GUERRERO, RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN, JOSEPH M. PALACIOS, ANTONIO P. SABLAN, EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ, FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO AND TRENTON B. CONNER)

Representative Santos introduced the following prefiled House Commemorative Resolution:

HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION 17-3:

A House Commemorative Resolution conveying the sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the bereaved family of the late Fidel Atalig Mendiola on the occasion of his untimely passing and to pay fond tribute to his memory.

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE TERESITA A. SANTOS**, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*, REPRESENTATIVES BASA, BENAVENTE, CABRERA, CAMACHO, CONNER, OGUMORO, JOSEPH M. PALACIOS, SABLAN, MCGINNIS-TORRES, VILLAGOMEZ, AND YUMUL)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, I would like the Clerk to take note to include my name on House Commemorative Resolution 17-2, if there is no objections from the author.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Santos recognized.

Representative Santos: I have no objections, Mr. Speaker and in fact, I would like to also encourage the rest of the members who have not signed to please affix your signatures here, although the Commemorative Resolution has already been presented to the family.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I understand that we are going to be acting on these two resolutions today.

Floor Leader Camacho: Yes, Mr. Speaker, when we come to the Resolution Calendar we will move to place it on the Resolution Calendar for action.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay. House Resolutions, Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, prior to having the author of House Resolution 17-6 introduce the resolution and to ensure that we are in sequence and if I am not out of order with the direction of some of the members and hopefully the Legal Counsel – I would like to request if we can recall or place House Resolution 17-4 on today’s Calendar for action. This resolution is very urgent – this will assist the Carolinian Affairs Office with respect to their application to the related language assistance project (CARLA). This is a requirement for the package and we need to act on it and that they need to submit for their application to be entertained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Raymond Palacios, do you want to withdraw this House Resolution 17-4 from the Committee?

Representative Raymond Palacios: Yes, and if there are no objections to place it on the Resolution Calendar for action. Because according to the Carolinian Affairs Office this requirement needs to be submitted as soon as possible. In fact, they were given a deadline of February 15, if I am not mistaken, correct Representative Tebuteb. So we are really prolonging this – we need to try and act on it so that they can submit this to the agencies that they are applying the package from.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Yes, but can we wait until we get to Item XV, Resolution Calendar.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Sure, no problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay. Representative Santos, recognized under House Resolutions.

Representative Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this is going to be last – House Resolution 17-6, a House Resolution in support of Congressman Gregorio “Kilili” Camacho Sablan’s HR 3511, to establish and operate the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitor Facility in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Thank you.

Representative Santos introduced the following prefiled House Resolution:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-6:

A House Resolution in Support of Congressman Gregorio “Kilili” Camacho Sablan’s HR 3511, to establish and operate the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitor Facility in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE TERESITA A. SANTOS**, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself, REPRESENTATIVES CAMACHO, IGUEL, AND OGUMORO*)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Will you elaborate as to why are we doing this, Representative Santos?

Representative Santos: Yes, Mr. Speaker. During our brief meeting with Congressman Kilili which took place sometime last week – he has indicated that his bill HR 3511 coupled with Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo’s bill HR 4493 has been slated to be heard in Congress this Thursday, February 25, 2010 and because time is of the essence here, we decided to come up with a resolution in support of Congressman Kilili’s bill to have the Visitor’s Center be constructed or erected here in the Commonwealth.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Is that in addition to the one that Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo wants to set up on Guam?

Representative Santos: That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo also has filed a similar bill requesting that the Visitor’s Center be built or established or constructed in Guam.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: So it is one of the same – only one will be set up either in Guam or in the Northern Marianas.

Representative Santos: According to Congressman Kilili, Mr. Speaker, there is only going to be one Visitor’s Center to be built and not two.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, can I go ahead and ask that you directly place that on our Resolution Calendar instead of referring it to the Committee so that we may act on it today. Mr. Speaker, in accordance to the House Rules you can do that.

There were no objections on the floor and there being no discussion House Resolution 17-6 was placed on the Resolution Calendar for action.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Item VI, Messages from the Governor.

GOV. COMM. 17-13: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Gilbert Birnbirch, to receive an annual salary of \$56,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-14: (1/29/10) Certifying that the position for one Physician (Nephrologists) is vacant and must be filled at the Department of Public Health (CHC). [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-15: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Eric Bernon, M.D. to receive an annual salary of \$149,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-16: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. John William Rogers, M.D. to receive an annual salary of \$130,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-17: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Sherleen M. Osman, M.D. to receive an annual salary of \$200,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-18: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Hazel Christine Brown, M.D. to receive an annual salary of \$80,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-19: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Esther Grace P. Kanayjorn-Na-Ayuthata, M.D. to receive an annual salary of \$160,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-20: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Jayna Wilgus, M.D. to receive an annual salary of \$100,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-21: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. April A. Ricotta, Director of Nursing to receive an annual salary of \$65,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-22: (1/29/10) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Wayne Allen Hazlip to receive an annual salary of \$68,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-23: (1/29/10) Certifying that 2 positions for Assistant Attorney General are vacant and must be filled, AGO. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-24: (1/29/10) Certifying that 1 position for Chief Prosecutor is vacant and must be filled, AGO. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-25: (1/29/10) Certifying that 1 position for Physician (Nephrologists) is vacant and must be filled, DPH. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-26: (1/29/10) Certifying that 1 position for Small Business Development Director is vacant and must be filled, Department of Commerce. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-27: (1/29/10) Certifying that 1 position for Central Statistics Director is vacant and must be filled, Department of Commerce. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 17-28: (2/12/10) Informing the House that that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 16-36, D1 (To authorize SHEFA financial assistance for students enrolled in post-secondary vocational or training programs pursuing a degree or certification in nursing or any other related medical program within the CNMI) [Became **Saipan Local Law 16-11**]

GOV. COMM. 17-29: (2/12/10) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 16-40, D2 (To amend 10 CMC § 3922: “Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board: Establishment” in regards to the appointment of members to the SHEFA Board) [Became **Saipan Local Law 16-12**]

GOV. COMM. 17-30: (2/12/10) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 16-37 (To name the fire station located in Koblerville Village to the “Jose Terlaje Ada Building”) [Became **Saipan Local Law 16-13**]

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Item VI, Messages from the Governor.

There were no discussions made under this item of the agenda.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 17-2: (2/8/10) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 17-02, entitled, “A Senate Resolution to support the Carolinian Affairs Office (CAO) in the implementation of recommendations from the CARLA Project and the first Carolinian Language Symposium on the maintenance and preservation of indigenous language,” which was adopted by the Senate on February 4, 2010. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 17-3: (2/8/10) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 17-03, entitled, “A Senate Resolution extending an official invitation to the Honorable Barack H. Obama,

President of the United States of America, to visit the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” which was adopted by the Senate on February 4, 2010. *[For info]*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: On Senate Communications.

There were no discussions made under this item of the agenda.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

HSE. COMM. 17-13: (2/3/10) From Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero, FFR Chair, appointing Representative Conner to as a member of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-14: (2/4/10) From Rep. Joseph Palacios to Public Auditor Michael Pai requesting for an audit of the Man’Amko Program. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-15: (2/8/10) From Rep. Raymond D. Palacios, Education Chair, appointing members to the Committee on Education. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-16: (2/8/10) From Rep. Sylvestre Iguel, HW Chair, appointing members to the Committee on Health and Welfare. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-17: (2/9/10) From Rep. Teresita Santos, NR Chair, appointing Representative Stanley T.M. Torres as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-18: (2/10/10) From Rep. Ramon S. Basa, WM Chair, appointing Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-19: (2/11/10) From Speaker Tenorio reassigning bills and resolution to the newly formed House standing committees.

HSE. COMM. 17-20: (2/11/10) From Speaker Tenorio informing members that there will be a presentation by the Northern Marianas College concerning accreditation matters.

HSE. COMM. 17-21: (2/12/10) From Rep. Stanley McGinnis-Torres, PUTC Chair, appointing Representative Diego T. Benavente as a member of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications. *[For info]*

HSE. COMM. 17-22: (2/19/10) From Rep. Teresita Santos, NR Chair, to Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, Executive Director Commonwealth Ports Authority requesting to provide update on the status of Worldwide Salvage Saipan, LLC business proposal to the Committee on Natural Resources. *[For info]*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: On House Communications.

There were no discussions made under this item of the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUD. BR. COMM. 17-4: (2/17/10) From the CNMI Courts, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja requesting for consideration on proposed legislation about recognizing and empowering the Marshall Service Division of the judiciary as a law enforcement agency. (Proposed legislation attached with communication)

JUD. BR. COMM. 17-5: (2/18/10) From Presiding Judge Robert Naraja certifying that the position of Records Assistant is vacant and must be filled in the Superior Court.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: On Item IX, Communications from the Judicial Branch, Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, if there are no objections I would like to go back to House Communications.

There were no objections raised on the floor.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Sablan: And before I proceed, I would like the Chair to recognize the presence in the gallery of some of the former Immigration employees and if there are no objections, I would like to take the opportunity to address an issue.

There were no objections raised on the floor.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Please proceed.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, I have filed House Bill 17-20 endorsing the lateral transfer of the remaining Immigration employees – former Immigration employees thinking that we had the time to address the plight of the employment of the remaining employees. As an update to the members – some employees have been, for the meantime, absorb or transferred to the Division of Customs, some to the Department of Corrections, I think one to the US Passport Office, some to the Attorney General’s Investigative Unit, but I would like to just clarify that the so called transfers are temporary as no official lateral transfers have been executed through NOPA’s. And the reason I ask for the members attention is that on February 12 the Attorney General (AG) had a meeting with the remaining ten or twelve employees that have not been assigned to any agency. My understanding is that they were given twelve or fourteen days to go out and look for perspective employment within the agencies of the government through Office of Personnel Management (OPM) – the feedback from OPM is that the only thing that they can do is to look and see what vacancy announcements have been certified and are currently under announcement. Most of the available vacancies are listed under the Governor’s Communications which are for Doctors and all that. These people have until the end of the week before they start facing possible – I do not know how to address it, I hate to say rift papers or notices, but they were told that they had up until the end of the week. Some of the employees that are current here have been serving the CNMI Government and its people – some have served for twenty years, some are within a year of being eligible for retirement. Unfortunately, they have got until the end of the week and as the former Director of the Division, I took it upon myself and my colleague, Mr. Demapan here and some of the members to try to resolve the plight of their employment. I do not know where else to go except maybe requesting that we try to get House Bill 17-20 out of the Committee – I think by the time we do that maybe these folks back here would already be without jobs. And I would like to ask the Chair if there is any way that he can communicate with the Administration in regards to the Friday deadline that these folks were given. I know some of them your former Secretary of Labor and Immigration, Mr. Sablan – I had seen him in here earlier – he is I think scheduled to take his retirement in three months. So that is how close some of these people are or how long that they have served the government. And you know the House Bill that I have prefiled to bring the issue to the attention of the members, unfortunately, like I had said, I did not think that February 12 was going to result in a notice of two weeks for these remaining individuals. These are highly skilled well trained individuals that have served our

government for so long and I think we owe these folks a little bit extra in trying to address their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: May I ask the Chairman of Ways and Means, under the continuing resolution the Full Time Employees (FTE's) are still there, right, for these employees – what is happened to the FTE's?

Representative Basa: Frankly speaking, I need to look at the budget with respect to their employment with the Department of Immigration. I sympathize their plight as colleague Sablan, but at the same time too, we have to be cognizant that we have this bill before us soon to be introduced about cutting government spending, but I will be more than happy, Mr. Speaker, to look into this matter and I will extend every help as possible and that is all, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Basa, again, my understanding is that we are operating under the continuing resolution, but we are entertaining a budget similar to the one that was approved last year, which I assume, had the FTE's for all the employees of Immigration at that time – so if we are entertaining the same similar budget what happens to the FTE's that were with Immigration before?

Representative Basa: You are correct, if we were to follow 2009 budget appropriation then the FTE's should be maintained.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Yes, so can we transfer those FTE's to like, Revenue and Taxation, Representative Sablan?

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, like I said some of the remaining folks that have not been assigned have accumulated through the years vast law enforcement positions. Like one of the ladies back here have been with our LIIDS section since eighteen years ago. So these are employees that the government has invested a lot in – we do not need to retrain these individuals. I guess what I am asking is if someone can take the time to look at our budget worksheets for the various agencies where we can because these people do not just want to be placed in where they cannot do the job. They want to be gainfully employed where they can continue to contribute to the government and our people. They just want to be given the opportunity to continue their careers until they become eligible to finally retire from government service. We have to understand that one of the things about Federalization is that it does not take into account the human factor when people thought about taking over Immigration. The human factor is these people back here and I think we owe them something. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: A moment Mr. Demapan, actually I want to address what I have to say to you. One of the employees affected by this problem of the Immigration has been working for the government for twenty six years and then I found out that until now the Retirement Fund is denying government employees to retire – Representative Demapan, I would like you very much to conduct a Public Hearing and will you please bring in the Retirement Fund so that we can know exactly why they are denying employees from retiring because frankly I do not think the Board has the authority to do that. So I would like to find out and I would appreciate if you would look into that. You are now recognize, Representative Demapan.

Representative Demapan: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am communicating directly with the Attorney General's Office regarding the former Immigration employees and I share with my

colleague and the Chairman. I am writing a letter tomorrow to the Attorney General requesting to hold the notice to these employees so that we can try to do something. I am communicating with the Chairman as to how we can address their problem immediately. We have also identified some positions at the Department of Commerce so that we can try to help these people get their lateral transfers. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Cabrera, recognized.

Representative Cabrera: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Gi presenti nai pago, i enforcement side gi Revenue and Taxation ma sangani yo gi Business License side na they are short-handed, ti nahong enforcement. Yan guahu nai from the beginning malago yu na para ta place esti siha – kumentos ham yan si Chairman Basa para bai en place esti siha na individuals nu ti man taya iyoña permanent assignment para ta place halom gi enforcement which is basically kulan parehu-ha buente enforcement side on a different concept nai between immigration lao the enforcement side they can go out and enforce at the same time i bandan i collection side gi Revenue and Taxation – sa kada man matachong hit ta sangan na ti maolek i collection - tai manu maolek i collection yangin taya lokkue man hu’huyong para u fan man infotma nai ya i dipattemento yan i business. Debi ha nu fan huyong esti siha ya ma tagu ya ma check i establishment ya ma enforce i hafa ti ma enforce sa ilek-niha na ti nahong siha ta taotao – guaha fa’na’an tresi na ta taotao pago gi komprende-ko or siña ha bent dies man malago ma man-huyong ya para u ma chogue i para i minaolek tanota para manu siha i taotao – taotaota para manu siha guatto i tano tano’ ta – i business puru ha taotao san hiyong. Ti ilelekta mungha hit man business – esti business nai nu prubele’hu esti i business tresi siña ha man huyong yan man ma ayuda ti u fan hanao esti siha para u ma dingo Saipan ya para u fañaga amerika sa ti man amerikanu para u fañaga para u pakiti siha yan para u fan hanao – bulaña para u machogue guini gi tano’ ta man malago man mañaga para u fan machocho para u fan ma ayuda i tanota nai. Taya salapeta pago gi presenti esta i kaha kume’ke apan – u fan man sota huyong yan fan man ayuda sa man malagu para u fan man ma ayuda. Yangin guaha esta listu ni litirao ta sota lokkue ya ma litirao sa buente i tiempo ni man ma assetbi gi minamento nahong. Lao maila ya ta chagi ha talo ta kuentosi ma seha i Lt. Governor gi badan enforcement side gi Revenue and Taxation sa iyo gui hit ni man – taya ti nahong ta taotao gi luchan – bula gi kanat ni man popodong i salape yan ti ta li’li’e – bula loophole gi fino English ti man enforce i lai. Ta na’i yan ta na fan ma’chocho sa i taotao taotao’ta para manu siha guatto – yangin matto lagu ti ma fire uno na Immigration officer gi lagu sa matto ginen i Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas uno na Secretary para u fan machocho – ti u ma fire san lagu sa yangin matto i taotaota ta asisti taotaota debidi ha ta fan ayuda yan polu ya para bin fan hami yan si Chairman Basa para bai en chagi para bai en kuentosi maseha yan bai hu faisen ya ma agan i Administration yan si Representative Demapan yan Representative Sablan yan bin fan hami sa siha mas tumongo i bandan i Immigration nai sa guaha experiencia-niha – lao gi badan iyo siha i tataotao sina hit ta ayuda sa hutungu ha na bula bakanti gi presenti – bula bakanti gi FTE – lao hutungu ha manu man gaigi i FTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Raymond Palacios, recognized.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Since the continuing resolution is still in place and since you have instructed the Ways and Means Chairman to look into it to be properly placed to ensure that they utilize and apply their skills – my recommendation is that the names of these individuals and the job description that they have held in Immigration should be provided to us because we cannot just place them anywhere they want – Representative Sablan mentioned that they want to utilize their skills and apply it. What we need and because I, myself do not know who are these

individuals, I do not know what are their positions at the Immigration were, so I recommend that they provide the names of those that have yet to be laterally transferred so that the Chairman of Ways and Means can properly assign them to the positions where they can apply their skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, in response to Representative Raymond Palacios I am more than willing to work with the Committee or the members in providing whatever information we need to help resolve the issue and have these employees properly transferred. They are faced with losing their jobs and they are just like anybody else – they have put in the time and I know they are probably as stressed as the next person in regards to next week because at the end of the week they are going to be expecting notices and if there is anything that the Committee or the members needs in regards to the situation and the background of these employees, I will be more than happy to provide them just let me know in terms of what you need to help you make your decision. Like I had said I will make these folks find the time. Thank you. I had mentioned earlier that when I filed H.B 17-22 I had thought we had more time – if there is no objections from the members because of the time-frame issue that we are looking at I would like move to withdraw H.B. 17-22 from the Committee and place it on today’s Bill Calendar for action.

There were no objections on the floor. The motion to withdraw HB 17-22 from the Committee and it was seconded and carried by voice vote. The motion to place HB 17-22 on the day’s Bill Calendar was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Let us now move on to Item X, Communications from Departments and Agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 17-2: (2/5/10) From Ms. Lillian S. Ada, Council on Developmental Disabilities Planner, regarding sponsored forums in the CNMI to educate legislators on current disability related issues affecting the CNMI residents. *[For info]*

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 17-3: (2/4/10) From Chairperson Janet Han King, NMC Board of Regents, to the Speaker requesting for a meeting with interested members of the legislature regarding NMC.

There were no discussions made under this item of the agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

MISC. COMM. 17-4: (1/19/10) From Chairman Diego M. Songao, Rota CGC, requesting for a meeting with the leadership of the House and MPLT in regards to funding the Commission.

MISC. COMM. 17-5: (2/11/10) From Chairman Jude U. Hofschneider, 17th Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation informing the 17th Legislature that the 17th Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation is duly organized and ready to conduct official business.

MISC. COMM. 17-6: (2/12/10) From Congressman Gregorio “Kilili” C. Sablan, NMI Delegate to Governor Benigno R. Fitial with regards to Public Law 16-48, Grants Management Act.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: On Miscellaneous Communications.

There were no discussions made under this item of the agenda

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: On Reports of Standing Committees.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative McGinnis-Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, I think my fellow colleague Representative Tebuteb had his right hand up for a while and when he is finished I am next.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I am sorry I did not hear you, Representative McGinnis-Torres.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: Mr. Speaker, are you referring to me?

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Yes.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: I yield to Representative Tebuteb.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Tebuteb: Under Miscellaneous, Mr. Speaker, it is very short. This is on Misc. Comm. 17-4. I am not sure what the intent of your office whether you already have a scheduled meeting set for the Rota Gaming Commission and if there is, maybe before that, I would like to request either through your office or maybe through the Ways and Means Committee to have the Commission to provide us some sort of an outlay. According to the letter, \$330,000.00 that they have so far reserved, maybe we could take it from there. So hopefully we can assist the Gaming Commission. Thank you.

MISC. COMM. 17-4: (1/19/10) From Chairman Diego M. Songao, Rota CGC, requesting for a meeting with the leadership of the House and MPLT in regards to funding the Commission.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I am sorry, you are referring to Misc. Comm. 17-4?

Representative Tebuteb: Yes, Mr. Speaker. According to the letter they are requesting a meeting with your office at your convenient time and place to meet. So I am just wondering whether there is any meeting that would transpire and I am asking your office or maybe to the Ways and Means Committee to request the Commission to provide us the outlays of what have transpired with respect to those funding that they have so far received, according to the letter.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb, I have not responded or I have not decided yet about what to do about their request. Representative McGinnis-Torres, recognized.

Representative McGinnis-Torres: *Dispensa yo lao hu gagagao kunsentamenton i majority – this is not on the Agenda today but I would like to bring it up as a Miscellaneous Communication. On*

today's *Saipan Tribune* they suspended President Carmen Fernandez of the College and is still receiving her salary and the \$800.00 of housing allowance – I do not know what the Board of Regents are trying to do. I wanted to say that the Board should get together and terminate her because she has a cause for termination. On today's *Saipan Tribune* she is alleged to tamper a student's grade – that is not an allegation it is a true story that she asked the former Professor of the College by the name of Dr. Kim, he is no longer working for the College because she paid him off to keep his mouth shut of like \$15,000.00. But Dr. Kim came out on the paper on the *Dear Editor column* saying that President Fernandez asked him to change a student's grade so that the student can continue receiving scholarship – I say, that is tampering and that is the cause of the investigation too at the moment – nobody told me yet, but that is my gut feeling that because of that issue. I think that the Board of Regents should be reminded to terminate her and stop paying her the salary that she did not receive and the housing allowance of \$800.00 a month. You know – that is a crime too against the people when she has a cause to be terminated. I would like to have my statement be inserted in today's session on the journal. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you, Representative McGinnis-Torres. Is there anybody else who would like to say something? Ready. On Item XII, Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

NONE

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, before we can adopt this Resolution I would like to motion that we suspend Rule IX and other pertinent Rules so that we may place Resolutions on the Calendar for action today.

There were no objections and the motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Are there any discussion on the motion? Ready.

There being no discussions the motion for placement was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. If there are no objections I would like to go ahead and grand slam this motion so that we can place all resolutions on the Resolution Calendar in one motion. Mr. Speaker, I move to place H. R. 17-4, H. R. 17-5, H. C. Res. 17-2 and H. C. Res. 17-3 on the Resolution Calendar for action today.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

There being no discussions on the motion to place H. R. 17-4, H R 17-5, H. Comm. Res. 17-2 and H. Comm. Res. 17-3 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move for the adoption of H. R. 17-4.

The motion was seconded.

[House Resolution 17-4](#)

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT THE CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE (CAO) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CAROLINIAN AND RELATED LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE (CARLA) PROJECT AND THE FIRST CAROLINIAN LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM ON MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE.

Introduced by REP. Felicidad T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

There being no discussions on the motion for adoption H. RES. 17-4 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, now I would like to move for the adoption of H. Res. 17-5.

The motion was seconded.

[House Resolution 17-5](#)

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO OFFICIALLY INVITE THE HONORABLE BARACK H. OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO VISIT THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Introduced by REP. Diego T. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1(*for himself, Representatives Tebuteb, Cabrera, Yumul, Sablan, Conner, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Dela Cruz, Joseph Palacios, and McGinnis Torres*)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion, ready.

There being no discussions on the motion for adoption of H. RES. 17-5 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I now would like to move for the adoption of H. Res. 17-6.

The motion was seconded.

[House Resolution 17-6](#)

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO “KILILI” CAMACHO SABLAN’S HR 3511, TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE THE MARIANAS TRENCH MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT VISITOR FACILITY IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS.

Introduced by REP. Teresita A. SANTOS, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself* and Representatives Camacho, Iguel, and Ogumoro)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion. Ready. Representative Benavente, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, first I would like to commend Representative Santos for introducing this legislation and also I would like to first say I was one of the very vocal opposition of the proposed monument to be established especially in the three northern most islands during those months when it was being discussed. But I feel now that I must say something in support of this legislation and more importantly in opposition of what a good friend, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo, Guam Delegate because throughout the negotiations and meetings that the proponents of the monument – one of their foremost proposals as far as the benefits that it would have in the community or for the commonwealth and the people is that there will be this monument built that would have the benefits and as far as the tourism and the employments of people from the CNMI that would be hired at this monument was one of their most important benefit that they pushed in support of establishing this monument in the Northern Islands and I think that Congresswoman Bordallo is really out of line to suggest now, that this visitor’s center will it be established in Guam – I mean again, even as one who was very opposed to the idea now that this is going to be built it should be as proposed from the very beginning by the proponents of the monument it should be established here in the CNMI and not in Guam. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the resolution is necessary to allay the concerns of the Commonwealth and the people, although, I am in favor of the center to be here in the CNMI, I also favor in part Congresswoman Bordallo’s request to her legislation to have a similar visitor’s center on Guam. As we know part of the monument the Marianas Trench also extends to the area that is under the jurisdiction of Guam. So I do not have any opposition as to Guam’s request to have a Visitor’s Center for themselves, but I do believe that we need to have one for the Commonwealth

namely again because of the three northern islands that are unique where the waters are immediately adjacent there too is part of the monument some of the underwater structures around the islands that are in CNMI waters. So it will be very interesting to see how if Guam has a monument visitor center and we do not, how they intend to promote or teach this area, this body of water and land mass that actually is under the jurisdiction of the CNMI - it would mean something like the State of California having a visitor center for the Grand Canyon which is clearly in another State and I think that it is a little bit awkward and odd. So I do believe that this resolution needs to pass and be sent up immediately to the US Congress so that they understand that this is important to the people of the Commonwealth. Although, I do not want to sound in opposition and at the same time to poke at Guam with my comments, but I just want to state for the record that I would find it very peculiar if Guam is to have a visitor's center and we are not and again the Guam visitor center will be explaining attributes and features that are not territorially theirs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Tebuteb: My colleague here at my left does not want to poke at Guam – let me try to poke at Guam. (laughter) As we all know most of us I am sure, are very aware that this issue was very monumental – it divided the whole community because of the pro and the con, but the other monumental factor associated was that all the elected leadership in the Commonwealth were unified. We all know that the proclamation was used through the Antiquities Act and all that was dictated in that proclamation is that there was only one mention of Guam and that was because of the boundary south of Guam the rest were all Commonwealth. So I commend my Chairwoman for the Natural Resources Committee and I ask that each one of you to support this very important and monumental issue and hopefully it will be realized at the US Congress level. I was going to provide an amendment – if I may, Mr. Speaker, I would probably like to offer it as a technical more so then offer it orally I will wait after the discussions. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I just have one question – does anybody have any idea what this visitor's facility is like – is this on land or the water? Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I guess a good analogy would be the American Memorial Park there is a visitor's center there that is a thematic park that pictures display's about World War II (WWII). So it would be a similar facility on land showcasing the submerge resources of the Marianas – primarily not only the Marianas Trench which both Guam and the CNMI share but equally important there are those unique underwater resources that have been identified in the three northern most islands. So it would be a land facility, it is intended to draw tourists and to educate. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Raymond Palacios, recognized.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Mr. Speaker, I also tend to disagree with my colleagues Representatives Ray Tebuteb and Ray Yumul. My objections to a visitor's center in Guam because once a visitor wants to find out about the northern most islands conversation center is that once they visit one center there is no need for them to go to another center. How do we assure that Guam will not provide those visitors visiting their Center information regarding the monument? My concern here is that if we do build the center in Guam and considering that Guam is the main arrival and departure gate there is no need like I said in the first place for these visitors to come here to Saipan and check out our visitor's center – they should have already gotten their information they need. So

that is my worry. And the urgency of this is that if those Senators from Guam do write a resolution and beat us to it you know I am worried that the Congress will support their Delegate's resolution – that is why it is very urgent that we act this now so that we will show the US Congress that we support the monument being built here in the CNMI because they would have a choice whether in Guam or in the CNMI because there are two resolutions that they will have to act on and hopefully they will act on our Delegate's resolution first and then that would be the end of it, hopefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Thank you. Another question – did the people of Guam support this monument when it was first suggested? Representative Santos, recognized.

Representative Santos: Mr. Speaker, we had a brief meeting with one of the “*Friends of the Monument*” and that was Mrs. McPheters and there were other members of the Natural Resources who were there who indicated that when they proposed to established this Marianas Trench National Marine Monument Congresswoman Bordallo was up against it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Raymond Palacios: And to add on to that both the elected officials on Guam and the CNMI objected to this monument in the first place and since Congresswoman Bordallo objected to it, why is she really in a hurry to establish a visitor's center in Guam – I do not understand.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Tebuteb: I had mentioned that the elected leadership in the CNMI were unified – this is to Representative Raymond Palacios's comment it is not objecting or supporting it. Is educating our community, that was the main concern that the leadership that were concerned about. It is not whether to support it or not support it because of the - I would say negative to some extent that the PEW organization along with the Friends of the Monument who were very supportive. We wanted to make sure that the community understands the pro side and the con side of the monument so it was not necessarily objecting to the creation of the monument.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know I keep on going back to this interference in our Commonwealth and this is just another one of those things where I feel we are getting the shaft so to speak. The community was promised all the good things that was going to come with the monument and I have to commend Representative Stanley Torres for picking this up immediately the very first time that it hit the news. Sure enough here we are a few weeks later endorsing a resolution trying to block a legislative attempt by Delegate Bordallo from Guam whom and I hope I am wrong on this but with all due respect to our Delegate of the CNMI I am just worried about the amount of cloud the Delegate from Guam has versus our Delegate – I hate to be wrong on this and I hope that somebody comes back in the near future and tell me that I was wrong. And when that happens I will be one proud person to say that I am wrong on this one but I see people from the outside with more cloud getting the better end of the deal once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Conner, recognized.

Representative Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, just a point of information on the brief meeting that we had with our Delegate from the CNMI the reasons why we also need to push this resolution

is that the Delegate from Guam also the Chairs the Committee pertaining to this issue and she will be making the recommendations to Congress, therefore we need to give as much support as possible because she is the one chairing the committee that is pertaining to this issue. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Representative Tebuteb, were you thinking about an amendment?

Representative Tebuteb: It is a technical amendment, Mr. Speaker, if there is no objections so that we do not have to go through the motion, can I just add, maybe before it is engrossed, that on page 1, line 12 one of the Whereas clause after the word “Presidential Proclamation” add “Antiquities Act”. The technical is just to show that after the proclamation use the “Antiquity Act”. Thank you.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Okay, so we are voting on H.R. 17-6 ready.

There being no further discussion the motion to adopt H.R. 17-6 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of H. Comm. Res. 17-2.

The motion was seconded.

[H. Comm. Res. 17-2:](#)

A House Commemorative Resolution

A HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION CONVEYING THE SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF THE LATE ALBERT SONGAO TOVES, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UNTIMELY PASSING AND TO PAY FOND TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY.

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE Teresita A. SANTOS, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself, Representatives Ramon S. Basa, Diego T. Benavente, Eliceo D. Cabrera, George N. Camacho, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph M. Palacios, Antonio P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Felicidad T. Ogumoro and Trenton B. Conner*)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

There being no discussions the motion to adopt H. Comm. Res. 17-2 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: I now move for the adoption of H. Comm. Res. 17-3.

The motion was seconded.

[H. Comm. Res. 17-3](#)

A House Commemorative Resolution

A HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION CONVEYING THE SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF THE LATE FIDEL ATALIG MENDIOLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UNTIMELY PASSING AND TO PAY FOND TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY.

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE TERESITA A. SANTOS, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*, Representatives Basa, Benavente, Cabrera, Camacho, Conner, Ogumoro, Joseph M. Palacios, Sablan, McGinnis-Torres, Villagomez, and Yumul)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion, ready.

There being no discussions the motion to adopt H. Comm. Res. 17-3 was carried by voice vote.

BILL CALENDAR

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move that we place H.B 17-20 on the Bill Calendar for action.

The motion was seconded and being no discussions on the motion for placement was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage of H.B. 17-20 on Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

[H. B. 17-20](#)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LATERAL TRANSFER OF DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL TO OTHER AGENCIES OR DEPARTMENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by REP. Antonio P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Joseph Palacios, Cabrera and Joseph Deleon Guerrero) on February 5, 2010, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Discussion on the motion. Ready. Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the Roll for the passage of H.B. 17-20 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (excused)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio	yes
Representative Stanley McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	absent (During Voting)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Therefore H.B. 17-20 is hereby approved. Item XVII.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

No Miscellaneous Business.

ANNOUNCEMENT

No announcements were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho moved to adjourn subject to the call of the chair; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 4:24 p.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:

H. L. B. 17-6

To amend 10 CMC § 3901; and for other purposes.

Introduced by REP. Felicidad T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 on February 5, 2010

THIRD APPEARANCE:

H. L. B. 17-4

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

Introduced by REP. Raymond D. PALACIOS of Saipan, Precinct 2 on February 1, 2010.

H. L. B. 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.

Introduced by REP. Trenton B. CONNER of Tinian and Aguiguan, Precinct 6 on February 1, 2010