



SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2010

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1st Day

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

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The House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Third Special Session on Tuesday, 25th of May 2010, at 2:08 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Acting Speaker of the House, presided.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The First Day, Third Special Session of the House of Representatives now comes to order. Please rise for a moment of silence.

*A moment of silence was observed.*

**ROLL CALL**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk, Roll Call.

*The Clerk called the roll. Sixteen members were present; Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, and Froilan C. Tenorio were absent and excused.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Clerk. Excused from our session today are: Speaker Tenorio, Minority Leader Benavente and Mr. Fred Deleon Guerrero.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any public comment at this time? (Pause) If none, we move to Adoption of Journals.

**ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Mr. Torres?

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: I may be out of order, but I would like to know the reason why we are having these afternoon sessions. Is this the regular schedule for the House already – to be having afternoon sessions? So, I would like to ask why we are having these afternoon sessions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: We can always change it, but at this time, there are conflicting schedules, so that is why we have a meeting at 2:00 p.m. instead.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: I asked because we have been having morning sessions and that is probably the best to have it in the mornings because the minds are fresh and heavy caffeine wakes you. But in two hours after lunch I think most of us are full and may fall asleep.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you for your inquisition. We move to on to Adoption of Journals. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you can see we have three journals ready for adoption. I would now go ahead and move that we adopt our 5th Day, First Regular Session Journal.

The motion was seconded.

#### **5th Day, First Regular Session Journal, February 23, 2010**

*There was no discussion; the motion to adopt the 5th Day, First Regular Session Journal was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: The motion is carried. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for the adoption of the 6th Day, First Regular Session Journal.

*The motion was seconded by several others.*

#### **6th Day, First Regular Session Journal, March 11, 2010**

*There was no discussion; the motion to adopt the 6th Day, First Regular Session Journal was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: The motion is carried. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last under the Adoption of Journals, I move for the adoption of the 7th Day, First Regular Session Journal.

*The motion was seconded.*

**7th Day, First Regular Session Journal, March 19, 2010**

*There was no discussion; the motion to adopt the 7th Day, First Regular Session Journal was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion carries. We move on to Introduction of Bills.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS*****House Bills:***

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to formally introduce prefiled H. B. 17-75, to require all scuba dive shop operators and marine sport concessionaires to impose a \$1.00 surcharge per customer who avails of the services provided by the operators and concessionaires; and for other purposes.

**H. B. 17-75**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL SCUBA DIVE SHOP OPERATORS AND MARINE SPORT CONCESSIONAIRES TO IMPOSE A \$1.00 SURCHARGE PER CUSTOMER WHO AVAILS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OPERATORS AND CONCESSIONAIRES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**INTRODUCED BY REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)  
**Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: H. B. 17-76, Ms. Santos

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce H. B. 17-76, to amend 145 NMIAC § 145-20.4-115 regarding the Homestead Permit Process; and for other purposes. Madam Speaker, this bill seeks to require the Department of Public Lands to conduct and complete an environmental assessment prior to having qualified homesteaders to participate in a lottery of available homestead lots. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**H. B. 17-76**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 145 NMIAC § 145-20.4-115 REGARDING THE HOMESTEAD PERMIT PROCESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE TERESITA A. SANTOS** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*).  
**Referred to Committee on Natural Resources**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I am referring that Bill to the Committee on Natural Resources. For H. B. 17-75, that Bill is referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Now, for H. B. 17-77, I recognize Representative Cabrera.

Mr. Eliceo Cabrera: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is allowing the Retirement Fund contributions to life insurance, in dire need to provide additional reform in order to set the life insurance program from an impending diminish. Thank you.

**H. B. 17-77**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 1 CMC § 8363; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. (PROVIDE LIFE INSURANCE FOR RETIREES)**

**Introduced by REP. ELICEO D. CABRERA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)  
Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you; I am referring that to the Committee on Ways and Means. I recognize Representative Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the members for a motion to be able to introduce H. B. 17-78, for introduction purposes only. As you know it is not on today's Agenda. I yield to the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: With that, I would move to amend the Agenda so that we may accept Bills that are going to be introduced in today's session.

*The motion was seconded by several others.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any discussion?

*Several members voiced "ready"; and the motion to amend the Agenda to allow members to introduce bills was carried by voice vote. There was no negative vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion carries. You may continue, Representative Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am introducing H. B. 17-78. This legislation is to amend Public Law 16-7. As you know, the Governor has communicated over to us that MPLT's Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 interest will not cover the \$3.4 Million that was authorized under Public Law 16-7 to CUC. This legislation aims to just amend it its simplicity Public Law 16-7 to allow Fiscal Year 2011 to be drawn upon to make that final payment to a rough sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000).

**H. B. 17-78**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 17-6; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**Introduced by REP. RAY N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)**

### Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. This Bill will go to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### *House Local Bills:*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Representative Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: The motion that was adopted earlier about amending the Order of Business. I have a House Local Bill, this is not an appropriation bill so this would require three legislative sessions for it to lay on the Order of Business before it moves to the proper delegation. It is an amendment to the Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 to change the one year licensing to a five-year licensing period. Any past licensees have raised concerns that it is very difficult for them to build permanent structures for fear bringing up when the license for the next following year. So it has caused the cockfighting activities and just happen to be housed in buildings that are not being for less than.

#### H. L. B. 17-21

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT TO MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE SAIPAN COCKFIGHTING ACT OF 1994.**

Introduced by **REP. RAY N. YUMUL** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Yumul.

#### *House Legislative Initiatives: None*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We now move on to Introduction of Resolutions.

### INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

*House Resolutions: None*

*House Joint Resolutions: None*

*House Commemorative Resolutions: None*

*House Concurrent Resolutions: None*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Messages from the Governor.

### MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 17-84: (5/6/10) Certification for an annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Mr. Michael L. Earnest, Assistant Attorney General.

GOV. COMM. 17-85: (5/6/10) Certifying that the position for Director of Public Lands-Rota, is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-86: (5/6/10) Certifying that the position for Special Assistant of Public Liaison, Office of the Governor is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-87: (5/6/10) Certifying that the position for Soil and Water Conservation Coordinator is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-88: (5/6/10) Certification for an annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Mr. Brian D. Gallagher, Assistant Attorney General.

GOV. COMM. 17-89: (5/6/10) Certifying that the position for (1) Plans Examiner, DPW-TSD, is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-90: (5/12/10) Informing the House that he signed into law S. B. NO. 17-18, (To amend subsection (d) of section 8122 of Title Four of the Commonwealth Code to merely clarify an ambiguity regarding the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's authority to set rates until such time as the Public Utilities Commission shall issue an order setting rates, fees, charges or rents for a utility service; and for other purposes.) [Became **Public Law 17-3**]

GOV. COMM. 17-91: (5/11/10) Certifying that the positions for (1) Records Assistant and (2) Dispatcher I at the Department of Public Safety is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-92: (5/12/10) Certifying that the position for (1) Special Project Officer, Office of the Lt. Governor is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-93: (5/7/10) Certifying that the position for (1) Liaison Officer for the Northern Islands is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-94: (5/14/10) Informing the House that he signed H. L. B. 17-8 (To increase the poker and pachinko slot machine annual license fees in the First Senatorial District). [Became *Rota Local Law 17-2.*]

GOV. COMM. 17-95: (5/14/10) Informing the House that he signed H. L. B. 17-9, D1 (To appropriate \$68,000 from the local license fees collected for poker and pachinko machines in the First Senatorial District). [Became *Rota Local Law 17-3.*]

GOV. COMM. 17-96: (5/11/10) Certification for an annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Mr. Tony Raho (In-patient Pharmacy Manager).

GOV. COMM. 17-97: (5/11/10) Certifying that the position for (1) one Physician (Family Medicine) at CHC is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-98: (5/11/10) Certification for an annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Dr. Brian Sullivan (Physician).

GOV. COMM. 17-99: (5/17/10) Certifying that the positions for (1) Plans Examiner (Mechanical), (1) Highway Program Coordinator, and (1) Highway Engineer II at the TSD, Department of Public Works.

GOV. COMM. 17-100: (5/17/10) Certifying that the position for (1) Law Clerk at the CNMI Superior Court is vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-101: (5/17/10) Certifying that the positions for three Assistant Attorneys General at the Office of the Attorney General are vacant and must be filled.

GOV. COMM. 17-102: (5/20/10) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. 17-20, D1 (To appropriate \$402,000 for the Rota Gaming Commission's FY 2010 Operations and Activities). [Became *Rota Local Law 17-4*]

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to make a comment for the record, and you are probably going to hear this comment almost every session. But, I want the members to take note and as we deliberate on the budget or appropriation act that we are going to be streamlining, trying to cut cost in every possible manner and that members have heard me talk about the need to trim down the fat in this government so that people's salaries would not have to be cut in the future. I want to raise the members' attention to all these various certifications that were submitted by the Governor for critical services for us to provide essential public service. Granted there are quite a few of these positions that are critical, including attorneys general and people in the Department of Public Works. But, there are some also that we could consider maybe little luxury such as, GOV. COMM. 17-86. At this point of time, I do not know if a Special Assistant for Public Liaison at the Governor's Office is needed, or a Special Project Officer at the Lieutenant Governor's Office is needed. I just want to mention that for the record, because it is going to be a relevant issue when the budget is discussed. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. We move down the Senate Communications.

### SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 17-35: (5/6/10) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 17-10, SS1, entitled, "To establish a population-based Cancer Registry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate on May 5, 2010. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 17-36: (5/6/10) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 17-11, SD1, entitled, "To enact a new Chapter 8 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Commonwealth Code (The Medical Consent Act of 2010); and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate on May 5, 2010. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 17-37: (5/6/10) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 17-24, entitled, "To include the CNMI Scholarship Office and municipal scholarships as qualified educational institutions under the Educational Tax Credit; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate on May 5, 2010. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 17-38: (5/6/10) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 17-25, entitled, "To establish the Tatchog Beach Park Pavilion on Rota as the cultural/arts center; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate on May 5, 2010. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 17-39: (5/6/10) Transmitting a certified copy of S. Comm. Res. No. 17-2, entitled, "To commend and welcome Mr. Daniel Tompkins, Senior Vice President of the Army and Air Force Exchange Services of the Pacific Region." [For info]

SEN. COMM. 17-40: (5/10/10) Transmitting a certified copy of S. Res. No. 17-18, SD1, entitled, "Respectfully requesting the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to not authorize the

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to raise water and waste water rates in the Commonwealth.”  
[For info]

SEN. COMM. 17-41: (5/12/10) Returning H. J. R. 17-4, HS1 (To oppose the Secretary of Interior’s Report as prepared pursuant to the U.S. Public Law 110-229 regarding the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) which was submitted to the U.S. Congress in April 2010.), which was adopted by the Senate, *without amendment*, on May 12, 2010. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 17-42: (5/13/10) Returning H. B. 17-19, HD1 (Natural Disaster Homestead Waiver Act), which was passed by the Senate, *without amendment*, on May 12, 2010. [For info – Before the Governor]

SEN. COMM. 17-43: (5/13/10) Returning H. B. 17-29 (re DPL to conduct environmental sampling and consultation of contaminated areas), which was passed by the Senate, *without amendment*, on May 12, 2010. [For info – Before the Governor]

SEN. COMM. 17-44: (5/13/10) Transmitting for House action S. L. I. No. 17-8, SD1, “To amend Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands as it relates to the Commonwealth budget process,” which was passed by the Senate on May 12, 2010. [For action]

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that we accept all the Senate Communications appearing on today’s Agenda and that those requiring action, you can refer them to a committee now or at a later date.

*The motion was seconded.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I will refer them at a later date. Discussion on the motion.

*There was no discussion, the motion to accept SEN. COMM. 17-35 to SEN. COMM. 17-44 was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is carried. We move on to House Communications.

## HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

*The Clerk announced that the House as two communications on the Agenda.*

HSE. COMM. 17-31: (5/7/10) From Minority Leader Benavente informing the Speaker that he will be off island from May 10-27, 2010, and requesting that he be excused from sessions and meetings during this period.

HSE. COMM. 17-32: (5/21/10) From Speaker Tenorio informing the members that he will be off-island from May 21-June 15, 2010.

*There was no discussion under Communications from the House.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Communications from the Judicial Branch.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

*The Clerk announced that there is one communication from the Judiciary.*

JUD. BR. COMM. 17-10: (4/30/10) From Chief Justice Demapan, Presiding Judge Naraja, and Associate Judge Wiseman commenting on SLI 17-7 (Justices and Judges constitutionally protected salaries).

*There was no discussion under Communications from the Judicial Branch.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Communications from the Departments and Agencies.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

*The Clerk announced there the House has one communication from a governmental department.*

DEPT. /AGCY. COMM. 17-14: From NAP Administrator Eleanor Cruz and DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao regarding the Nutrition Assistance Program.

*There was no discussion under Communications from Departments and Agencies.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Miscellaneous Communications.

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk

*The Clerk announced that the House does not have any.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Reports of Standing Committees.

### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. C. R. 17-11: Reporting on H. B. 17-28, entitled, "A Bill for an Act to empower and define the authority, duties, responsibilities, and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch; and for

other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-28 with amendments.*

S. C. R. 17-14: Reporting on H. B. 17-35, entitled, “To prohibit the cruel treatment of animals; to provide for penalties; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-35 in its current form.*

S. C. R. 17-15: Reporting on H. B. 17-33: entitled, “To amend Section 3 of Public Law 12-14, as it applies to the surrounding waters of the municipality of Rota, to ensure that such regulations do not restrict the rights of persons to engage in non-commercial net-fishing, provided that such right be restricted to non-commercial net-fishing for the purpose of obtaining fish for personal or immediate family consumption, to also ensure that the definition of “non-traditional fishing methods” is not misinterpreted to include non-commercial net-fishing; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-33 in its current form.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you can see we have three standing committee reports ready for action. However, with reference to S. C. R. 17-11, we have already acted on the Senate version of this Bill (S. B. No. 17-16, HD1) and I would like to ask that the Clerk remove this Report from further appearance on Agenda, send it back to the committee so that the committee can come out and file the Bill. On S. C. R. 17-14, the Chairperson is looking over this further, so we will put a hold on that. The only one left is S. C. R. 17-15. And with that, I move for the adoption of S. C. R. 17-15.

**S. C. R. 17-15:** Reporting on H. B. 17-33: entitled, “To amend Section 3 of Public Law 12-14, as it applies to the surrounding waters of the municipality of Rota, to ensure that such regulations do not restrict the rights of persons to engage in non-commercial net-fishing, provided that such right be restricted to non-commercial net-fishing for the purpose of obtaining fish for personal or immediate family consumption, to also ensure that the definition of “non-traditional fishing methods” is not misinterpreted to include non-commercial net-fishing; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-33 in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: There is a motion on the floor for the adoption of S. C. R. 17-15. Discussion on that motion. Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Madam Speaker, I am sorry. I will yield at this time until we get to the Bill Calendar.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Are you ready or the question.

*Several members voiced “ready”, and the motion to adopt S. C. R. 17-15 was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion passed. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess we can move on to Item 15, since there no items under Reports of Special and Conference Committee Reports or Unfinished Business.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: So ordered.

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under Resolution Calendar, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 17-2.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Point of Order.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Representative Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I want to ask the Floor Leader and members – under Standing Committee Reports, I know you mentioned that we should S. C. R. 17-11 back to the committee. Was there a motion, and did we adopt the motion? I believe we need to do that.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: If there is no objection we will move back to Reports of Standing Committees.

There was no objection from the Floor and the House went back to Reports of Standing Committees.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are now back to Reports of Standing Committees for the disposition of S. C. R. 17-11. I recognize the Floor Leader

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For the proper motion to move H. B. 17-28 reference S. C. R. 17-11 to the Committee on JGO, I move to refer the report and the Bill back to the Committee for further action.

*The motion was seconded by several others*

**S. C. R. 17-11:** Reporting on H. B. 17-28, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to empower and define the authority, duties, responsibilities, and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-28 with amendments.*

*There being no discussion, the motion to recommit H. B. 17-2, reference S. C. R. 17-11, to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion carries. We will now be moving down to the Resolution Calendar.

### RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under Resolution Calendar, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17-2, which is approving the revenues and resources for Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

*The motion was seconded.*

### H. Con. Res. 17-2

*Introduced by REP. RAMON S. BASA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself) on May 25, 2010 and place on the House Resolution Calendar. [The House did not receive any public comment on H. Con. Res. 17-2 during an open and public meeting on May 11, 2010 and May 25, 2010.]*

**A House Concurrent Resolution to approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2011, beginning October 1, 2010, and ending on September 30, 2011.**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize Representative Yumul under discussion.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First I would like to thank the author of the House Concurrent Resolution for allowing us additional time to look over H. Con. Res. 17-2. After further discussion and meetings after the last House session, I move to amend H. Con. Res. 17-2. The amendment has been submitted and passed out to the members. I so moved.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: What was the motion?

Mr. Ray Yumul: My motion is to amend H. Con. Res. 17-2, and I have a written floor amendment to that effect.

*Representative Yumul's reads:*

A HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2011, beginning October 1, 2010, and ending on September 30, 2011.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Commonwealth Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC §§ 7201, 7202 and 7203, the governor shall submit to the Legislature a proposed annual balanced budget for the following Fiscal Year and the proposed balanced budget shall describe anticipated revenues of the Commonwealth and recommend expenditures of Commonwealth funds; and

WHEREAS, Governor Fitial identified projected resources in the amount of \$149,371,000 \$149,171,000 for Fiscal Year 2011 in his FY 2011 Budget Transmittal letter dated April 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, due to the lowered interest earnings estimated by the Marianas Public Land Trust, \$200,000 has been estimated to be needed to compete repayment of P.L. 16-7; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to approve these resources which are available for appropriation in Fiscal Year 2011 less debt service previously appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature urges the Governor to submit a report as soon as possible setting forth any amendments or changes to the budget, including actual revenues and expenditures to date for Fiscal Year 2010, any policy changes proposed since the April 1 submittal of the budget proposal, and other significant factors affecting the budget for Fiscal Year 2011; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring, that revenues for Fiscal Year 2011, beginning October 1, 2010 and ending September 30, 2011, as submitted by the Governor and reviewed by the Legislature are hereby approved as follows:

I.	The total identified budgetary resources for FY 2011 is	\$149,371,000.
		<u>\$149,171,000</u>
II.	This amount is subject to the following adjustments:	
(a)	Less Revenue transfer to other funds;	
(1)	PL 13-38 Cigarette Excise Tax to Tobacco Control	< \$1,365,000.>
(2)	10% Excise Tax transfer to Solid Waste R/F (PL 13-42)	< \$1,585,000.>
(3)	CIQ reimbursement for airport overtime	<\$475,000>
(4)	4 CMC § 1803(b) NMIRF hotel/container tax per court order	<\$1,690,000>
(5)	4 CMC § 1803(b) MVA hotel/container tax earmarking	<\$3,835,000>
(6)	<del>MPLT interest for CUC under Public Law 16-7</del>	<del>&lt;\$200,000&gt;</del>
(b)	Less debt services previously appropriated:	
(1)	2003A \$40 Million Bond Payment	< \$369,000>
(2)	2007A Refunding Bond Payment	< \$5,152,500>
(3)	2007B Refunding Bond Payment	< \$2,134,500>
(c)	Deficit Reduction	\$ 0
	Subtotal	<u>\$132,565,000</u>
III.	Total local revenue and resources	
(a)	Total local revenue and resources available for appropriation for Commonwealth Government activities in Fiscal Year 2011	<u>\$132,565,000</u>
(b)	Department of Public Lands	\$2,820,866
	Grand Total	<u>\$ 135,385,866</u>

**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 concurrent resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

*The motion to amend H. Con. Res. 17-2 was seconded by two others.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The floor is open for discussion on the amendment. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I have a question for Representative Yumul. Point of information, Representative Yumul – are you including the Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), or taking it away?

Mr. Ray Yumul: Taking it away, because after discussing with Chairman Basa, I had concurred with Secretary of Finance Robert Schrack and Lieutenant Governor Inos that it would be more prudent to introduce a legislation to allow for an additional fiscal year that would automatically take care of the need to pay two hundred thousand (\$200,000) and that legislation was introduced by myself earlier in today’s session, that is H. B. 17-78.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Further discussion on the measure? I recognize Representative Basa.

Mr. Ramon Basa: I would be remiss if I do not convey my appreciation as Chairperson, and of course the members of the Committee on Ways and Means, to our colleague, Representative Yumul for his hard work and in coming up with this amendment. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

*Members voiced “ready”.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are now going to approve the amendment offered by Representative Yumul.

*The motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Yumul to H. Con. Res. 17-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote or abstention recorded.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is carried, and we are back to the main motion. Floor Leader.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for the adoption of H. Con. Res. 17-2, House Draft I (HD1)

*The motion to adopt H. Con. Res. 17-2, HD1 was seconded.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”, and the motion to adopt H. Con. Res. 17-2, HD1 was carried by voice vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: The motion is carried and H. Con. Res. 17-12 is hereby adopted by the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I now move for the adoption of H. Res. 17-8.

*The motion was seconded.*

*Introduced by REP. JOSEPH M. PALACIOS of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representative Cabrera) on April 27, 2010; was placed on the Resolution Calendar by the Speaker in accordance with House Rule IX, Section 8(b). [The House did not receive any public comment on the Resolution during an open and public meeting on April 27, 2010 and May 25, 2010]*

#### H. RES. 17-8

**A House Resolution respectfully urging the Governor to require all recipients of housing allowances to lease/rent apartments and/or houses that are financed through the Commonwealth Development Authority, Marianas Public Land Trust, or Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's loan programs.**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Discussion. Representative Conner.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to commend the author of this Resolution. However, I would like for us to keep in mind that we need to understand how many people are receiving housing allowances through the governmental housing benefits and whether it is an inconvenience for individuals we brought from abroad to be employed here in the CNMI, especially on the island of Tinian. The practicality of availing to such entities as the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) whether these buildings would be sufficient to accommodate the individuals that are relocated here to Saipan. If these pertinent information are available and we do not live up to the standards or the needs of these individuals and yet we have this Resolution to somewhat ask them to rent these spaces out. We need to look also at the practicality of it. So, I commend the author; but, at the same token, I would like to know if there was any research conducted to see the feasibility of this Resolution. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not going to answer that question Representative had asked, but actually, his statement made me more curious. And if there is specific information from the two authors before we adopt this Resolution, I am curious how many homes or apartments we are looking at that were established under the different agencies, CDA, MPLT, NMHC. How many are from Tinian, Rota, and Saipan?

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Does any of the authors wants to respond to the question. Representative Palacios.

Mr. Joseph Palacios: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The research I got since I actually visited CDA and they highly recommended that we adopt this Resolution. The reason behind it, is that there are

so many borrowers from both CDA and NMHC. According to Mr. Oscar Camacho from CDA, he has done research on it and spoke with the NMHC as well as MPLT. There are many loans that were made to build apartments or duplex houses that are currently vacant. The problems that these houses or apartments are there and I am sure that there were built with the proper standard to accommodate any person that is going to be looking for a house or a place to stay in. The reason introduced this Resolution, Madam Speaker, is that there are so many delinquent borrowers out there that went through these three agencies and are unable to back because the building or apartments are vacant; and the fact that they are vacant, the borrowers are not getting any income. The buildings or apartments are just laying there and not being used. If we were to urge the governor to ask through this Resolution these people who benefit from these housing allowances, it would tremendously help the borrowers from these three agencies, and in return the borrowers would be able to turn around and pay the CDA, NMHC, or MPLT. And yes, this is strongly recommended by the CDA Office. As to the question of Representative Tebuteb, I am sorry I do not have the answer in numbers, but based on the recommendation it is a huge list of buildings or apartments that are not currently being used.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Palacios. Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is more when you look at the programs by CDA, MPLT, or NMHC. I know in recent past that even MPLT Board opted to buy property. One recommendation that came from some of the members then to MPLT is that there are many buildings, so why opt to buy property and build an office when we have those. It seems ironic now because it is being support by – I would think that it is being supported by CDA, MPLT and NMHC. I do not know, to me a little bit cynical.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Tebuteb. I recognize Mr. Cabrera.

Mr. Eliceo Cabrera: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I spoke with the NMHC and they gave me a plus or minus of about three hundred and eighty (380) houses available. If I recall correctly – and I think some of us were here when they came and made a presentation – their immediate need was \$5.7 Million. (\$5,700,000). We are not trying to bail them out, but what this Resolution is doing is just urging the governor to at least look into these housings, not demanding the Administration, but at least to looking into it and if they are available and affordable to the recipient or employee based on the budgeted housing allowance. That is the reason our colleague Representative Joe Palacios did this Resolution. We spoke to CDA and I also spoke to Josh Sasamoto from the housing corporation. We are urging the governor that maybe he can encourage the Office of Personnel Management to ask employees that are award to look into these houses.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Cabrera. Let me recognize Representative Sablan.

Mr. Antonio Sablan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the intent of the Resolution is noble; however, here we are trying to stick our hands and try to control the free market. I do not see the necessity of requiring everybody to go through this. This Resolution is requiring all recipients, it is not an option. It is telling the people who are receiving housing assistance to go through the process as required. There are people out there in the community other than those who are facing financial problems in regards to housing loans and to eliminate the ability of others not owing anything to CDA from being potential participants of the housing assistance program, I think is contrary to the free market system. I respect the intent, however, we must seriously look at the whole picture of

what we are trying to do here. It is like we are making CDA and the other agencies, MPLT or NMHC, the designated housing agencies of the community and I do not feel that is right. Like I said there are hundreds of people in the same position as those that have gone through the CDA, MPLT, or NMHC housing programs. In all fairness, I have to disagree with what the Resolution is trying accomplish. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Sablan. I recognize Representative Raymond Palacios.

Mr. Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The intention is very good, because I have known of a lot of families with low salaries that have lost their residence due to the fact that they are not able to afford it. I believe that if we can make the Resolution an amendment and instead of *requiring* we should respectfully request the governor to *urge* the recipients. This is in there because I have known of more than five hundred individuals who have lost their residences because there are unable to pay for it. And by urging these housing recipients to rent from these families, they would save their residents. Instead of having it up for foreclosure, and then up for bid and then one individual owning numerous houses, most of these families are with children that are now renting because they have lost their homes from the low income housing program because they cannot afford it. By urging these housing recipients to – they do not have to pay from their pockets, it is a program – and by urging them to rent from these families – you know, save your job. Requiring them might be a little harsh, but if we could amend this and just request the governor to urge these housing recipients to consider these housing that are up for foreclosure and things like that so that several families out there can save their residents before they are foreclosed. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Palacios. We are still discussing H. Res. 17-8. I recognize Representative Sablan.

Mr. Antonio Sablan: Again, we must not – you know, the idea that the only families that are facing financial obligations in terms of housing loans are people that have taken loans through CDA. There are a lot of other families that go through the regular commercial banks. To prioritize or give those with loans from government agencies, the priority in terms of being – here, potential participants of the housing assistance program is not compared to those families that either borrowed money from family members or commercial banks. We see notices in the newspapers all the time on foreclosures through Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, so it is not just people with loans through CDA that are experiencing or worth benefits from the housing financial program. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Are we ready to vote? Representative Conner?

Representative Trenton Conner: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, I am commending the author for the honorable intention behind this Resolution, but it is the suitability factor and the accommodating factor. We all know for an instance, the island of Tinian, the housing area, the crime rate is just too high. The safety factor is of concern and when we look at this in line with what Mr. Tebuteb had said, it is cynical that in Tinian CDA and NMHC are leasing office spaces and yet they are not trying to help these people that are losing their homes to lease their homes. So it does not make sense. It is commendable and honorable for the Resolution to be introduced, but on the same token, I think more research and feasibility studies have to be done. We

look at how we can accommodate statesiders. Especially state-siders that have a certain standards that they want to avail to and to keep to practicality what we are intending to do. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Raymond Palacios.

Mr. Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Madam Speaker. One thing about this housing program, in order for you to be eligible you have to be in compliance. So, in line with what Representative Conner is saying, you just do not offer up your house for rent or lease without meeting all the requirements from the housing authority. So in terms of livability and accountability or accommodation for these possible renters or lessors, the house has to be in compliance. So there should not be a question regarding the severability and accommodating individuals because first of all, you need to be in compliance with federal guidelines in terms of leasing or renting out housing units. I also understand Representative Sablan where we have to allow other people who borrowed money from the banks. The difference here is that these people that the lease borrowers are people with numerous houses that they can avail to unlike those family members whose only option is to borrow and built on their only property available and once they lose that they are out for good. There is a difference. As I said, we can amend this Resolution and not *require* but *urge* – it is only urging and it does not mean that you have to go and lease a property that is owned by an individual who has borrowed from the housing program or CDA we are also allowing individuals that have loaned from the Bank of Guam or Bank of Saipan to avail to this housing recipients. So it is up to the individual who wants to lease or rent to decide, but we are just urging them because we are trying to save those poor families who on what property that they have are what they have to reside. Instead of losing that property and then having to rent, it is just a burden for the low income families.

The Chair recognized Representative Basa.

Mr. Ramon Basa: I would like to echo the same sentiment as colleague, Mr. Sablan with regards to this Resolution. Although the intent is plausible and I give credit to the author, we have to think about what this Resolution is going to do. I do not feel comfortable on the grounds of principle here because as Mr. Sablan mentioned, it is about the free market system. This is all about preferential treatment to those that have borrowed and are experiencing difficulty to give them first crack on the business. I think we are setting an unfair playing field whereby we are supposed to create a fair playing field. What we are doing with this Resolution, with all intents and purposes, is creating a playing field that is unbalanced.

The Chair recognized Ms. Santos.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with all that has been said with regards to H. Res. 17-8, I would offer an oral floor amendment which would indicate: “A House Resolution respectfully urging the governor to,” strikeout the word “require” and instead amend it with the word, “encourage”. This way the Resolution would not require but request the Governor to encourage to do what is good. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Representative Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: I was waiting whether the amendment offered by Ms. Santos was going to be seconded, because I was going to talk on the amendment.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any second to that amendment?

Several others seconded the motion offered by Ms. Santos to amend H. Res. 17-8 to strikeout the word “require” and replace it with the word “encourage”.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion on the amendment, Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Tebuteb: Thank you. Under discussion of the amendment, I would like to state that the intent of the mover of this Resolution and retain the word required. However, there are additional things that I am a little bit disturbed about. We are urging the governor to require something that is supported – as stated by Mr. Palacios by the semi autonomous corporations – and I would to find out from the ways and means of the authors – I know there are different criteria in setting up the housing benefits, how much allowances are we looking at on the overall or the general picture for allowances are we looking at in terms of cost. I understand and I appreciate the intent, and I am supporting the original intent, I am saying that there is additional information that we have to be cautious of. We are urging the governor to do something that is required by some other agencies. I am not sure what other agencies submit to this program, what they do and for us to express our intent in urging the governor to go ahead and require something that may contradict to what Mr. Sablan has already mentioned. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are discussing the amendments offered by Ms. Santos and it has been seconded. Are we ready to vote on that motion?

*Several members voiced “ready.”*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The amendment is to amend the title of the Resolution to replace “require” to “encourage” ...

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, before we vote, I know the amendment is to amend the title, but can allow the legal counsel to change wherever it is needed within the Resolution, especially in the resolving clause.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Short recess.

*The House recessed at 2:54 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 2:57 p.m.*

(2)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are back in session. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To reiterate the amendment to the Resolution, whenever the word “require” so stated, replace it with the word “encourage” on page 1 on the title of the Resolution, page 1, line 13 and on page 2, line 6. With that, I move to amend H. Res. 17-8.

*Several others seconded the motion.*

*The amendment offered by Representative Santos and reiterated by Floor Leader Camacho to H. Res. 17-8 reads:*

“ **A HOUSE RESOLUTION**

**Respectfully urging the Governor to ~~require~~ encourage all recipients of housing allowances to lease/rent apartments and/or houses that are financed through the Commonwealth Development Authority, Marianas Public Land Trust, or Northern Marianas Housing Corporation’s loan programs.**

WHEREAS, because of the continued decline in the global economy, especially in the CNMI, payments on loan programs have lessened and loans have become delinquent; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Development Authority, Marianas Public Land Trust, and Northern Marianas Housing Corporation have established loan programs on homes and/or apartments that are affected by this economic decline; and

WHEREAS, some of these homes and/or apartments are facing foreclosure due to the lack of lessees and/or renters; and

WHEREAS, there are several employees of the Commonwealth government that are availed housing allowances as a subsidy for their relocation to Saipan; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds it reasonable to require encourage these employees receiving housing allowances to rent or lease homes and/or apartments that are established through the loan programs of the Commonwealth Development Authority, Marianas Public Land Trust, and Northern Marianas Housing Corporation; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House respectfully urges the Governor to ~~require~~ encourage all recipients of housing allowances to lease/rent apartments and/or houses that are financed through the Commonwealth Development Authority, Marianas Public Land Trust, or Northern Marianas Housing Corporation’s loan programs; 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 the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Paul A. Mangloña, President of the Senate, 17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Commonwealth Development Authority Board Members; the Marianas Public Land Trust Board Members; and to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board Members. ”

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Madam Speaker, request for a roll call vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Roll call, clerk.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to amend H. Res. 17-8 as offered by Representative Santos and reiterated by Floor Leader Camacho.*

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	absent (excused)
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	aye
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	absent (excused)
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	no

Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (excused)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre I. Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	no
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	no
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	no
Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio	absent (excused)
Representative Stanley McGinnis-Torres	no
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no
Representative Ray N. Yumul	no

Acting Speaker Felieidad T. Ogumoro: The amendment is hereby adopted. We are now on the main motion to adopt H. Res. 17-8, House Draft 1. Any further discussion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Let me recognize Mr. McGinnis-Torres before we take a vote on the Resolution.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Madam Speaker, I understand that the intent of the Resolution is for government employees who are receiving housing allowances. I think all government employees are leasing private homes and apartments. There is no such thing as government housing. So, what are we trying to do. I think the largest government entity giving employee housing allowance is the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), the hospital. I think the concentration of their housing is the nearby apartments and condominiums. I do not know if you can force or even encourage the employees that are getting housing allowances to say where they are supposed to be staying.

Mr. Raymond Palacios: Point of clarification, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: State your point.

Mr. Raymond Palacios: For information to Mr. McGinnis-Torres, these are loans made through CDA of the government but these are available loans and if I am not mistaken and the recipients can go ahead and loan through individual private residents and not just government property. That is all, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Ready. Let me restate the motion. I move for the adoption of H. Res. 17-8, HD1.

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt H. Res. 17-8, HD1 was carried by voice vote, with a few nay votes.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is carried. H. Res. 17-8, HD1 is hereby adopted by the House. We move on to Bill Calendar.

**BILL CALENDAR****H. B. 17-38**

A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC Title 2, Division 1 Chapter 3, § 1301 et seq., “The Nuclear and Chemical Free Zone Act of 1983”. [Ref. S. C. R. No. 17-8]

**H. B. 17-33**

A Bill for an Act to amend Section 3 of Public Law 12-14, as it applies to the surrounding waters of the municipality of Rota, to ensure that such regulations do not restrict the rights of persons to engage in non-commercial net-fishing, provided that such right be restricted to non-commercial net-fishing for the purpose of obtaining fish for personal or immediate family consumption, to also ensure that the definition of “non-traditional fishing methods” is not misinterpreted to include non-commercial net-fishing; and for other purposes. [Ref. S. C. R. 17-15]

**H. B. 17-62**

A Bill for an Act to reprogram one million (\$1,000,000.00) from appropriations under section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56 for the renovation and rehabilitation of abandoned municipal buildings; and for other purposes.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, before we move on to our Bill Calendar, I move to take H. B. 17-45, SD1 from the Committee on Ways and Means and place it for action.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Is there a second to that motion?

*The motion was seconded.*

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Point of clarification.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: The Bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, right?

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: That is correct.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I would like to ask the Chairman the status of the Bill in the Committee of Ways and Means? Is it going to be reported out? Or, are we just withdrawing it from the Committee?

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: We are withdrawing it for action

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: We are withdrawing it from the Committee.

Mr. Ramon Basa: Mr. Deleon Guerrero, it is the consensus of the Committee and vote from here.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We will go into a brief recess to allow the members and the clerk to get their documents. Short recess.

*The House recessed at 3:07 p.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 3:11 p.m.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are back in session. Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Before we continue with the Bill Calendar, I would like to withdraw H. B. 17-45, HD6, SS1, SD1 from the Committee on Ways and Means and place it on the Calendar so that we can act on it.

*The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. H. B. 17-45, HD6, SS1, SD1 was recalled from the Committee on Ways and Means and placed on the Calendar.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker, we can go ahead and act on the Bills under our Calendar. And with that, Madam Speaker, we do have three Bill appearing under the Calendar. However, the Committee on Natural Resources is about to finish their public hearing on H. B. 17-38. So, we move on H. B. 17-62. With that, I move for its passage on First and Final Reading.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any second to the motion?

*The motion was seconded.*

*Introduced by REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Saipan, Precinct 6 (for himself) on April 27, 2010, and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Bill was placed on the Bill Calendar by the Floor Leader pursuant to House Rule II, Section 4(c). [The House did not receive any public comment on the Bill during an open and public meeting on April 27, 2010, May 11, 2010 and May 25, 2010.]*

**H. B. 17-62**

**A Bill for an Act to reprogram one million (\$1,000,000.00) from appropriations under section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56 for the renovation and rehabilitation of abandoned municipal buildings; and for other purposes.**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion. Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: We are discussing H. B. 17-62 to reprogram one million dollars under Public Law 13-56. First, I have questions to the author – simple questions on the purpose of renovating and rehabilitating municipal buildings. The simple question is the cost for the rehabilitation. I guess this includes the A&E design.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize Mr. Conner.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Madam Speaker, to my colleague Mr. Tebuteb, this will be in consultation with the Department of Public Works for the renovations and repairs. I wish to be given the opportunity to enlighten this body. The reason why we need this is that this coming September 30th will be the end of the lease agreement on the current building that is housing the Tinian Mayor's Office, the dog control program, the Office of Personnel Management, and municipal treasury, Department of Labor, Immigration Division. This lease agreement was executed by the previous administration. With the budget shortfall that we are incurring and the cash flow revenue that is slow in coming in we are trying to cut cost and save revenue sources so that we can stretch ourselves throughout this financial economic crisis that we are in. The buildings that we are looking at have been utilized in the past, but for some reason or another, the past administration had abandoned them for the sole purpose of probably availing to a facility which they can rent from. We want to try and get away from rental. For the members' information, this rental agreement is costing the municipality about three hundred and thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$338,000) a year, which is a significant portion. If we have to continue this lease for five years, just a multiplication factor and we can see that it is going to be a lot of money for lease alone. This one million dollars if from Public Law 13-56 that was appropriated back in the year 2002 for the Hemodialysis Center. But, One million out of that was reprogrammed and this is the balance. Due to the non-feasibility of having a hemodialysis center in Tinian at this time, we are looking at ways to utilize these funds not only to make it beneficial for our municipality but also as a cost-cutting saving measure for the next five years. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Did that answer your concern, Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Somewhat.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: You may continue.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We just adopted H. Res. 17-8 and I recall through some of the House journals when this public law came about, and this required the full faith and credit of the CNMI Government, plus the land compensation. So I am not quite sure if this is allowable under that bond agreement that created the land compensation/prison facility. I would think that this would require further deliberation from the Committee on Ways and Means and maybe even extract some of those comments made by the previous Second Senatorial District members who were at one point very adamant to avail the Hemodialysis Center in Tinian is address. Thus, it looks like the now leadership of the Second Senatorial District may have – I am going to guess – shifted that and I just want to make sure that we are in line with the intent of people of Tinian for that matter. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First, to answer Mr. Tebuteb's concern about the full faith and credit, I do not think that will be an issue because the one million dollars that was appropriated to the Hemodialysis Centers in Tinian and Rota came from the account balance of the Trylon Banking Division under CDA. So, that was one provision of Public Law 13-56. The other section was the floating of the bonds for the land compensation. So, to answer that part, it is not an

issue. But Mr. Tebuteb did raise an issue that for those members who were in the 13th Legislature – I believe there are three of us here – and I do recall that this was an issue. When this appropriation was on the floor for discussion, we actually tried to convince Tinian and Rota, primarily Tinian, Rota we can understand because it is farther away, but Tinian that we were already in the process of constructing a new Hemodialysis Unit on Saipan. We have your apartments here and people – why reinvent the wheel and have another one there. At that time the discussion centered around one, the cost; two, the funding to operate it; and three, to get a nephrologists and qualified nurses. The very things that we were trying to convince Tinian not for us to appropriate this money for that purpose is the very reason you have on your Bill now saying why we should reprogram it. So it is one of those – I hate to say it, but I told you so kind of bills. And at that time we were telling them that it is not a good idea and if you do it, it would be more costly for Tinian and the CNMI as a whole. But the arguments kind of centered around the humanitarian consideration that having it on their own island gives their people the comfort of staying in their homes, not having to travel back and forth everyday from Tinian to Saipan to get treatment. So for that purpose, we supported the bill and it became law. But now, we are being told that everything that we have cautioned them against and it is being changed to another reason. While I support the intent of the bill, which in these hard times to save money by renovating building instead of renting, and this is commendable, I just have to raise these statements for the record in that some of us felt that it would be a slush fund and that was never the intent for building a dialysis center. And you can correct me if I am wrong, but I do not think meaningful attempt was made for even an A&E design to be done for the facility or construction. Nothing is being done. So, this money kind of sat there, and now it is being reprogrammed. Mr. Conner, you mentioned that one million dollars was already reprogrammed from here.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Yes.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I do not understand how that could be because there was only one million dollars that was appropriated to that from this particular public law.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Two million dollars was appropriated, Mr. Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Not from Public Law 13-56, I have a copy of the law with me. This only states one million dollars for the First Senatorial District and one million dollars for the Second Senatorial District.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Yes, but there was another million dollars that was appropriated, so there is two million dollars total for the planned project for the hemodialysis center. In absence of the one million dollars that was appropriated, this is the remainder that we have. The amount that is needed to construct the hemodialysis center is not sufficient. This is the balance and we would like to reprogram this money to utilize it for other purposes. On the same token, with regards to the 13th Legislature, I cannot speak on their behalf or their leadership due to the fact that that was during their time and not my time.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I understand.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Therefore, since this is the balance that we are looking at with the overall amount being two million dollars and one million was reprogrammed, we want to utilize this fund. If you look at the intent of the bill, it is to also renovate the liaison office that we have here on Saipan, and to also pave the roadway going to the liaison office due to the fact that some people have

already slid and cars going out sometimes make rocks fly. So this is reprogramming is to try cover the situation that we are in now. I have had requests from hemodialysis patients from Tinian to try to get a dialysis center in Tinian, but at this point in time, it is going to be very hard for us considering the circumstances that we are in. But, there was a total appropriation of two million dollars, not specifically under Public Law 13-56 and one million dollars has been reprogrammed.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: You may continue, Mr. Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I say this not to defeat the bill, but it is important for the legislative record that we hear the history of how this came to be and just to let the members know sometimes how intentions are made but not followed through. And then another legislature comes in it get changed. I will support your bill, because of the intent, Mr. Conner. It is the Second Senatorial District's funding; however, I have one concern and it has to do with the expenditure authority. I believe you have the Mayor of Tinian as the expenditure authority here.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Yes, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: The funds would be used for the program and the renovation of these different things you are talking about but also includes other essential programs and services needed by the Municipality of Tinian. What essential programs? Are we talking about construction of other buildings or are you going to use it for operations and programs.

Mr. Trenton Conner: What is happening right now is that the Director of Tinian Health Center has already availed to some medical equipment that is already coming in for the Tinian Health Center. But the facility being so small, part of this funding would be utilized to accommodate the site equipment that is coming in. So this would give the mayor the flexibility to accommodate the Tinian Health Center and so as the needs of the Health Center.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Are you done, Mr. Deleon Guerrero?

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I have one more question.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: You may continue.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: So, Mr. Conner, it is clear that this is not going to be for hiring or other types of operational activities, correct?

Mr. Trenton Conner: No, it is not for hiring.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Section 2, says, there is hereby appropriated one million dollars from P.L. 13-56 for renovations and repair of dilapidated buildings, and so forth. So that is clear – that section would ensure that there is no reprogramming for operational cost. Going back to expenditure authority, I know that the mayor is going to be the expenditure authority in consultation with the Department of Public Works. I am not a hundred percent sure, but I believe that for construction activities, only the Department of Public Works can be the expenditure authority, unless, somebody can correct me. The reason for that is DPW is considered the contracting officer whose is responsible for everything from ensuring that construction management is done, A&E is done.

Nobody has the expertise to sign off on a contract other than DPW, unless the law has changed, and that it would normally be DPW that ought to be the expenditure authority in consultation with the mayor. Even on Saipan, it does not matter which agency is going to do any type of construction work or renovation, it is always DPW who is the contracting officer so it you normally be the expenditure authority. I know that with the dialysis center, the Secretary of Public Health given the expenditure authority, but . . .

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Legal Counsel.

*Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron*: We have to do further research on this.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: There is a need for further research on this end from the legal counsels. I recognize Mr. Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I think that ought to be clarified because if we give the expenditure authority to the mayor in this case and that conflicts with . . .

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Legal Counsel.

*Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron*: Representative Deleon Guerrero, while I understand your concern, the savings clause would permit the law, if the body passes it, to be viable to the extent that the mayor cannot be expenditure authority that the bill would provide that it be DPW Secretary who would be the expenditure authority. The savings clause would then kick in, in my opinion, to allow the bill and conform to your concern.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I am satisfied with that, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any other before I recognize the motion. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, I would like to reiterate the motion for clarification. The motion is for the passage of H. B. 17-62 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Roll Call.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. 17-62 on First and Final Reading:*

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	absent (excused)
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	aye
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	absent (excused)
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (excused)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre I. 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	absent (excused)
Representative Stanley McGinnis-Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: H. B. 17-62 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have one more bill on our Bill Calendar. This is on H. B. 17-33, reference to S. C. R. 17-15 that we have adopted. I now move for the passage of H. B. 17-33 on First and Final Reading.

*The motion was seconded by two others.*

*Introduced by REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself, Representatives Basa, Ogumoro, and Villagomez) on March 11, 2010 and was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which submitted S. C. R. 17-15.*

### H. B. 17-33

**A Bill for an Act to amend Section 3 of Public Law 12-14, as it applies to the surrounding waters of the municipality of Rota, to ensure that such regulations do not restrict the rights of persons to engage in non-commercial net-fishing, provided that such right be restricted to non-commercial net-fishing for the purpose of obtaining fish for personal or immediate family consumption, to also ensure that the definition of “non-traditional fishing methods” is not misinterpreted to include non-commercial net-fishing; and for other purposes. [Ref. S. C. R. 17-15]**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion. I recognize Mr. Joe Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Madam Speaker, and to the author, I would like to offer floor amendment if anything just to clarify the language. On page 2, line 21, after the words “types of nets provided they are no smaller than two inches”, I would like to amend that and instead of “they” substitute it with “the net mesh size”. So line 21 would read “types of nets provided the net mesh size are no smaller than two inches”. I so move.

*The motion to amend H. B. 17-33 as offered by Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero was seconded by Representative Santos.*

*The oral floor amendment is on Section 2 of H. B. 17-33, to read:*

“ **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 3 of Public Law 12-14, pertaining to the prohibition of non-traditional fishing methods, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

“It shall be unlawful for any commercial and non-commercial fishermen to use explosives, poisons, electric shocking devices, scuba tank or hookah when fishing for reef fish and

harvesting other marine life within waters of the Commonwealth, provided however, that the use of throw nets (talaya), or the use of the following types of nets provided ~~they~~ net mesh size are no smaller than two inches, drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be legal in the waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for non-commercial purposes only. Non-commercial purpose means fish caught for personal or immediate family use. Any sales or distribution beyond ones immediate family shall be a violation of this law. ”

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: There is a motion on the floor, and it has been seconded. Discussion.

Several members voiced “ready,” and the motion to amend H. B. 17-33 as offered by Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero was carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is carried. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Ready for the main motion, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are voting on the main motion. Mr. McGinnis Torres.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Are we voting on the main motion?

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: That is correct.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: May I ask for clarification.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Yes.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Not less than two inches is what – mini tail? (12:07:28)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are voting on H. B. 17-33 as amended. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, I move for the passage of H. B. 17-33, HD1 on First and Final Reading.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Further discussion. Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: For the record, Madam Speaker and members, I am in support of the bill and I would like to make sure before the body submits to look at page 3, line 3 on the definition of what we consider family or immediate family. My definition of immediate family is my fifteenth cousin.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Alright. Are we ready to vote? Clerk, call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. 17-33, HD1 on First and Final Reading:*

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	absent (excused)
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes

Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	aye
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	absent (excused)
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (excused)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre I. 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	absent (excused)
Representative Stanley McGinnis-Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: H. B. 17-33, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before we continue, it has been twice that H. B. 17-38 appeared on the Bill Calendar. I know we have been waiting from the Committee on Natural Resources, and I would like to hear from the Chair a brief report on the status and how soon can the Committee will be done deliberating.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For the information of the members, the legislative assistant for the Committee on Natural Resources is working on the committee report and we are hopeful to provide that by next Tuesday, I understand that Monday is Memorial Day.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Chairwoman.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Mr. McGinnis-Torres.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ms. Santos, I just want to say something but it might not come out right. The governor is waiting for this bill so that he can sign it. Yesterday, I received my new power bill that has increased another hundred dollars because of the rate of fuel, power rate and \_\_\_\_\_. I used to pay two hundred and seventy dollars now I am paying three hundred and seventy-one dollars. So, I would like to ask your cooperation and understanding that the governor is waiting for this bill to get to his desk. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Representative Torres. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move to reject the Senate amendments on H. B. 17-45, HD6, SSI, SD1, reference to SEN. COMM. 17-24, and call for a conference committee.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion.

*Several members seconded the motion to reject the Senate amendments to H. B. 17-45, HD6, which was returned to the House on April 19, 2010 in the form of*

**H. B. 17-45, HD6, SS1, SD1**

to read:

*A Bill for an Act to implement unpaid legal holidays for the remaining FY2010; to impose revenue generating measures; and for other purposes.*

*[Ref. SEN. COMM. 17-24]*

*Several members voiced "ready", and there being no discussion, the motion to reject the Senate amendments to H. B. 17-45, HD6, SS1, SD1 and have a conference with the Senate was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is carried. For the conference committee, I would like to appoint the following members from the House: Chairperson of Ways and Means, Mr. Basa, Ms. Terry Santos, Mr. Conner, and myself, I will also be a part of the Conference Committee from the House on H. B. 17-45, HD6, SS1, SD1. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I would now like to move to Item 17, Miscellaneous Business.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Under Miscellaneous Business, Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Very short, Madam Speaker. I have a letter from Mr. Dela Cruz dated May 21st, just for the record he has asked to be excused. Although he did mention that prior but because the memo probably has yet to be received by the Clerk.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any other, Ms. Santos.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I understand that Nurses Week was celebrated or was proclaimed two weeks ago and it may be late, but it is always better late than never. So with that, I would like to recognize and thank the nurses – all the nurses in the world – for making the medical world go around and for making a difference in lives on both the sick and healthy. Madam Speaker, this coming Monday is also Memorial Day, and for that I would like to recognize and honor those fallen soldiers who fought bravely for our freedom – forever they will be always remembered from time to time. With this I would pray to God for his continued guidance and protection for those who are serving or planning to serve in the military. Also, I pray to God for his continued guidance and comfort for the families of those men and women who are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Ms. Santos.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion to adjourn subject the Call of the Chair was carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda B. Muña, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives

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**APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS**

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

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:** None

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. 17-19

To appropriate \$196,379 from the unobligated/lapsed funds and fund balance accounts from completed and closed projects; and for other purposes.

By Rep. Joseph M. Palacios of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)