



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2015

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

First Day, Second Special Session

Friday, April 24, 2015

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Second Special Session on Friday, April 24, 2015, at 10:17 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Speaker of the House, presided.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. Before we begin, let me take this opportunity to recognize a few members who are present with us today in our gallery. I would like to recognize the presence of our former Lieutenant Governor and House Speaker Diego Benavente, also the former Senator Pete Reyes, welcome and his lovely wife our former Bureau Director Glenna Reyes, I would also like to recognize the presence of Ms. Alice Igitol, Vice Chair for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, welcome. And I would also like to welcome our viewing audience *hafa adai buenas dias*. With that the Chair will now call this First Day, Second Special Session to order and before we rise for a moment of silent prayer, I would like to ask that we keep in our prayers our two victims, former staff member of the Washington Rep Office Ms. Anna Maria Limes and Mr. Guerrero the first cousin of our DPS Commissioner, please keep them and their families in our prayers. At this time, let us rise for a moment of silent prayer.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and nineteen members were present; Representative Rafael S. Demapan was absent and excused.

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, eighteen members are present and two members are absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. For the record, the Vice Speaker who is off-island is excused and I understand the minority leader will be coming in shortly. Let us now continue on with our Order of Business. Before we continue on we do have a presentation of

resolution for the former Senator Pete Reyes. I would like to now ask that we go into a short recess for the resolution presentation. Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:35 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, we return back to our session. Let us now move to item II of our Order of Business, Public Comments and at this time anyone in the gallery wishing to offer any public comments on any items appearing on today's Order of Business may do so by stepping up to the podium. We ask that you state your name for the record and the floor is now open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced that there are no journals for adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Since there does not appear to be any public comments today we will continue and since there is no journals for adoption, let us move to item IV of our Order of Business, Introduction of Bills. As mentioned in the recess before the Chair entertains the first mover, I would like to turn it over to our Floor Leader for a motion to amend our agenda. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I left my notes back on Rota, but I would like to go ahead and make a motion to suspend rules in order to include legislations and communications on our agenda that are not appearing before us today. So move, Mr. Speaker.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions.

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be pre-filed with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed in sufficient time to appear on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 72-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with for Special Emergency Sessions and Sessions called by the Governor in accordance with Rule III.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just to clarify the motion is to amend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) of our House Rules as stated to allow for bills and correspondence to be placed on today's agenda. Motion has been offered and seconded. Discussion on the motion. Madame Clerk, if we are ready please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker 18 members voted "yes" and 1 member voted "no."

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With majority of the votes in the affirmative, the motion to amend our agenda hereby passes. With that the Chair will now recognize Representative Angel Demapan with the first introduction.

House Bills:

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I am pleased to introduce House Bill 19-53, "To establish requirements for vehicle businesses; and for other purposes." Introduced by myself and Representatives Attao, Camacho, and Guerrero. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-53: To establish requirements for vehicle businesses; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, George N. Camacho, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Demapan. House Bill 19-53 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Please continue.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now introducing House Bill 19-54, “To authorize the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality: Division of Environmental to set well water usage rates for all groundwater wells within the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and open for cosponsors.

H. B. NO. 19-54: To authorize the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality: Division of Environmental to set well water usage rates for all groundwater wells within the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you again. House Bill 19-54 will be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Now recognize Representative Edwin Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce House Bill 19-55, “To prohibit cruelty and theft of animals; to provide penalties for such acts; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and Representatives Tebuteb and Ralph Yumul. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

H. B. NO. 19-55: To prohibit cruelty and theft of animals; to provide penalties for such acts; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Ralph N. Yumul)
(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Propst. House Bill 19-55 will be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Now we have several other bills that did not meet the 72 hour pre-filing requirement. The next bill is House Bill 19-56 and the Chair recognizes Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce House Bill 19-56, “To amend 4 CMC §8426 (c) (3) of the operating costs of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.” I also ask anyone to cosponsor this bill, thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-56: To amend 4 CMC §8426 (c) (3) of the operating costs of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. House Bill 19-56 will be referred to the Committee on PUTC. For the next introduction recognized the minority leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce House Bill 19-57, “To establish a school choice program administered by the CNMI Public School System in order to increase the quality of education for all students by Fall 2015.” Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-57: To establish a school choice program administered by the CNMI Public School System in order to increase the quality of education for all students by Fall 2015.

REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Education)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. House Bill 19-57 will be referred to the Committee on Education. We have one more House Bill and the Chair would like to ask the minority leader to continue.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: House Bill 19-58, “To strengthen provisions regarding all firearms by establishing minimum mandatory sentences and allowing longer sentences, and by increasing the time-served component necessary for parole eligibility.”

H. B. NO. 19-58: To strengthen provisions regarding all firearms by establishing minimum mandatory sentences and allowing longer sentences, and by increasing the time-served component necessary for parole eligibility.

REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)
(Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. House Bill 19-58 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Before we move to the item (b), House Local Bills, are there any further introductions of House Bills? Does not seem to be, so under House Local Bills the Chair recognizes Representative Angel Demapan.

House Local Bills:

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I am pleased to introduce House Local Bill 19-20, “To appropriate \$70,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended, specifically from BU 3400g; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and Representative Antonio Sablan, thank you.

H. L. B. NO. 19-20: To appropriate \$70,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended, specifically from BU 3400g; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representative Antonio P. Sablan)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Are there any further House Local Bills for introduction? Recognized, Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to officially introduce an unnumbered House Local Bill entitled, “To appropriate up to \$125,000.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purpose.” Introduced by myself and several others from Precinct 1 and I certainly welcome the other members to cosponsor it. Thank you.

H. L. B. NO. 19-21: To appropriate up to \$125,000.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purpose.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Are there any other House Local Bills for introduction? If not, House Legislative Initiatives? Madame Clerk this would be House Local Bill 19-21? Please take note members the bill that was just introduced would be House Local Bill 19-21 and since there are no other bills of any form for introduction let us move to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and for the first introduction again, Representative Angel Demapan.

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now introducing House Resolution 19-14, “To recognize and congratulate Dr. Oscar Mangarero Sablan upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the California Medical Association’s annual Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award in December 2014.” Introduced by myself and open for cosponsors. Thank you.

H. RES. NO. 19-14: To recognize and congratulate Dr. Oscar Mangarero Sablan upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the California Medical Association’s annual Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award in December 2014.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Demapan. For the next introduction recognized Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce House Resolution 19-15, “To recognize and congratulate Glicerio “Eli” Arago for his appointment by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as the Philippine Honorary Consul for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” This is introduced by myself, Representatives BJ Attao, Anthony Benavente, Roman Benavente, George Camacho, Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Angel Demapan, John Paul Sablan, and Ralph Yumul. Mr. Speaker, if there are no objections, I would like to introduce this resolution to the Committee as a Whole.

H. RES. NO. 19-15: To recognize and congratulate Glicerio “Eli” Arago for his appointment by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as the Philippine Honorary Consul for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad

T. Ogumoro, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, Ralph N. Yumul)
(Introduced as Committee of the Whole)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objections?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Without objections then Madame Clerk, please take note that House Resolution 19-15 will be introduced by the Committee as a Whole. Thank you, Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: If I am not in order, I was trying to get your attention earlier in regards to the introduction of House Resolution 19-14 there was no objection from the members that we also introduce it as Committee as a Whole.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And by the mover, any objection?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, Madame Clerk if we are not out of order can that be noted. Thank you and let us continue then. For the next introduction again recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to officially introduce House Resolution 19-16, “Supporting the San Antonio Middle School Community Development Block Grant Application to demolish and reconstruct Building C.” So offered and cosponsored by many others. I certainly welcome those that have not had the opportunity to cosponsor. I ask for your support this is in support of demolition of construction of classrooms done in Saipan Middle School. Thank you.

H. RES. NO. 19-16: Supporting the San Antonio Middle School Community Development Block Grant Application to demolish and reconstruct Building C.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Moving on for the next introduction recognized Representative Edmund Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Introducing House Resolution 19-17, “To respectfully convey the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014 to the CNMI Public Auditor and to the CNMI Attorney General.” Mr. Speaker, I move to have this placed on calendar.

H. RES. NO. 19-17: To respectfully convey the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014 to the CNMI Public Auditor and to the CNMI Attorney General.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:48 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:49 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back to our session prior to the short recess. We were on item V, Introduction of Resolutions. Representative Edmund Villagomez has introduced House Resolution 19-17 and has offered a motion to place it on today’s Resolution Calendar and it has been seconded. We are now under discussion, any discussion on the motion? Ready?

There was no discussion and the motion to place House Resolution 19-17 on the Resolution Calendar for action was carried by voice vote. Several members voiced “nay.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With that division, I would like to ask our House Clerk to please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to place House Resolution 19-17 on the Resolution Calendar for action with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	no
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	no
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	no

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let me just state that during the Leadership meeting the Leadership felt that this resolution would be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and it will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means if there is – that was the intention of the Chair.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	no

Representative Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	no
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	no
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	no
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	no
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	no
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	no
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 9 members voted “yes,” 10 members voted “no,” and 1 member is absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With the majority voting “no” the Chair will refer House Resolution 19-17 to the Committee on Ways and Means. At this time, we will move on to the next introduction and the Chair recognizes Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to formally introduce House Resolution 19-18, “Respectfully requesting the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. James Aldan Ada, Secretary of the Department of Public Works to reserve at least \$850,000.00 (PE) from the Federal Highway Funds for Fiscal Year 2016, \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018 for the A&E design and construction of roads, drainage and water catchment tanks from Capitol Hill to Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill including lateral roads; and for other purposes.” I believe most of the members signed off on this resolution and I respectfully ask other members that did not sign off to join. Thank you.

H. RES. NO. 19-18: Respectfully requesting the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. James Aldan Ada, Secretary of the Department of Public Works to reserve at least \$850,000.00 (PE) from the Federal Highway Funds for Fiscal Year 2016, \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018 for the A&E design and construction of roads, drainage and water catchment tanks from Capitol Hill to Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill including lateral roads; and for other purposes.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Moving on are there any other House Resolutions for introduction today? Seeing there is none, we move on to item (b) House Joint Resolution and the Chair again recognizes Representative Attao.

House Joint Resolutions:

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Introducing House Joint Resolution 19-4, “Respectfully requesting the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to negotiate with Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation dba, IT&E for lower telecommunication rates for consumers in the Commonwealth.” Again it has been signed by majority of the members and for those that I have missed I welcome their signature on this Joint Resolution. Thank you.

H. J. R. NO. 19-4: Respectfully requesting the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to negotiate with Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation dba, IT&E for lower telecommunication rates for consumers in the Commonwealth.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Attao. Are there any further House Joint Resolutions for introduction? If not, any House Commemorative Resolutions for introduction? Under item (d) House Concurrent Resolution the Chair recognizes the Chairman of Ways and Means.

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions:

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to officially introduce House Concurrent Resolution 19-1, “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 2016, beginning October 1, 2015 and ending on September 30, 2016.” So offered.

H. C. R. NO. 19-1: 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 2016, beginning October 1, 2015 and ending on September 30, 2016.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. At this point, all House Resolutions with the exception of House Resolution 19-17, which was already referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and House Resolution 19-18, which will also be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means all other resolutions, House Joint Resolutions, and House Concurrent Resolution will be placed on today’s Resolution Calendar. At this time, let us move on to item VI, under Messages from the Governor the Chair turns it over to our House Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 19-14: (3/19/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Cindy Nesbit, Assistant Public Defender, at the Office of the Public Defender to receive an annual salary of \$52,500. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-15: (3/26/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 19-11, D1 (To appropriate \$212,000.00 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes). Became **Tinian Local Law 19-1** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-16: (3/30/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Barbara P. Cepeda, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-17: (4/10/15) Transmitting replacement pages for the FY 2016 Governor's Budget Proposal Volume I, Schedules B and C worksheets, containing exact figures for the Department of Public Lands' consolidated summary by category and detailed summary by category.

GOV. COMM. 19-18: (4/14/15) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Michael T. Witry, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-19: (4/14/15) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. John L. Cook, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$60,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-20: (4/16/15) **Executive Order 2015-04** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. At this time, are there any comments from Messages from the Governor? Recognized Representative Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: I would like to thank the Administration for acting on Tinian Local Law 19-1 it is a much needed bill for the patients and the scholarship. Thank you again to the Administration.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any further comments under item VI? Recognize the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the members' information on Governor's Communication 19-17. Basically, the communication from the Governor replacing the pages on schedule SVS civil worksheet pertaining the budget worksheet for DPL. The request is necessary in that under wage and salaries ungraded the amount in the initial package submitted to the legislature included a wrong amount reflecting \$742,773.00 in

that particular activity. The accompanying worksheets for DPL under the respective schedules should reflect under 61100 Wages and Salaries – Ungraded it should read \$241,211.00 and I ask that members make the replacement for those two pages on the schedules. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Members take note. Any questions regarding the clarification by the Chairman of Ways and Means? Are there any further comments on Messages from the Governor? Are we ready to move on? Let us move on.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under item VII, Senate Communications normally the Chair will turn it over to our Floor Leader to accept Senate Communications, which requires House action, however we only have one Senate Communication and it is for informational purposes so are there any comments or discussions under item VII?

SEN. COMM. 19-25: (3/31/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 19-1, entitled, “Respectfully requesting the business communities to provide reasonable discounts on purchases for the senior citizens, the United States military veterans and men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.,” which was adopted by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. [*For info*]

Several members voiced “ready”.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We move on to item VIII, House Communications Madame Clerk.

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 19-22: (4/15/15) From Representative Angel A. Demapan, informing the Speaker that he will be off-island beginning Thursday, April 16, 2015 and will be returning Monday, April 20, 2015 and request to be excused from any meeting or session during his absence.

HSE. COMM. 19-23: (4/16/15) From the Vice Speaker, informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on official business from Friday, April 17, 2015 to Monday, April 27, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. Any discussions under item VIII?

Several members voiced “ready”.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under item IX, Communications from the Judicial Branch, Madame Clerk.

The Clerk announced the following Communication from the Judicial Branch:

JUD. BR. COMM. 19-2: (4/10/15) From Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, transmitting the CNMI Judiciary's expenditure report for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2015. [For info]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under item IX, any discussion? Recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Speaker. I just want to inform the members that this is the first quarterly report that I have seen that is required under Public Law 18-64, I believe the 2015 Budget. So just to let everybody know that I am glad that the Judiciary system has been in compliance with the Public Law, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you and I think we will see more in the next communications. So are there any further discussions under item IX?

Several members voiced "ready".

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let us move on to item X, Communications from Departments and Agencies, Madame Clerk.

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Departments & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. 19-5: (3/23/15) From the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on the Commission's FY 2016 Budget Issues. [For info and consideration]
(Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications)

DEPT./AGCY. 19-6: (3/31/15) From the Commonwealth Development Authority re: FY 2016 Preliminary Budget Submission. [For info]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Any discussions under item X? For the members information, Department and Agency Communication 19-5 from the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will be referred to the Committee on PUTC and the concern raised there are relevant to the introduction of House Bill 19-56 that was introduced by Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero. So both have been referred to the Committee on PUTC for consideration. Are there any further discussion under item X?

Several members voiced "ready".

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under item XI, Madame Clerk.

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 19-8: (4/9/15) From the Office of Management and Budget submitting 2nd Quarter report of Vacant Holding Accounts for FY 2015. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 19-9 which the House amended the agenda to include: (4/21/15) From Retirees from the Municipality of Rota submitting petition opposing S. B. No. 19-21, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §§ 1511 (d) and 2307 (a) and (b), transfer of funds and deposited in the Municipal Treasury of the First and Second Senatorial Districts; and for other purposes.” [Member’s info - The bill was referred to Committee on Ways and Means on April 9, 2015.]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Do all the members have a copy of this new communication 19-9 and as the Clerk has mentioned, the bill that it referred to is Senate Bill 19-21, which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Chairman of Ways and Means do you have a copy of the petition?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes, Sir and noted, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further discussion under item XI? Recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Item XI that is the Miscellaneous?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Correct.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I know that the Ways and Means, which I am a member of and we will also be scrutinizing this one and I am wondering if we – this is also my first time that I have seen this and I am wondering if there was any report on the first quarter?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are you referring to Miscellaneous Communication 19-8?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Correct.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, have we received under our earlier sessions any report from OMB for the first quarter? Representative Tebuteb maybe it might take a while maybe I can ask the Clerk – there is none so I guess she is ready to answer there is no first quarter. Any further? Recognize the Chairman of Ways and Means?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our good colleague has a legitimate inquiry there with regards to whether we had – these are all mandated by the Administrative provision regarding the 50 vacant positions. So I am preparing a number of request through the Administration and respective agency that are required under Public Law 18-66 the budget act to

ensure that the reporting requirements are hereto. Thank you. I will include this particular issue as raised by colleague Tebuteb.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for the clarification, Chairman. Any further discussions under Miscellaneous Communications?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, let us skip items XII, XIII, XIV and move on to item XV of our agenda, Resolution Calendar. Before I do so the Chair turns it over to our Floor Leader – recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because I am following directly and I am heading towards the Resolution Calendar and I did elaborate some concerns or areas with potential concerns on the Leadership part with respect to Representative Villagomez’s resolution 19-17 and perhaps I would like to take now this opportunity to kindly ask what is the main gist of concerns that you have attempted to explain during your vote on 19-17 with respect to just the “be it resolve clause” on page 2, line 1 to 4.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:09 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, we return back to session leaving off on item XV the Resolution Calendar. The Chair was going to turn it over to our Floor Leader for the proper motion, prior to doing that I guess a privileged question was raised and went into short recess to discuss the concern and now we are back and the Chair will continue and turn it over to the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have several items on our Resolution Calendar. The first of this resolution is House Resolution 19-5, HS1. I do have a written floor amendment to offer, but I will go ahead and make the initial motion. I move to adopt House Resolution 19-5, HS1, this is “A House Resolution to adopt the Official Rules for the House of Representatives.” So move, Mr. Speaker.

H. R. NO. 19-5, HS1, HD1

A House Resolution to adopt the Official Rules for the House of Representatives. [See *Spc. C. R. No 19-1*]

[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of March 18, 2015]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to adopt House Resolution 19-5, HS1 and the motion has been seconded. Discussion on the motion. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we continue in our discussion, I would like to offer this written floor amendment. Mr. Cool do you have this on Externally Loaded Media Object (ELMO). I will go ahead and read it off Mr. Speaker while the Legal Counsel is trying to put it on screen. This is to offer consistency on rules.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho offered the following floor amendment:

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. R. NO. 19-5

H. R. NO. 19-5 is amended as follows:

- I. Page 17, Rule IX Section 4 (e), of the Attachment to H. R. 19-5 is amended to read:

“(e) All bills and resolutions must be reviewed by the Legislative Counsel for legal sufficiency prior to prefiling or introduction on the floor except that a bill or resolution may be prefiled or introduced on the floor without such review if the bill or resolution is referred to an appropriate committee pursuant to Rule IX, Section 8(a). Furthermore, all floor amendments to initiatives, bills, and resolutions, shall be reviewed by legal counsel prior to introduction on the floor. Subject to legal sufficiency, a floor amendment shall be signed either for legal sufficiency or “for introduction purposes only” prior to any vote on the adoption. This provision shall not apply to verbal floor amendments upon suspension of applicable rules.”

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

DATE:**OFFERED BY: /s/ Rep. George N. Camacho**

Reviewed by

/s/ John F. Cool
House Legal Counsel*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: It has been seconded. Can everybody see the amendment as shown by the ELMO. Again, as explained this part of the rules only has bills and the amendment is just to insert and resolutions – so that both require legislative legal review by our Legal Counsel. We are no under discussion. Do the members want to take a short recess or are we ready? Let me recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically, the amendment is to require or add resolutions to this particular section of the resolution that mandates that all bills required to have the Legal Counsel sign off or review for legal sufficiency and we are only adding the resolution to this particular section. I do not see the problem with requiring that resolutions go through the same process that bills go through before being prefiled.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Under discussion recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe to further clarify Floor Leader the amendment because certain legislations our Legal Counsels would rather have it written for introduction purposes and if we can include that language for the amendment. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The comment made by Representative BJ Attao, Legal Counsel is to further include language saying that the legal signature – I guess the signature for the legal review would include language that says that it is for informational purposes?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Introduction purposes because they might just not feel too comfortable signing off for legal sufficiency. So I mean certain instances we introduce certain legislation last minute and they do not want to sign off on it so for introduction purposes only.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to weigh in on this because this has happened in the past. Legal Counsel.

Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron: For what it is worth Mr. Speaker, the request by Representative Attao has been addressed. I am sure he did not see it because it was hard to see, but now we have increased the font size. So the language for introduction purposes only is there. My only other comment would be sometimes resolutions do not have any legal bearing whatsoever and as the body knows the resolutions do not really have any legal force in effect in general. So there is going to be some resolutions regarding commemorating someone’s death or commemorating

someone's accomplishments that there is no legal review necessary in those cases slow down the process. So we would ask respectfully that that be considered that one there is a legal reason to review it and when there is no legal reason to review because it is someone's 80th birthday or being promoted or something very nice and worthy of commemoration, but not legal review that that be taken into account.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And that is where the – it is in there for introduction purposes, but only when a floor amendment – only for a floor amendment as I read it.

Legal Counsel Joseph Tajeron: I think we can add that language again to the second line for legal sufficiency or for introduction purposes only and then Representative Attao's concern is supported there with that amendment.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion is in order if we were to amend offered by the Floor Leader so it would have to be a subsidiary. Recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: The motion to include the language Mr. Speaker, sorry I do not have a written floor amendment.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, can we do this? Subsidiary amendment has been added, but I would like to ask the Legal Counsel via ELMO to please insert it in the proper – where it should be inserted. Can you do that so the members can see?

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: So it would be the same amendments, I will just include Representative Attao's concerns onto my amendment.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If there is no objection by the mover because I think you already offered it and it was seconded to maybe withdraw it and have the original mover do it.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: No problem Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my motion.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objection?

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So without objection, the Floor Leader's amendment as shown over there is further amended and without objection and includes the "for introduction purposes only" in cases primarily resolutions have no legal review or requirement.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: For congratulatory resolutions.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Right.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: You want to include that language in there? The intent of this amendment is so that we are consistent and if we leave anything open then we are creating ourselves some inconsistency.

Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron: Mr. Cool and I agree that we will sign the ones for legal sufficiency when it is appropriate to do so or when the mover insists and sign the one for introduction purposes only when it is just congratulatory or it does not have any legal matters.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: As long as that is clear and that is the intent of this amendment then I am alright with that.

Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron: Sure.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under discussion. Further discussion. Legal Counsels' I am tend to agree with the Floor Leader that because it is worded as one or the other that I hope that it is not just discretionary on the Legal Counsels because it says "for legal sufficiency or introduction purposes." And you are kind of giving us your own verbal assurance that you will do it if it requires because of the language in here. What if it requires it, but you do not feel like you want to put your name on it then the current language basically gives you that discretion.

Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron: Speaker, the way it works with bills when it does require legal sufficiency, Legal Counsel is given the discretion to put for introduction purposes only when it goes straight to the committee anyway. So this is just treating resolutions exactly like bills so it is not any different. Again with resolutions, we are going to sign them, they are not going to be major legal ramifications if we put for introduction purposes only or for legal sufficiency because resolutions do not have any legal force in effect anyway.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, anybody else want to weigh in on the floor amendment? Are we ready to vote on the floor amendment?

Several members voiced "ready".

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative George N. Camacho was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: House Resolution 19-5, HS1 will become HS1, HD1. Thank you. We now go back to the main motion of the resolution and continue with any discussions. Recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in line with Floor Leader Camacho's amendment for consistency on page 3, section 2 regarding the Speaker it reads "to have the sole authority to assign or remove a Chairperson of a standing committee," but on page 13, section 7 (c) says, "the Speaker may have the right to remove the ~~Chairperson~~." You have the authority to appoint, but you have no authority to remove. Just for consistency purposes.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: You referred your reference to page 13, section 7 (c) is on the committee report right?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Yes on the committee report attachment.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: But on the proposed rules – unless I have an earlier version – I do not see it being struck-out. I do not see it being struck-out. Mine includes the right to remove the Chairperson. So does your copy reflect the same?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: It is a strike through.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright so I have an outdated resolution, but I think the reason behind that and I think I was the one that requested that and that is that the Speaker is already given the authority to appoint and remove the Chairs and under section 7 (c) it also gives him the right to remove the Vice Chairs. I felt that that should be the discretion of the Chairman of the committee. Go ahead Floor.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Speaker, the key language under page 13, section (c) is with the approval of majority of the House standing committee Chairperson that is why we needed to strike out Chairperson because on the duties of the Speaker you have the authority to appoint and remove the Chairperson, but if you go to page 13, you will need the approval of majority of the House standing committee and that is the difference there. So in order to be consistent with initial duties of the Speaker we needed to strike out the Chairperson.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So clarified.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: I do not know if that is too clear, but it still says the Speaker may have the right to remove but it only goes to the Vice Chair, but impedes the right to assign and remove. So you are giving the Speaker the authority to appoint and remove from the beginning, but when you go later down the road you are taking that away.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: For the Chairs it is clear. I think in every House Rule that has been the case that the Speaker appoints and removes the Chairpersons. With the Vice Chair and I think it requires the consensus or the approval of the Committee members. I have no objection to that. Let us take a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:33 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:38 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. We now return back to our session and prior to going on a short recess, we left off on item XV, Resolution Calendar. A motion is offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of House Resolution 19-5, HS1 as amended in the form of HD1 and Representative Attao had the floor. Do you wish to continue?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: No thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you and we are still open for discussion on the main motion. Any further comments or discussion? Are we ready for the vote? Just for the record and when we do go into vote it will be via roll call and the vote requires three-fourths of this body or fifteen of the entire membership. Let us go vote now since there is no further discussion. Madame Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Resolution 19-5, HS1, HD1 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	no
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	no
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	no
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	no
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	no
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	no
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	no

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 12 members voted “yes,” 7 members voted “no,” and 1 member is absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Before the Chair recognizes the vote, let us go into a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:41 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:07 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Members. We now return back to our session after a lengthy deliberation. At this time, the Clerk has already provided the results of the votes on House Resolution 19-5, HS1, HD1, this is to adopt the official rules of the House. The votes is 12 in the affirmative, 7 voting “no” and 1 absent and because it requires three-fourths vote the motion to adopt House Resolution 19-5 is hereby defeated. I turn it back over to our Floor Leader for the next resolution.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A resolution introduced this morning House Resolution 19-14, “A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Dr. Oscar

Mangarero Sablan upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the California Medical Association's annual Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award in December 2014." Mr. Speaker, I believe this was introduced by the Committee as a Whole. I move for its adoption.

H. R. NO. 19-14

A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Dr. Oscar Mangarero Sablan upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the California Medical Association's annual Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award in December 2014.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to adopt House Resolution 19-14 and it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 19-14 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: House Resolution 19-14 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next is House Resolution 19-15, "A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Glicerio "Eli" Arago for his appointment by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as the Philippine Honorary Consul for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." Also introduced by the Committee as a Whole, I move for its adoption.

H. R. NO. 19-15

A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Glicerio "Eli" Arago for his appointment by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as the Philippine Honorary Consul for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded. Any discussion on the motion, recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Actually Mr. Speaker perhaps I was going to ask some questions to the author, but I am not sure the –

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: You are still recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Normally we have expressed on "whereas," but the gist of resolutions on "now therefore" or "be it resolved" and in line – I would appreciate it if perhaps the good author would be amendable to also include somewhere in page 4, line 22 relative to the translation of "*Un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Propst, while you were out I believe the recommendation by the Minority Leader was to the mover and this is in your resolution actually

the Committee of the Whole and this is about House Resolution 19-15. Go ahead and restate your concern Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: If the author is amendable probably after or before the word sincere in line 22, with “ghillisow”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: On what page?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Page 4.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think the recommendation is to include the word “ghillisow” after “Si Yu ’us Ma ’ase”? Do you wish to include “maraming salamat po” also?

Representative Edwin K. Propst: It is for my *kababayan*, I probably should.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objections to those two phrases being included as a technical amendment?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, please take note. Anything further?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 19-15 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next is House Resolution 19-16, “A House Resolution supporting the San Antonio Middle School Community Development Block Grant Application to demolish and reconstruct Building C.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its adoption.

H. R. NO. 19-16

A House Resolution supporting the San Antonio Middle School Community Development Block Grant Application to demolish and reconstruct Building C.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded to adopt House Resolution 19-16. Any discussion on the motion? Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether the request was earlier made to offer this as a Committee of the Whole without the objection of the members.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Legal Counsel, do we this normally – we normally do this in the introduction part of the agenda. Are we in order to do it? Since we are in order, any objections to the request by the mover?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, please take note since there is no objection. Are we ready to move to the vote or are there any further concerns?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 19-16 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next is House Joint Resolution 19-4, “A House Joint Resolution Respectfully requesting the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to negotiate with Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation dba, IT&E for lower telecommunication rates for consumers in the Commonwealth.” Almost introduced by the Committee as a Whole, Mr. Speaker I move for its adoption.

H. J. R. NO. 19-4

A House Joint Resolution Respectfully requesting the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to negotiate with Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation dba, IT&E for lower telecommunication rates for consumers in the Commonwealth.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to adopt House Joint Resolution 19-4, which has been seconded. Any discussion with the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 19-4 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes

Representative Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With all members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 19-4 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last on our Resolution Calendar is House Concurrent Resolution 19-1, “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 2016, beginning October 1, 2015 and ending on September 30, 2016.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its adoption.

H. C. R. NO. 19-1

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 2016, beginning October 1, 2015 and ending on September 30, 2016.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader and the motion has been seconded. Any discussion? Maybe before that do you want the Chairman to summarize the House Concurrent Resolution? Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Maybe we will go ahead and allow the individual members – so that maybe we can clearly understand what the concerns are and we will try to address them. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright. Recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Mr. Chairman. I am alright with the Concurrent Resolution. I would also like to point out that the committee had conducted a meeting with the budget as well as the Secretary of Finance with the resources. Basically this is resources concurrent resolution and one of the concerns I raised during that meeting was on the Governor’s Communication 19-13 on submission of the resources to the Legislature and specifically my question were hinged on the other legal obligation that was one

of my main concern and I know as we progress towards this budget process like in past we have fairly addressed obligations, but as you all know we continue to face with outstanding obligations of this government and I am going to be a little specific and I am sure that we have raised this on one area of concerns that I have pointed out on other legal obligation. What was presented during that question during the resources from the OMB was that the message from the Governor on the physical climate saying that the gross budgetary resources reported by the Secretary of Finance for Fiscal Year 2016 are \$183,555.00 then further stated that after adjusting for debt services appropriation year mark funds and other legal obligation that is my point of contention. After adjusting these three areas the net resources available for general appropriation for \$145,820,375.00. My area of contention as this point are basically on the other legal obligations of this government. What I have gathered from the response is that it is specifically for this area 1.9 was raised because of payment to Legal Counsels and I am not sure – in other words I did not have clear response to the question posted as well as there were other very good posting of information. I guess what I am leading to is that we progress through this budget process and the Governor has also identified, for example \$11 Million and \$11 Million of this differences between last fiscal and this fiscal year is that Three Million went somewhere and so forth, but when we look at the obligations of the government, I am calculating just on the judgment against this government. I know that we have priorities and I am looking at obligations of the government on judgment and specifically targeting the message from the Attorney General to this body on the Twenty-Seven Million outstanding obligation from judgment against government as such. Within the confines of that Twenty-Seven Million, I have my analysis on the interest part of this judgment and to sum it up for the past six-years this government has accumulated using a conservative 5% of this Twenty-Seven Million because it depends on the judgment or the interest only. It depends on the judgment some are 3%, some are 6%, some are 9% so I used 5% and within the last message, which was 2013 message from the – I just used the message from the Attorney General and that every time they go to the court it is the obligation of the Legislature to appropriate money for judgment rendered. And as such for the past six years, my rough estimation using the 5% of the Twenty-Seven Million, we have reached about Thirty Million that is almost \$5.1 Million every year. So I guess my point Mr. Speaker is that as we progress we need to come to some consensus of what we really want to prioritize other than public purpose. The public purpose on my opinion rests with the essential delivery of services, public health, public education, as well as the other essential services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. That was quite a lengthy comment, but towards the end I am seeing that you are raising concerns that we should consider during the actual budget process. Concerns primarily with the judgments, but was there a question in there for the Chairman to respond to?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: No.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, thank you. Members take note of the comments made, I think it was just to highlight or raise the concern – a concern that has been raised every year. And I agree with the concern that has been made, but to continue on for now because that would be raised during the budget process. For now are there any further comments on the actual House Concurrent Resolution? Recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just to comment to the committee. Thank you Chairman for getting the concurrent resolution ready to go for us to be acting on. We are going to be adopting a ceiling with the concurrent resolution, but in the actual appropriations summary where you were appropriating \$153,109,737.00. So this is just to say that all the outside sources have been embedded into the budget? So we are setting a ceiling, but we are going to be passing a budget at a large rate. So just a request to maybe the office of OMB to extract the outside sources because we do not have the authority to appropriate that within our actual budget. We are setting our limitations at one forty five and at the end when the budget bill comes out it is going to be at one fifty three because it is embedded through all the numbers and this has happened in the past and all we need is OMB to extract the numbers because that is only for informational purposes. If it is embedded in those specific compact impact money is specific to where it can be used and it is done by percentage and that is in the Governor’s message it even states that but yet it is embedded into the entire budget itself. If you look at the third to the last page of the Governor’s communication it says, “Funding from Compact Impact will also be allocated to PSS; however, recipients of compact impact will be determine upon the final calculation base on the data provided by each of the intended recipients.” It is actually embedded into the budget. We do not know where it is embedded in other than the 1.7 that goes to Labor other than that everything else is embedded. So we are going to be approving a ceiling here, but we are going to be appropriating a larger number, which we cannot do that unless we are going to add taxes in the budget bill.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: To respond, Chairman.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you. Basically to appoint that statement is correct the way the worksheet is presented to the Legislature incorporates the compact impact. Again, the compact impact are estimates that they are forthcoming and they are not actually available and the resolution itself is basically to recognize and approve the projected revenue subject to appropriation, which is in the amount of \$145,820,375.00 and when we act on the budget we will ensure that work should reflect that. Again, the outside sources are – and we have discussed this with our technical analysis that we make sure that we work with OMB to resolve their entry so it is basically a book entry. We are not going to approve One Fifty Three that is not money that does not come from general revenue. So for the members information the concurrent resolution is basically to accept the Governor’s projection in the amount of – first of all the \$183,555,000 including the outside sources, but for budgetary purposes and appropriation purposes we are going to be looking at how we allot the remaining \$145,820,375.00. So it is noted and again the One Fifty Three number as reflected in the worksheet as provided to this body is something we need to iron out with OMB and it is basically a book procedure issue. So we are aware of that and we will address it, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Attao, you still have the floor.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you. I just wanted to make sure that we have that ceiling and we are not appropriating more because if we look at the actual budget, the members might actually assume that we have more money than we have so that we can move money around. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Did I see you raise your hand Representative Roman Benavente?

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the Chairman with regards to the alignment from the Governor to assign the money of the CW fee to labor. Is that appropriate? I would like to ask you based on your own calculation.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I think we can generally state this but that is one of the areas that we need to do – we already addressed it during the resource meeting on the rationale – the justification for assigning the \$1.7 to labor and basically it is that they want to make sure that one agency is accountable to the expenditure of those funds that we do not just give them to NMC or PSS or NMTI and they use it for other operational cost other than actual expenditures for actual training as intended by the CW fee program. So we would clarify that but that is the rationale that the Chair and the members received during our resource program. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Benavente, I have to caution that we stay on the subject of the resources.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: I am just staying on the subject of the resources and basically the reason why I pose this question is that on the 18th Legislature it was the disposal of the legislature and we were able to assign the budget over towards NMC, PSS, and NMTI. Unfortunately, right now it is given to the Governor. I am not in question of the authority of the Governor, I am just saying do you think as the Chairman of the committee do you feel that it would satisfy for us to accept that approach or what? Is it the legal aspects of giving it to – since that is CW fee is it more of a funding resource that is coming from a nonresident – it is almost like a grant funding that comes about from taxes that were given by the US Immigration. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. For the last time, recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the members if the new members would go back to the current budget, the section on the CW workers is not at the disposal of the legislature. The administrative provision under that distribution basically sends the recommendation to the Governor that we are recommending that the CW fees be distributed as follows. So it is basically pursuant to a spending authorization through the Governor's office and again that money was not at the dispose of the Legislature. We basically submitted that number – the distribution for the respective institutions as a recommendation to the Office of the Governor. So that is the situation and I think it is almost what we are seeing here, but hopefully we will resolve this issue when we get to the budget hearing. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Now recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line of what the Chairman mentioned, pursuant to US Public Law 110-229 section 702 these funds can only be used towards training and educational system. Now, would that be an issue if it goes to a department that would then determine what should the education or training should be? So that is my

concern as far as 110-229 is concern that these funds could only be used for training and education and now that it is embedded in Department of Labor, does that mean there will be rules and regulation promulgated again under Department of Labor? So just a concern that we might be infringing in US laws as the intended funds can be used for so that is just a comment and I do not think the Chairman can answer. It is just something I want to bring up. Also on the revenue transfers to other funds, GHLI \$4.5 Million is earmarked, but just to note that in the Governor's proposal GHLI retirees is \$3.5 Million and active employee is \$1.2 Million so that is \$3.7 of an extra fund of \$800,000 so just something we can look at as far as where the cushions are at. My other concern is on electronic gaming under Public Law 18-30 2015 we earmarked \$2.5 Million this year. It looks like it is only a million dollars, so my concern and I did bring this up with the Secretary of Finance as to what are the current collections during the past – almost a year so we should know. I think if the one million is appropriate versus \$2.5 that we earmarked last year so it is something that might be understated and it is a concern to me. I did ask Secretary of Finance with regards to reports coming out of MVA with the \$12 Million dollars it looks like they are increasing with – well it is actually reduced \$12.160 so based on last year's earmark and this year's earmark there is a difference with \$165,000 for additional and I see there is more than \$10 Million Dollars that is embedded somewhere and I would like to know where that is. So that is just my concern Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, for your concerns and it is so noted Chairman of Ways and Means. So did you have a question in there somewhere?

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: No.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just comments. Alright, thank you. Further discussions or comments?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: This would be roll call, so if we are ready to vote. Madame Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 19-1 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes

Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With the vote of 19 “yes,” House Concurrent Resolution 19-1 is hereby adopted. We have one item on the next item XVI, Bill Calendar, let us dispose of that. Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have one item on our Bill Calendar on item XVI. Senate Bill 19-8, SD1, “A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC §1104(a), removing the time of 11:00 a.m. for the Inaugural Session; and for other purposes.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

S. B. NO. 19-8, SD1, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC §1104(a), removing the time of 11:00 a.m. for the Inaugural Session; and for other purposes.

[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of March 18, 2015] [See Sen. Comm. 19-4]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. A motion has been offered and seconded. Under discussion, recognize Representative Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to offer a floor amendment.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Do you have copies for the members?

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Yes, Legal Counsel please.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Maybe we can put it up on ELMO. Can everybody see the proposed floor amendment? Continue on the proposed amendment Representative Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to offer a floor amendment to Senate Bill 19-8, SD1.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita offered the following floor amendment:

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO S. B. NO. 19-08, SD1

S.B. NO. 19-08, SD1 is amended as follows:

I. Page 1, lines 17 through Page 2, line 3, is amended to read:

“**Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 1104(a) is amended to read as follows:

“Each house of the legislature shall:

(a) The House of Representatives shall convene at 10:00 a.m. and the Senate shall cConvene at 11:00 a.m. for organizational purposes on Saipan on the second Monday of January in the year following the regular general election at which members of the legislature are elected and shall be a continuous body for the two years between these organizational meetings.”

II. Page 1, lines 7-12 are amended as follows:

“purposes be conducted at 11:00 a.m. ~~The organizational session time should be flexible rather than restricted to 11:00 a.m. The time for the organization session should be decided by the presiding officers of the legislature. Removing the specific time allows the presiding officers the opportunity to schedule their organizational sessions at different times so that the general public, family members and dignitaries may attend both inauguration session.~~

III. Page 1, lines 13-16. Strike present language and replace with the following:

“the purpose of this Act is to amend 1 CMC § 1104(a) to change the requirement that the organization session be conducted at 10:00 a.m. by the House and 11:00 a.m. by the Senate.”

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

DATE: April 24, 2015

OFFERED BY: /s/ Rep. Glenn L. Maratita

Reviewed by

/s/ John F. Cool
House Legal Counsel

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Maratita. Can everybody see the proposed amendment? It amends what the Senate Bill proposes. Senate Bill basically allows for the presiding officers, pro-tem, or majority of the incumbent members and members elect of each house to set the time and so the amendment by Representative Maratita would set the time and not allow it to be dependent on the presiding officers. Several reasons why the Senate Bill as it is currently written is concerning. Our concerns is that in the event that there is no leadership up until the day of the inauguration it could cause – there is no presiding officer pro-tem, what could

happen is that up until that very day the time could not be set so that this amendment allows for the 10:00 a.m., which has been traditionally the time for organizational session, but it separates the House and the Senate for one hour so that the Senate can convene at 11:00 a.m. and presumably be done by 12:00 p.m. in time for lunch. It is a very simple amendment. It has been offered and seconded and ready for discussion. Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to add to the purpose and the intent of the legislation and again for every inauguration there is a number of inaugurations happening on the same date and that is just to afford the family members and friends to attend the other inaugural ceremony such as the Municipal Council, the Mayor's and the Senate counterparts. So again, the intent is to provide for other members of the committee to participate in the various inauguration activities on those days. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Also because it is by tradition that the Municipal Council, Mayors tend to hold their inaugural activities right about 8:00 in the morning and it allows those officials to also attend our inauguration and we see that every year, Municipal Councils, Mayor's also attend our inauguration so it is for that purpose. Also the 10 o'clock allows the Sergeant-at-Arms and DPS to be able to conduct their safety measures – clear the building in time for the inaugural session. So with that we are still open for discussion. Are we ready?

Several members voiced "ready".

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Glenn L. Maratita was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So Senate Bill 19-8, SD1 would be HD1. And we go back to the main motion as offered by the Floor Leader on the bill Senate Bill 19-8 as amended. Further discussions? Are we ready?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 19-8, SD1, HD1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes

Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” Senate Bill 19-8, SD1, HD1 hereby passes the House. Let us move on to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. Are there any Miscellaneous Business at this time? Recognize Representative Edmund Villagomez.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: I do not know if I am going to be in order, but I just want to say something relating to my resolution. I just want to respectfully ask the Chairman to please work on it as soon as you can. I also want to go on record saying that this resolution is not to say that I am against taking care of the essential needs. This resolution was just very neutral and just like what the committee wants to do in terms of reviewing the resolution this resolution is to convey that report over to the experts to review it anyway. I just wanted to get on record to say that I am not against providing for those essential needs. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Any other miscellaneous matters? If not, let us move down to Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any announcements to be made? First recognize Representative Lee Pan Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the House members, please the 34th Flame Tree Festival is in gear it started last night. Today until Sunday from five to nine tonight and then the weekends until eleven. The other announcement is the month of May is tourism month, there is a proclamation on Wednesday at ten at the Governor’s conference room. MVA is inviting everyone for the Annual Taste of the Marianas starting on May 2nd and ending on the last Saturday on the 30th it is six to eleven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Guerrero. I recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just to extend an invitation to all the members. I know now that we have adopted House Concurrent Resolution 19-1, the Chair would start working under the budget committee department hearings and I just wanted to extend an invitation to all the members, even nonmembers of the committee to sit in during this budget process certainly would afford everybody the opportunity to raise issues and all that. So I just

thought I would share that so whoever anyone who is here is welcome to join us during the budget hearing, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Antonio Sablan. Now recognize Representative Edwin Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also to announce to the members that we are having our Annual San Jose Fiesta the following weekend on the first, second and third. So please come down and spend your money.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Aldan for the invitation. Are there any other announcements? Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know all the members have received the cards from MarForPac regarding the public meetings for the CGMTDEISOEIS and I just want to encourage the members and ask the members to encourage the people in your respective precincts to take an active participation in these public meetings. The issue of militarization has become a very contentious issue here and because of the lack of participation, we let the mid and the murk issue reach this point and at this point now there is an awakening in the Commonwealth and so I want to ask the indulgence of the members to get together and encourage the constituents in your respective precincts to come out and voice their concerns and defend the community we live in and the islands that we proudly call home. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Any further announcements? Recognize Representative Taimanao.

Representative Francis S. Taimanao: If you have not been informed the Micronesian Renewable Energy will be holding a south opening this evening. So if you really want to retrofit your home and save a few bucks in your utility bills, please they are open from five to eight in Gualo Rai across Shell. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. If there are no other announcements, I also want to announce that consistent with past tradition we have held our last session on Rota and the Chair plans to hold the next session on Tinian sometime early May, but definitely not for the fiesta it will probably be after the fiesta. Sometime end of the first week to the second week of May so just for head up and if you need assistance for travel or accommodation scheduling you can come to my office and we will try to assist. So with that any further announcements.

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader, motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that I move to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The House adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia A. Sanchez
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 19-18: To appropriate up to \$125,000.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purpose. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session 4/9/15:

H. B. NO. 19-41: To require all vehicles belonging to tour companies to be registered with the Department of Commerce and be issued a permit number for each vehicle; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 19-42: To require all tour companies and agents to register and be issued a permit by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, and Glenn L. Maratita) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 19-43: To suspend the Investment Incentive Act, Qualifying Certificate Program for a period of five (5) years for new applicants; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 19-44: To require all scuba dive shop operators to impose a \$1.00 surcharge per customer to purchase, install, operate, and maintain decompression chambers in the CNMI; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 19-45: To amend 4 CMC §50131(c), §50144(b)-(d), and §50145 to increase fines, fees, and penalties regarding illegal sales of tobacco; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 19-46: To amend 4 CMC §50144(b) to harshen the penalties and fines of businesses engaging in the illegal sale of tobacco to minors; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon

Guerrero, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 19-47: To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 to criminalize the sale and/or resale of products purchased or obtained from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (“AAFES”) and to authorize the Commonwealth Department of Commerce, Division of Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control, and the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and prosecute violations of this Act; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 19-48: To appropriate Three-Hundred Thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) from the Deportation Fund, allotted under Public Law No. 10-1, to supplement drug enforcement efforts of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 19-49: To repeal and re-enact 3 CMC §5411, and to amend and add sections to 3 CMC §5454 to improve boating safety in the CNMI; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-50: To amend 1 CMC §2902, §2903, and §2904 to include reappointed officials in the advice and consent process; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angel A. Demapan, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-51: To amend 4 CMC §8143(c) and add sections (g) and (h) to extend the grace period of Twenty-One (21) to Thirty (30) days and to remove the Disconnections Notice – Electric Fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15) to prevent any unnecessary financial stress to the struggling residents; and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Francis S. Taimanao of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

H. B. NO. 19-52: To amend 4 CMC §2308 to amend and add subsections (f) and (g) to include NMC and NMTI as recipients of the funds generated from the Gross Revenue Tax; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: Rep. Francis S. Taimanao of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. L. B. NO. 19-18: To appropriate up to \$125,000.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purpose. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015.

H. L. B. NO. 19-19: To appropriate \$35,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015.

H. J. R. NO. 19-2: To support the position of the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos and the Commonwealth Ports Authority that Tinian should be the sole location of the proposed construction and implementation of military exercises to expand the divert capabilities of the United States Air Force. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, and Francis S. Taimanao) on April 9, 2015; calendared.

H. J. R. NO. 19-3: Requesting that the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos oppose any and all proposed military use of Pagan and oppose any increase military activities in the Northern Islands. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Edwin K. Propst, and Antonio P. Sablan) on April 9, 2015; calendared.

C. RES. NO. 19-1: To convey sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to the bereaved family of the Late Honorable Tobias “Toby” Dela Cruz Aldan on the occasion of his untimely passing and paying tribute to his services to the people of the Commonwealth. Introduced by REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 9, 2015; calendared.

C. RES. NO. 19-2: To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2015 as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8th as International Women’s Day. Introduced by REP. FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 9, 2015; calendared.

House information on deadlines for override: