



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2015

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

First Day, Fourth Special Session

Thursday, June 4, 2015

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Fourth Special Session on Thursday, June 4, 2015, at 10:12 a.m., in the Tinian Courthouse in San Jose Village, Tinian.

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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before we rise, I would like to ask that we keep Ms. Reyisa King Aldan in our prayers as we rise for a moment of silent prayer.

A moment of silence was observed.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I ask the House Clerk to call the roll, let me first take the time to acknowledge the presence of those members present in our gallery. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Mayor of Tinian, Mayor Joey San Nicolas. Recognize also the Resident Director Gill Borja, Mayor's aide Mr. Antonio Evangelista, Mr. David Evangelista PIO. Chairman of the Tinian Municipal Council Chairman Ray Cing and if I did not recognize any, I apologize. I would like to recognize all of you to the House Session here on Tinian. I also want to thank the Tinian Judicial Branch for allowing us to use their facility and our good Congressman from Tinian, Congressman Edwin Aldan also. The people of Tinian for welcoming us and for their kind hospitality and with that Madame Clerk, can you please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and seventeen members were present; Representatives Edwin K. Propst, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul was absent and excused.

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members are present and 3 members are absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Let the record reflect that Representatives Villagomez, Yumul, and Propst are hereby excused for today's session and you will find that they have a House Communication informing the Speaker about their absence. Before we go to item II, Public Comments – I failed to mention the CEO Special Assistant for the Mayor, Mr. Jose Kiyoshi. At this time, let us move on to – recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we move on so that we are in order regarding the dress code today is Thursday and not Friday. So I would like to go ahead and make a motion that we suspend Rule V, Section 8 so that we may continue businesses. This is regarding the dress code.

RULE V. DECORUM AND DEBATE.

Section 8. Dress Code.

All members and officers appearing on the Floor of the House shall be suitably attired. Members shall wear business shirt and tie, and on Fridays may wear formal island wear.
[Note: Rule V, Section 8, amended by H. RES. 19-19, HSI]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and it has been seconded to suspend pertinent rules relating to dress codes. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. One more?

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Yes Mr. Speaker, thank you. I know there is a bill and a resolution that is not on our agenda and also a couple of communications. I would like to make a motion that we amend it in case the public on certain legislations. On that note Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a motion that we suspend Rule 9, Section 4 (d), this is to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items on it. I would like to call on a roll call on that motion. 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: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered to amend the agenda to include legislation and correspondence that does not appear on today’s Order of Business it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Members. Madame Clerk, 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With all 17 members voting “yes,” the motion to amend the agenda as offered by the Floor Leader hereby passes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, we are now in item II, Public Comments. Anyone wishes to offer any public comments, I ask that you step up to the podium and state your name for the record. For those that just came in if we have copies of our Order of Business up on the podium if you want to take a look at what is on today’s agenda.

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Joey San Nicolas, Mayor of Tinian
Mr. Ray Cing, District Director for Department of Public Land
15th Municipal Council Chairman

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Again, we look forward to any public comments you may have if you have already taken a look at today’s Order of Business and I welcome any comments. It is still open. If not, we will continue. Before we go further just an announcement for the members, I believe our good Congressman has scheduled a resolution presentation sometime this morning so we will have to play by year and when they are ready we will go ahead and take a short recess for a resolution presentation. Chairman Aldan, do you wish to?

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: One of the recipient is requesting if we can do it before 11:30 to 12:00 because he is still on his way from Saipan.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We will just wait for your cue. At this time, since there are no journals for adoption for this morning let us move to item IV, Introduction of Bills.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The Chair recognizes the first mover, Representative Taimanao.

Representative Francis S. Taimanao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to officially introduce House Bill 19-69, “To appropriate the associated interest of One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand USD (\$143,000) in bond funds for road paving projects in Kagman III, Phase I; and to appropriate the associated interest in bond funds for the years 2015 through 2020 for road paying and drainage system in Kannat Tabla and Kagman III, Phase II, III, and IV.” Prefiled by me and Mr. Speaker I welcome any member to join this introduction.

H. B. NO. 19-69: To appropriate the associated interest of One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand USD (\$143,000) in bond funds for road paving projects in Kagman III, Phase I; and to appropriate the associated interest in bond funds for the years 2015 through 2020 for road paying and drainage system in Kannat Tabla and Kagman III, Phase II, III, and IV.

REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Taimanao. Anybody wishes to cosponsor, please see the Clerk. At this time, House Bill 19-69 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. For the next introduction, Madame Clerk I did not see the – I did not look at the communication yet, but did Representative Villaogomez delegate a Representative? Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Formally introducing House Bill 19-70 on behalf of Representative Edmund S. Villagomez, “Relating to veterans’ relief by permitting private employers to exercise a voluntary veterans’ preference in employment; and for other purposes.” Introduced by himself and I am sure he has been through coauthors. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-70: Relating to veterans’ relief by permitting private employers to exercise a voluntary veterans’ preference in employment; and for other purposes.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Attao. House Bill 19-70 will be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Now recognized Representative Ogumoro for the next introduction.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now formally introduce House Bill 19-71, “To require each public school, i.e. elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth to prepare its fiscal year budget on an annual basis and to require the Commissioner of Education to incorporate such budget with the budgets of the Office of the Commissioner and the State Board of Education on an annual basis for submission to the Legislature for appropriation; pursuant to this Act.” Introduced by me and all of you are welcome to cosponsor it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

H. B. NO. 19-71: To require each public school, i.e. elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth to prepare its fiscal year budget on an annual basis and to require the Commissioner of Education to incorporate such budget with the budgets of the Office of the Commissioner and the State Board of Education on an annual basis for submission to the Legislature for appropriation; pursuant to this Act.

REP. FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*)

(Referred to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro. House Bill 19-71 will be referred to the Committee on HEW. Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Formally introducing House Bill 19-72, “To increase the excise tax on the importation of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) into the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and several others and I welcome other individuals to join in. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-72: To increase the excise tax on the importation of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) into the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, 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, Representative Attao. House Bill 19-72 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. We have a House Bill that did not make the prefiling requirements as required by our House Rules. So for the next introduction for House Bill 19-73, recognize Representative Taimanao.

Representative Francis S. Taimanao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. “To amend the Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1996 as codified at 9 CMC section 3114 of the Commonwealth Code in order to provide for the “automatic” adoption of all rules, regulations, appendices, and other comparable regulations established and approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation Title 49 CFR,

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).” Prefiled by me and again Mr. Speaker I offer other members to coauthor. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-73: To amend the Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1996 as codified at 9 CMC section 3114 of the Commonwealth Code in order to provide for the “automatic” adoption of all rules, regulations, appendices, and other comparable regulations established and approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation Title 49 CFR, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Taimanao. House Bill 19-73 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Are there any other introduction of bills? Recognize Representative Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am introducing an unnumbered House Bill, “To amend 4 CMC §8402 (f) to exclude private contractors from the definition of a public utility; and for other purposes.”

H. B. NO. 19-74: To amend 4 CMC §8402 (f) to exclude private contractors from the definition of a public utility; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, would that be House Bill 19-74?

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Correct Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Please take note members and Representative Aldan please provide it to our House Clerk. Are there any further House Bills for – members will be getting copies if we are able to make copies here or later on. For now, House Bill 19-74 it was just introduced by Representative Aldan will be referred to the Committee on PUTC. Are there any other House Bills for introduction this morning? I am not seeing any, are there any House Local Bills for introduction? Recognize Representative Aldan.

House Local Bills:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I am introducing an unnumbered House Local Bill, “To authorize, establish and regulate the operation of Chamorro Gaming of Cockfight, Bingo and Batu in the Second Senatorial District and to repeal in its entirety, Chapter 4 of Division 2 of Title 10 of the Commonwealth Code and all provisions of the Tinian Local Laws pertaining to licensing of Cockfighting; and for other purposes.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

H. L. B. NO. 19-26: To authorize, establish and regulate the operation of Chamorro Gaming of Cockfight, Bingo and Batu in the Second Senatorial District and to repeal in its entirety, Chapter 4 of Division 2 of Title 10 of the Commonwealth Code and all

provisions of the Tinian Local Laws pertaining to licensing of Cockfighting; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Aldan. Any House Local Bills for introduction? If not, under item (c) House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair recognizes Representative Angel Demapan.

House Legislative Initiatives:

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, it is my pleasure to introduce House Legislative Initiative 19-2, “To amend Article XIV of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to add a provision prohibiting destructive military activities.” Introduced by myself, the Congressman from Tinian Representative Aldan and five others and open for additional cosponsors. Thank you.

H. L. I. NO. 19-2: To amend Article XIV of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to add a provision prohibiting destructive military activities.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, and Antonio P. Sablan)
(**Referred to the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs**)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Angel Demapan. HLI 19-2 will be referred to your Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs. Are there any further initiatives for introduction? If not that takes care of item IV and we now move to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and the Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have one resolution for introduction. House Resolution 19-21, “Supporting the Department of Public Works request to amend §70-30.3-220 (c) “Small Purchases” in the Procurement Regulation of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code.” Introduced by myself, Representative Angel Demapan and Representative John Paul Sablan and open for anymore cosponsors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

H. RES. NO. 19-21: Supporting the Department of Public Works request to amend §70-30.3-220 (c) “Small Purchases” in the Procurement Regulation of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code.

REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Angel A. Demapan, and John Paul P. Sablan)
(**Moved to Resolution Calendar**)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. And if there is no objection, House Resolution 19-21 will be placed on today’s Resolution Calendar.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Members. The Chair also has one resolution for introduction today it would be House Resolution 19-22, “In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Late Iiga Pisa’s daring and courageous voyage from Saipan to Guam in a Samoan paddling canoe.” Members, I want to ask if there is no objection to ask that this resolution be introduced by the Committee as a Whole.

H. RES. NO. 19-22: In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Late Iiga Pisa’s daring and courageous voyage from Saipan to Guam in a Samoan paddling canoe.

REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. 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, and Ramon A. Tebuteb)

(Moved to Resolution Calendar)

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Madame Clerk, please take note and copies would be made available to everyone. Are there any further House Resolutions for introduction? Any House Joint Resolutions? Commemorative Resolutions? If not, let us move on. Also before we move to the next item that if there is no objection again that House Resolution 19-22 be also placed on today’s Resolution Calendar?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Members. We now move on to – Madame Clerk, are there any Senate Communications that have come in?

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: None, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So let us move down to item VIII, House Communications. Recognize our House Clerk.

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk read the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 19-28: From Representative Villagomez informing the Speaker that he will not be attending the House Session scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015 due to medical follow-up appointment, and request Representative Attao to introduce H.B. No. 19-70 on his behalf. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-29: From Representative Yumul informing the Speaker that he will not be attending the House Session scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015 due to personal matters. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-30: From Representative Propst informing the Speaker that he will not be attending the House Session scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015 due flight cancelation as a result of unpredictable and inclement weather and immediate attention to personal matters. [*For info*]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any comments under item VIII? Ready?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I do not see any communications from the Judicial Branch, Department and Agencies or Miscellaneous Communications. Madame Clerk, still no communications from these items?

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: None, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Let us move on then to the next item, which is item XII, Reports of Standing Committees. At this time, the Chair will turn it over to our Floor Leader.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have two Standing Committee Reports ready for adoption. First is Standing Committee Report 19-11, reporting on House Bill 19-5 entitled, “To amend 4 CMC § 1402(c)(7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance or his or her designee the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes; and for other purposes.” From your Committee on Ways and Means recommending the bill be passed in the form of House Bill 19-5, HD1. Mr. Speaker, I move for its adoption.

S. C. R. NO. 19-11: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-5, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 1402(c)(7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance or his or her designee the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-5, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 19-11 it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-11 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 Standing Committee Report 19-12, reporting on House Bill 19-7 entitled, “To amend 4 CMC § 1939 (a) of the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act; and for other purposes.” From your Committee on Ways and Means recommending the passage of the bill in its current form. Mr. Speaker, I move for its adoption.

S. C. R. NO. 19-12: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-7, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 1939 (a) of the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-12. The motion has been seconded. Do I hear any discussions on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-12 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is nothing under Special and Conference Committees, no Unfinished Business. So let us now recognize the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the two committee reports 19-11 and 19-12 being adopted, if there is no objection I would like to request that they both be placed in today's Bill Calendar for action. Both are revenue generating bills and if we have the opportunity to act on this of course if there is no objection.

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. It is my bad that I did not make that note, but it is automatic that once members adopt the Standing Committee Report automatically go on to the Bill Calendar. So yes for the record, House Bill 19-5, HD1 and House Bill 19-7 will be placed on today's Bill Calendar. Thank you, Representative Sablan.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If there is no objection, we now move on to item XV, Resolution Calendar. I stand corrected we did introduce the two resolutions, but neither passed or met the pre-filing requirement so we cannot act on it today. So the two resolutions that were introduced today, House Resolutions 19-21 and 19-22 will stay on the Resolution Calendar until the next session for action. At this time, let us move on to item XVI, Bill Calendar and turn it over to our Floor Leader.

There were no discussions or actions on the following resolutions.

H. RES. NO. 19-21: Supporting the Department of Public Works request to amend §70-30.3-220 (c) "Small Purchases" in the Procurement Regulation of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code.

REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Angel A. Demapan, and John Paul P. Sablan)

H. RES. NO. 19-22: In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Late Iga Pisa's daring and courageous voyage from Saipan to Guam in a Samoan paddling canoe.

REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogomoro, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, and Ramon A. Tebuteb)

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have several bills on our Bill Calendar. One of them is House Bill 19-19, "A Bill for an Act to amend Section 4 of Public Law

11-87 in order to allow the local bidder preference provisions can take effect.” This bill originated from Standing Committee Report 19-7. Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage of House Bill 19-19, so move.

H. B. NO. 19-19

A Bill for an Act to amend Section 4 of Public Law 11-87 in order to allow the local bidder preference provisions can take effect. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-7]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is for the passage of House Bill 19-19 and it has been seconded. This is the local bidder preference bill. At this time, the Chair will entertain any discussion on 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 for the passage of House Bill 19-19 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With the unanimous vote of seventeen, House Bill 19-19 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next on the Bill Calendar is House Bill 19-51, “A Bill for an Act 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 Disconnection

Notice–Electric Fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15) to prevent any unnecessary financial stress to the struggling residents; and for other purposes.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-51

A Bill for an Act 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 Disconnection Notice–Electric Fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15) to prevent any unnecessary financial stress to the struggling residents; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-6]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to pass House Bill 19-51, the motion has been seconded. Any discussions on 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 for the passage of House Bill 19-51 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With all seventeen voting in the affirmative, House Bill 19-51 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next is House Bill 19-8, HD1, this is “A Bill for an Act to prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-8, HD1

A Bill for an Act to prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-2]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. This is for the passage of House Bill 19-8 with reference to Standing Committee Report 19-2, motion has been seconded. Any discussion on 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 for the passage of House Bill 19-8, 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Clerk. With the vote of 17 “yes,” House Bill 19-8, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next we have House Bill 19-9, this is “A Bill for an Act to update the open container laws of the Commonwealth.” Reference to Standing Committee Report 19-3, Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-9

A Bill for an Act to update the open container laws of the Commonwealth. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-3]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion is to pass House Bill 19-9 and it has been seconded. Any discussion on 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 for the passage of House Bill 19-9 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Seventeen votes in the affirmative, House Bill 19-9 hereby passes the House. I do not want to say we are on a roll for a fear of jinxing, but I am sure that this is just the short grass. Floor Leader on the next one.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, next we have House Bill 19-13, HD1, “A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC section 5631 to authorize 1.5 inch net mesh to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during their seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District.” Reference to Standing Committee Report 19-4. Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-13, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC section 5631 to authorize 1.5 inch net mesh to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during their seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District. *See [S. C. R. NO. 19-4]*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded for the passage of House Bill 19-13, HD1 authored by Representative Roman Benavente. Any discussion on 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 for the passage of House Bill 19-13, 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With the vote of 17 “yes,” House Bill 19-13, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next is House Bill 19-14, HD1 is “A Bill for an Act to increase motorcycle operator’s safety by requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets to operators, providing operator instruction courses, and issuing motorcycle driver’s license endorsements.” Reference to Standing Committee Report 19-9. Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-14, HD1

A Bill for an Act to increase motorcycle operator’s safety by requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets to operators, providing operator instruction courses, and issuing motorcycle driver’s license endorsements. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-9]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion is to pass House Bill 19-14, HD1 it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If there are no discussions the Chair would like to a very simple floor amendment although I do not have a written floor amendment. Let me explain the amendment and maybe ask the members that if there is no objection that we treat it as a technical. On the bill itself on page 7, on line 22 the last line and it reads starting on line 21 underlined “Provided further, all persons leasing or renting motorcycles, motor scooters, and mopeds shall be offered the use of Department of transportation certified helmets...” and the motion is just to amend it to change the word “offered” so that the members do not offer it but change it to “provided” and that is also to make it consistent with the title of the bill. Under the title it says “requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets.” So to make it consistent with the title is just to change that one word from “offered” to “provided.” Legal Counsel, I just want to ask if there would be a legal problem considering this as a technical amendment?

Legal Counsel Joseph Tajeron: Mr. Speaker, normally this would not be – what we would consider a technical amendment, but given the fact that it is technically correct in the title, but not the same in the text – I would consider this in this now a circumstance a technical amendment. For purposes of this situation only we would not need the written floor amendment as it is a technical. The title is on the first page and then the text is on the bottom of page 7, line 22.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Having heard the legal opinion, are there any objections to this being considered a technical amendment?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. Thank you, Legal Counsel. Since it is not an amendment per se it would not change the HD1 just considered a technical amendment, I ask the Clerk to please take note and with that let us move on. Are there any further discussions on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-14, 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 | yes |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Members, with the vote of 17 “yes,” House Bill 19-14, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next coming from our Standing Committee Report just adopted today, Standing Committee Report 19-11, we have House Bill 19-5 entitled, “A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1402(c) (7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes; and for other purposes.” In the form of House Bill 19-5, HD1 Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-5, HD1

[S. C. R. NO. 19-11]

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1402(c) (7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is for the passage of House Bill 19-5, HD1 it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:05 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We now return back to our session. Prior to the short recess, we left off on item XVI, Bill Calendar. Motion was offered by the Floor Leader and seconded for the passage of House Bill 19-5, HD1. We were under discussions at this time the Chair recognizes Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to offer a floor amendment to House Bill 19-5,HD1.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan offered the following amendment:

Floor Amendment to HB 19-5, HD1

I. Move to amend the above-referenced bill (19-5) as follows:

At page 4, lines 9-11 the text should be amended to read as follows:

~~“(13) (12) Equipment, machinery, merchandise, devices, and other items~~ Refrigerators, stoves, ovens and other devices for preserving or cooking food, which are certified ENERGY STAR by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.”

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.

So offered:

/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Date: June 4, 2015

The motion was seconded.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker and members, basically this floor amendment is to narrow the types of merchandise to just home appliances as we know in this modern world there are a lot of devices are energy star standard at this time. So that is basically what this floor amendment is pretty much just limiting to refrigerators, stove, ovens and other devices for preserving and cooking food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So offered.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Motion has been offered and seconded to offer a floor amendment as stated by the mover. At this time, are there any discussion on the floor amendment? Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No discussion on the floor amendment just to be reflective of the document reflects that it is 19-5, HD1 is what we are amending. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let us consider that as a technical amendment. Any objections?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any further discussions on the floor amendment as offered by Representative John Paul Sablan?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative John Paul P. Sablan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: House Bill 19-5, HD1 will now be HD2. At this time, we are still under discussion on the main motion as offered by the Floor Leader.

Several members voiced “ready”.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-5, HD2 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With 17 “yes” votes, House Bill 19-5, HD2 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coming from Standing Committee Report 19-12, we have House Bill 19-7, “A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1939 (a) of the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act; and for other purposes.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-7

[S. C. R. NO. 19-12]

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1939 (a) of the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion is to pass House Bill 19-7 it has been seconded. Any discussion on 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 for the passage of House Bill 19-7 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | no |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 16 members voted “yes” and 1 member voted “no,” House Bill 19-7 hereby passes the House. The Chair now turn it back over to the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next on our Bill Calendar is Senate Bill 19-19, “A Bill for an Act to name the island of Saipan as the official capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.” reference to Senate Communication 19-19. Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

S. B. NO. 19-19

A Bill for an Act to name the island of Saipan as the official capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. *[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of April 9, 2015]* [See Sen. Comm. 19-19]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to pass Senate Bill 19-19, motion has been seconded. We will entertain any discussions at this time. I do not see any raise of hands 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 19-19 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 | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Felicidad T. Ogunoro | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With the vote of 17 “yes,” Senate Bill 19-19 hereby passes the House. At this time, we will take a short recess for a presentation of resolution. So let us take a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:36 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:31 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, we will return back to our session. We left off on item XVI, under Bill Calendar. I believe we have one more motion from the Floor Leader. The Chair now recognizes the Floor Leader for that motion.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On our Bill Calendar we have House Bill 19-47, HD1 this is “A Bill for an Act to amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 to deter 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, to enforce this Act; and for other purposes.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. NO. 19-47, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 to deter 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, to enforce this Act; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-8]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion is for the passage of House Bill 19-47, HD1 under discussion recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is no objection, I would like to move that we refer House Bill 19-47, House Draft 1 back to the committee for further studies and for the reasons are as follows, one; we solicited comments from the AG and they provided comments. The AG recommended that we amend Section 4 that we amend subsection 5553 (d) to change words to insert in “no more than” rather than “at least” and specifically the AG’s opinion is that if we do not do this the bill if it becomes law will be unconstitutional. That is the main issue that I wanted to refer it back to the committee so they can make the changes. There are also additional changes that I would like to mention other than the AG’s comment or recommendation. On page 3, line 20 Section 3 (c) it only include “A licensee, his agent or employee” but it did not include any person that would resale products from the AAFES or tobacco or any other merchandise purchase from AAEFES. Also on the same page 3, line 11 (a) that also needs to be amended to include as stated “A licensee, his/her agent or employee shall not sell or shall not purchase or shall not display for the purposes of selling or promoting any products sold or bought from the AAFES facility.” So for those reasons Mr. Speaker and members, if there is no objection I would like to refer this House Bill back to the committee for further changes. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Guerrero. At this time, if there is no objection I am going to ask the Floor Leader to withdraw his motion first and the offer a motion to refer it to committee.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I do that this bill came out of the Commerce and Tourism Committee. Referring it back it would be go to Representative Lee Pan’s committee, do you have any questions or have you received any word from the AG just so that it is on the record.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I have stated before that the AG is kind of backed up when it comes to submitting comments. There are a few bills before the committee and if the committee had entertained it and just when the committee finally made decision that is when the AG starts submitting their comments. Now, I know that the AG is probably just organizing because it is the first year, but we should be mindful that we have given them ample

time, more than thirty-day. If we are going to compliment the AG here then the AG is telling us that we will tell you when to act on the bill. So where is the fairness in that? Do we continue writing to the AG that we are giving you timeline. I think you have enough counsel to come up with a comment on the bill. I do not see the reason for the sixty or ninety-days. So if you want these bills out then the Speaker of the House you need to address this to the AG that we are giving you a timeline and if you do not provide a comment then so be it because we cannot detain the House with how they conduct the committee reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Lee Pan Guerrero. Point well taken. In the interest with this new information, I hope you do not object that we refer it back to committee perhaps you or if you wish I can write a letter to the AG reminding them that our process does have timelines. There is another way to approach this is either to pass or not to pass and there is still another step to this process and that is the Senate side, which they can also solicit comments and receive comments from the AG. Any further discussions? Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for everybody's information there is an AG comment on a letter dated May 6, 2015 and it included several other bills including House Bill 19-47 and for the reason I stated earlier that is the reason why I ask that we refer this to committee. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. So noted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Timely or not the question of constitutionality comes in and it is a matter that we do need to look into. On that note Mr. Speaker, I would like to withdraw my original motion for the passage of House Bill 19-47, HD1 and instead offer that we move House Bill 19-47, HD1 back to committee.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before we entertain that motion is there any objection to the Floor Leader withdrawing the motion to pass?

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Now then let us entertain the motion to refer it back to committee it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

There was no further discussion and the motion to recommit House Bill 19-47, HD1 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: In accordance with our earlier discussion that would then take care of the Bill Calendar.

No action was taken for the following legislations:

S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, HD1

A Bill for an Act to prohibit telecommunication companies from imposing an expiration date or forfeiture of unused cellular prepaid credits and MIFI credits; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-5]

H. B. NO. 19-5, HD1**[S. C. R. NO. 19-11]**

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1402(c) (7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes; and for other purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let us move on to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. Are there any Miscellaneous Business at this time? Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I just want to express my appreciation to the Mayor of Tinian and the Municipal Council and Representative Aldan for the hospitality that they have given us here during our House Session. More so, as the Chairman of your Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs because the municipality of Tinian plays a big role in the military proposals for the Commonwealth, I would like to thank the municipal government for their support for House Legislative Initiative 19-2 and I want to give the government and the people of Tinian the best assurance from your Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs that in the wake of military developments here and proposals that are here before us that the interest of the island and the people of Tinian will remain a priority for your committee and for the House. I would like to recognize Representative Aldan who serves as the Vice-Chairman for the Foreign and Federal Affairs Committee and the Chairman of Natural Resources, which both committees will play a role in the discussions which will be forthcoming regarding militarization. So I just wanted to deliver that message on the record for the people of Tinian that we will today and forevermore defend their interest and address the concerns that they have in terms of military proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Are there any other communications or comments? If not under Announcements? Recognize Representative Aldan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank everybody for coming down and making this possible. At the same time, I would like to thank the Tinian Municipal Council for providing us their extra mics and their recording to make this session possible today and also the judiciary for letting us use their complex. As you know, during the budget meeting I guess Chief Justice Castro requested that Tinian needs to expand their judicial building so next time you come here it would be a bigger space for us to conduct our session. I would like to thank the Mayor for helping out in coordinating some of these arrangements. Also tonight we will be having a small dinner BBQ for any of the members that stay. We will be at the Tago Beach at 6:00 p.m. So flip-flops and ready to swim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Chair now recognizes Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would also go on record to thank the members of the House and their staff participated in the coin drive relief for the Ayuda Luta Relief Effort. We are pleased to report that that relief effort generated exactly \$2,000.00 in funding assistance for our brother and sisters in Rota and I think it is a good gesture of support for our colleague from Rota and the good people of Rota who open their hearts and who are very generous to us in our visit there for our House Session. I also want to thank the Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation for his decision to make a donation on behalf of the delegation of \$2,100.00 that would be translated to the requested goods from the municipality namely butane canisters and dried goods like rice. The Chairman has come up with that figure \$2,100.00 to symbolize \$100.00 from each member of the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Are there any further announcements? Recognize Representative Glenn Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, just to put a note on what our good colleague Angel Demapan was saying and sincerely apologize it never crossed my mind earlier, but yes on behalf of the people of Rota we appreciate the good gesture and the good deeds the members of the House have shown and demonstrated and of course again I thank each member and their staff for making the coin drive possible. Again on behalf of the people of Rota *un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Maratita. If not, again as you mentioned earlier tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. Ways and Means Committee will be holding a meeting with the Mayor of Tinian or a budget hearing here. Chairman Aldan would it be here or the Mayor's Office?

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Mayor's Office Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At the Mayor's Office at 10 a.m. and invite all members not just Ways and Means to also join in and participate. I believe we also have some community work. I would like to turn it over to Chairman Aldan to inform us where we are going to meet and so forth.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the meeting area will be before you head up Broadway through those palm trees from there we just head down to Taga Beach on the road side. We have trash bags and pick-up trailers who will assist us.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: After lunch?

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: After the meeting and lunch. We will have the meeting in the morning and then after lunch we will meet up at Broadway.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Aldan. I believe that takes care of our activities here on Tinian as far as announcements. Any further announcements before we adjourn?

Several members voiced “ready”.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

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 12:31 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. 19-23: To re-name Gapet Lane, Dancing Place and Manha Lane to “Tan Marikitan Pan Lane”, Joeten-Daidai Place” and “Nan Iching Lane” respectively to pay tribute to their contributions to the CNMI. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, George N. Camacho, Antonio P. Sablan, and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 22, 2015.

H. L. B. NO. 19-25: To amend Sections 2 and 3 of Tinian Local Law 19-1; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

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. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero) on April 24, 2015.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session 5/22/15:

H. B. NO. 19-59: To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School to enter into a loan agreement for a sum not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 for the purposes of building additional classrooms, Early Head Start Centers, and to pave roads and parking lots at its facilities in Rota and Tinian; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Angel A. Demapan, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph T. Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 19-60: To re-appropriate Four Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$450,000.00) from the Tobacco Control Fund, allotted under Public Law No. 13-38, to supplement drug enforcement efforts of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 19-61: To establish the Related Service Providers Scholarship; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Education.

H. B. NO. 19-62: To amend Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code regarding motor vehicle licensure and rental. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-63: To require that all persons convicted of burglary, robbery, or theft register with the Department of Public Safety and that the community be notified concerning the location of registered offenders when necessary to ensure public safety. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-64: To amend the laws regarding the crime of burglary and receiving stolen property; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-65: To prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representative Vinson F. Sablan) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. B. NO. 19-66: To amend 9 CMC §5602 to include crosswalks, designated school bus stops, school drop zones, and pick up zones to protect our children and pedestrians from speeding vehicles; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Ralph N. Yumul) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-67: To amend 1 CMC §8536(b) and 1 CMC §8537(b) to authorize public officials to appear as an advocate for constituents before a Commonwealth government entity; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-68: To amend the Youth Affairs Act of 2001 as codified as 1 CMC §20105 and 20108 through 20112; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. L. B. NO. 19-22: To appropriate \$44,000.00 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

H. L. B. NO. 19-23: To re-name Gapet Lane, Dancing Place and Manha Lane to “Tan Marikitan Pan Lane”, Joeten-Daidai Place” and “Nan Iching Lane” respectively to pay tribute to their contributions to the CNMI. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, George N. Camacho, Antonio P. Sablan, and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 22, 2015.

H. L. B. NO. 19-24: To re-appropriate \$300,000.00 from the Tinian Local Law 18-9; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015

H. L. B. NO. 19-25: To amend Sections 2 and 3 of Tinian Local Law 19-1; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

H. L. I. NO. 19-1: To amend Article XII, Section 4 of the Northern Marianas Islands Constitution; and for other purposes. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. RES. NO. 19-19: To amend the Official Rules of Procedure of the House of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; and calendared.

H. RES. NO. 19-20: To respectfully request an extension of 180 days from the Department of the Navy for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to comprehensively review and prepare a cohesive response to the contents of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; and calendared.

H. J. R. NO. 19-5: To respectfully request that the Covenant Section 902 process be utilized by the President of the United States of America and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as the sole forum of discussion, consultation and negotiation to address the United States' desire to acquire any interest in real property not already given under the Covenant. Introduced by Prefiled by: REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; and calendared.

House information on deadlines for override: None