



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2015

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

7th Day, Second Regular Session

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fourth Day, Second Regular Session on Wednesday, 27th of October 2015, at 10:21 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Speaker recognized the Clerk for the roll; the Clerk having completed the roll announced to the Speaker that 19 members were present and 1 member is absent.

The Speaker announced that a quorum has been established; and Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb was duly excused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During this time the Chair opened the floor to members of the public who wishes to make any comments on items on the day's agenda.

Public comments were presented by one individual, on H. B. No. 19-59 and comments submitted on S. B. No. 19-42, SSI.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Being no further comments presented from the Public, we will now move on to Item 3, under the Order of Business, Resolution Calendar, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

First Day, Second Regular Session, August 13, 2015.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Camacho for the motion; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of the First Day, Second Regular Session, August 13, 2015; the motion was seconded by several members; the Chair open the floor for discussion; there being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

At this time the Chair recognized Floor Leader Camacho for the motion to suspend Rules to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items on the agenda.

Floor Leader Camacho moved to suspend Rule IX Section 4(d); the motion was seconded by several members; there being no discussions; the Chair recognized the Clerk for the roll as follows:

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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

With the result carried in the majority, the agenda is amended. The Chair recognized the Representative Guerrero for the first introduction.

House Bills:

Representative Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-102: To make the Department of Lands and Natural Resources responsible for collecting the Managaha Fee and removing the Department of Public Lands as recipient of the Managaha Fees; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Representative Villagomez officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-103: To legalize drag racing within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-104: To amend 4 CMC §5565 to prohibit any person under the age of 18 years of age to handle and serve any alcoholic beverages at any on-sale establishment; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-105: To add a new Chapter 9 to Division 3 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code to authorize the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to develop a system for the assessment of fees on non-residents visiting Marine Protected Areas in order to better invest in the Marine Resources of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Representative Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-106: To rename the San Antonio Middle School (SAMS) to “Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School”; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-107: To amend Section 301 of Public Law 19-8 to re-direct funds to the pavement and necessary construction of drainage systems at Kanat Tabla Road; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Vinson F. Sablan, and Ramon A. Tebuteb) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

There being no further House Bills for introductions the Chair moved to the next item and recognized Representative Aldan.

House Local Bills:

Representative Aldan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 19-40: To appropriate \$22,000.00 from the funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 and to re-appropriate \$12,000.00 from Tinian Local Law No. 19-3 Section 2(d); and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 19-41: To re-appropriate lapse funds under Saipan Local Law No. 18-17; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015.

Representative Aldan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 19-42: To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30; and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015.

There being no further House Local Bills for introductions and none introduced under House Legislative Initiatives the Chair moved to the next item and recognized Representative Camacho.

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Camacho officially introduced the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 19-32: To welcome and commend Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr in her leadership and dedication to professionalism in Fire Service. Introduced by **REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, 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, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

Representative Guerrero officially introduced the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 19-33: To honor and commend Mr. Francisco Mendiola Sablan for his many years of loyal service to the field of education in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by **REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** 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, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 19-34: Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Kannat Tabla road under the CNMI Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP); and for other purposes. Introduced by **REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. 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, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; and was referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

There being no further House Resolutions for introductions and none introduced under House Joint Resolutions the Chair moved to the next item and recognized Representative Taimanao.

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Taimanao officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolutions:

C. RES. NO. 19-5: To acknowledge Guam Power Authority for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor. Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul

P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-6: To acknowledge Telesource CNMI, Inc. of Tinian for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-7: To acknowledge S.E.T Pacific Inc.-Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor. Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-8: To acknowledge Palau Public Utilities Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor. Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-9: To acknowledge Polyphase System, Inc. of Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-10: To acknowledge Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-10: To acknowledge Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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,

Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO.19-11: To acknowledge 249th Engineer Battalion for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-12: To acknowledge JJ Global Services of Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-13: To acknowledge Commonwealth Utilities Corporation of Rota for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation of Saipan in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-14: To acknowledge JMSI Electrical LLC-Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-15: To acknowledge Kosrae Utilities Authority for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor. Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

C. RES. NO. 19-16: To acknowledge Yap State Public Service Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor. Introduced by **REP. FRANCIS S. TAIMANAO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*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, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

Representative Attao officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution:

C. RES. NO. 19-17: To honor the memory of the late Honorable Melchor Joseph Mendiola and to recognize his distinguished public career and memorialize his countless exemplary accomplishments and contributions to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by **REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO**, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, 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 October 27, 2015; was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

There being no further House Commemorative Resolutions for introductions; and no objections on the floor the Chair placed all resolutions with the exception of House Resolution 19-34 on the Resolution Calendar for action.

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

During this time being on introduction of House Concurrent Resolutions the Chair moved to the next item and recognized the Clerk; the Clerk read the messages from the Governor; the Chair thereby opened the floor for discussions and recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 19-56: (9/29/15 received 9/30/15) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. B. 19-86, HD6, SS1, CCS1 (FY 2016 Budget Act). Became **Public Law 19-8, item vetoed [Deadline 11/29/15]**

GOV. COMM. 19-57: (9/30/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Kathryn B. Fuller, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$78,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-58: (10/2/15) **Executive Order 2015-15** – Renewal of Declaration of Major Disaster and Significant Emergency in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. [Emergency shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for thirty (30) days from the this Executive Order]

GOV. COMM. 19-59: (10/07/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Elizabeth Anne Weintraub, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$62,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-60: (10/8/15 received 10/9/15) Informing the House that he disapproved S. B. No. 19-27 (To establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes) [**Deadline 12/8/15**]

GOV. COMM. 19-61: (10/10/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Jacinta M. Kaipat, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$52,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-62: (10/10/15) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Thomas Schweiger, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,400. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-63: (10/13/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. 19-9, SD1, HD1, entitled, (To amend 1 CMC §1107, restricting transfer of fixed assets and capital goods from Legislative Offices; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-9**

GOV. COMM. 19-64: (10/13/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-15, entitled, (To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 2 Subsection 2201 to give Veterans a discounted Operator's License Fee Benefit; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-10**

GOV. COMM. 19-65: (10/15/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. 19-2, SD2, HD1, entitled, (To mandate the cooperation between the incumbent Mayor or designee and the Mayor-elect to assist in the transitioning of office; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-11**

GOV. COMM. 19-66: (10/15/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-14, HD1, entitled, (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.). Became **Public Law 19-12**

GOV. COMM. 19-67: (10/18/15) **Executive Order 2015-16** – Establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Interagency War on Ice Task Force. The Task Force shall address the proliferation and negative impact of crystal methamphetamine within the Commonwealth. [The War on Ice Task Force shall remain in existence for two years after the date of the order is signed.]

GOV. COMM. 19-68: (10/19/15) **Executive Order 2015-17** - 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.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to provide comments on Gov. Comm. 19-61:

GOV. COMM. 19-61: (10/10/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Jacinta M. Kaipat, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$52,000. [*For info*]

I know that throughout the years we have seen the request for annual salary increases beyond the \$50,000 limit that is set by statute. What the concern is with regards to the particular communication is that throughout the years and I have been here going on six years; I have never seen the discrepancy in regards to the annual salary being offered to any particular or one particular Assistant Attorney General except for this

case. We have seen as high as \$70,000s, \$80,000s, \$60,000s, and I am not going to second guess the Attorney General, but I hope for the record an explanation is being provided on how a local Attorney General that have served this government for so many years only being granted an annual salary of \$52,000; this is \$2,000 barely above the limit; and on this particular communication we have like four or five other Assistant Attorney Generals' salary which ranges from \$62,000 to \$78,000 and \$70,000. I just thought for therecord that it is important that we bring this issue out and I hope that an explanation does come out of the Office of the Attorney General to clarify the discrepancy. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, I now recognized Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and in addition to our good Chairman of Ways and Means it is kind of surprising how every session we have the AG's office seem to find money at any given time. And he brought up Gov. Comm. 19-61 with a \$2,000 increase; we know that this individual actually had passed the Bar Exam; I am just wondering if the other individuals that are getting the \$12,000 to \$20,000 and the \$28,000 increase have actually passed the Bar Exam. The discrepancy is their numbers, but in addition to that if they have not yet passed the Bar Exam but yet we are holding our own people to a higher standard with the lesser salary, is no wonder why we do not come back after college in furthering our education in any specific field for that purpose is maybe a reverse affirmative action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I now recognize Representative Larry Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record in reference Gov. Comm. 19-64:

GOV. COMM. 19-64: (10/13/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-15, entitled, (To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 2 Subsection 2201 to give Veterans a discounted Operator's License Fee Benefit; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-10**

I want to extend my appreciation to Governor Inos for signing into law House Bill 19-15. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I now recognized Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This in regards to Gov. Comm. 19-57; 19-59; 19-60; 19-61; and 19-62:

GOV. COMM. 19-57: (9/30/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Kathryn B. Fuller, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$78,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-59: (10/07/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Elizabeth Anne Weintraub, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$62,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-60: (10/8/15 received 10/9/15) Informing the House that he disapproved S. B. No. 19-27 (To establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes) [**Deadline 12/8/15**]

GOV. COMM. 19-61: (10/10/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Jacinta M. Kaipat, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$52,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-62: (10/10/15) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Thomas Schweiger, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,400. [For info]

I am echoing the sentiments that have been raised by Representatives Sablan and Attao. Aside with the numbers, I think we need to compound it further. Often times the Legislature comes down on Autonomous Agencies like with PSS and other Autonomous Agencies about their methodology about compensation scales or compensation plans to work off for the fiscal year. And I think we do not know the right answer right now on how these salaries are being set, but I think it is time that we also ask the agencies to provide for an explanation on their methodology on just how exactly these salaries are being selected. It is disturbing to see first of all, that they go way above and beyond the salary cap, but it is more disturbing to see that there is a clear disparity and selective setting of the salaries in amongst themselves for people that hold the same positions in that office. So I just wanted to point that out as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Are there any further comments?

There being no further discussions the Chair moved on to Item 7, Senate Communications and recognized the Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communications to become the property of the House; the motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Anthony T. Benavente.

SEN. COMM. 19-74: (10/7/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 19-4, entitled, “To authorize reprogramming authority for the Governor in excess of the limits of 1 CMC §§ 7401 and 7402 and Public Law No. 18-66 §501(b) to respond to the Typhoon Soudelor disaster and to meet the Commonwealth’s 10% cost-sharing obligation,” which was adopted by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 19-75: (10/13/15) Returning H. B. 19-101, HD1, entitled, “To appropriate Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand dollars (\$970,000.00) from the Cancer Fund Special Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §1402(g)(2), to support the programs of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Medical Referral Services; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on October 9, 2015. [For info-Will go to Governor]

SEN. COMM. 19-76: (10/13/15) Returning H. B. NO. 19-37, HD2, entitled, “To transfer the Administration of the Government’s Group Health and Life Insurance Programs to the Department of Finance.” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on October 9, 2015, in the form of **H. B. NO. 19-37, HD2, SD1**, to read: “*To transfer the Administration of the Government’s Group Health and Life Insurance Programs to the Department of Finance, and to amend 1 CMC §8364; and for other purposes.*” [For action on Senate amendments] – *The Chair placed on the Bill Calendar.*

SEN. COMM. 19-77: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-29, SD1, entitled, “To mandate the cooperation and collaboration between the Mayor of the Northern Islands, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Lands, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Commonwealth Ports Authority in identifying the Free Trade Zone areas in the Northern Islands; and for other purposes.” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [For action] – *The Chair referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism on 10/27/15.*

SEN. COMM. 19-78: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-42, SS1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC §2806 prohibiting the Department of Public Lands from leasing any lands of the Commonwealth for any military live-fire or bombing activity; to require any proposed public land lease for any other military activity to be ratified by the people at a general or special election; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For action*] – *The Chair referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on 10/27/15.*

SEN. COMM. 19-79: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-47, entitled, “To establish continuity and security for agricultural and grazing permit holders and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For action*] – *The Chair referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on 10/27/15.*

SEN. COMM. 19-80: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-49, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC §8250 to exempt the managers of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) from the salary limitations imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For action*] – *The Chair referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on 10/27/15.*

SEN. COMM. 19-81: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-50, SD1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC §2807 to require all public land leases to include a condition that lessees must connect to and use the CUC power grid subject to CUC’s evaluation and determination regarding the proposed development’s power requirements; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For action*] – *The Chair referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications on 10/27/15.*

SEN. COMM. 19-82: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-52, entitled, “To amend 9 CMC Section 2116 by adding new subsections (g) and (h); and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For action*] - *The Chair placed on the Bill Calendar.*

SEN. COMM. 19-83: (10/13/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-56, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For action*] - *The Chair placed on the Bill Calendar.*

SEN. COMM. 19-84: (10/14/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-17, entitled, “To amend Rule 12, Section 2(a)(6)(A) of the Official Rules of the Senate for the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.,” which was adopted by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-85: (10/14/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-18, entitled, “To honor and pay tribute to the Late Manuel Tenorio Sablan for his memorable service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.,” which was adopted by the Senate on October 9, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-86: (10/20/15) Returning H. B. 19-94, entitled, “To establish a drug court within the Commonwealth Superior Court; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate without amendments on October 9, 2015. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

Representative Anthony T. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it is only for informational purposes, but Sen. Comm. 19-73:

SEN. COMM. 19-73: (10/6/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-16, entitled, “Requesting the Department of Public Lands to allow the deferment of payments on public

land leases for a period of three months to assist the lessees cope with the additional costs as result of the damages caused by Typhoon Souderlor.”, which was adopted by the Senate on September 18, 2015. [*For info*]

I honestly feel that the bank is doing this, are we also being like a bank just because of the public land leases; this is a deferment of three months; and I am questioning this as to why are we deferring the intention of this resolution to public lands to defer the public land leases; it is bad enough that our public lands are pretty much being given to investors for almost at a price of very cheap or nothing at all; and here we are deferring payments for land lease. So I just hope that something can be done on this and I honestly feel that this is not right deferring payments of land leases on public lands and is not the right answer to this issue. I hope that the Senate can either defer action on this because I honestly feel that it is not right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. For now, after we accept it we will allow for further discussions. There will be some that we will place on the calendar and there will be some that will be referred to committee; but we can also entertain discussions at that time. Are we ready?

Several members voiced ready; and there being no further discussions that motion was carried by voice vote. The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in regards to Sen. Comm. 19-73:

SEN. COMM. 19-73: (10/6/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-16, entitled, “Requesting the Department of Public Lands to allow the deferment of payments on public land leases for a period of three months to assist the lessees cope with the additional costs as result of the damages caused by Typhoon Souderlor.”, which was adopted by the Senate on September 18, 2015. [*For info*]

I echo the same concerns with regards to the way the Public Lands tried to do this type of scheme with giving out deferment payment schedule for three months. I feel that presently there are a lot of disparity with regards to the collection of leases. Presently DPL have not been collecting so much money under the lease agreement that they have set on their contract with the leasee over the property. And with that, DPL continues to shortchange not only the CNMI Descent and the MPLT which is supposed to be taking portions of these amounts of money for the people and unfortunately they are not doing as well as what they are supposed to as far as their fiduciary duties concern with regards to land lease. I wanted to register my concerns. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

During this time, the Chair calendar in part and referred in part Senate Communications which are noted. The Chair continued discussions on the floor and recognized Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to continue to what both Representatives’ I am not sure if the Senate is aware of the collectibles from DPL; I have been monitoring uncollectible since 2002 when I first started reading the audit reports and to date the uncollectible has been increasing to about three to four million dollars a year. When I first monitored this account the uncollectible is at \$15 Million dollars back in 2012 and now in 2014 the last audit report is at \$22 Million dollars. So the Senate Resolution to send a message to defer payment does not send a good message. I believe that they are sending the wrong precedence and deferring payments we do not know which businesses or leasee or lessor I am not sure who is behind in their payments I am still shock that year we do not collect three to four million dollars; now we are going to postpone; I know that times after the typhoon have been hard but the payments to DPL is very minimal I think businesses are still in full operation at least most of

them; so they need to be careful I think in my opinion they should withdraw the resolution until we actually look at this and I hope the Chairman of the Natural Resources call the DPL in and look at the numbers very carefully it is very alarming. And that is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

There being no further discussions on the floor the Chair moved to Item 8, House Communications and recognized the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk read the following Communications from the House. The Chair opened the floor for discussions and there being no discussions the Chair moved to the next Item.

HSE. COMM. 19-48: (10/1/15) From Representative Tebuteb to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command re: Support for Us Armed Forces Readiness. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-49: (10/6/15) From Representative Guerrero, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning on Thursday, October 8, 2015 until October 9, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-50: (10/7/15) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning on October 8, 2015 until October 9, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-51: (10/7/15) From Representative Rafael S. Demapan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning on October 8, 2015 until October 10, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

There being no items under Communications from the Judicial Branch, the Chair moved to Item 11, Miscellaneous Communications and recognized the Clerk.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk read the following:

MISC. COMM. 19-10: (9/25/15) From the Northern Marianas Trades Institute (NMTI) submitting copy of the Independent Auditors' Report and Financial Statements of the NMTI with regards to CW fund expenditures ending December 2014. [*For info*]

The being no discussions the Chair moved to Item 12, and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 19-37: Reporting on H. B. No. 19-89, entitled: "To ban the importation of used tires; and for other purposes." Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 19-89, HSI., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-37: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-89, entitled: "To ban the importation of used tires; and for other purposes." *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-89, HSI.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is just one small clarification that was raised yesterday during our leadership meeting and that is the issue of rethreaded tires and I just wanted to ask our legal counsel for the record if rethreaded tires qualifies under the definition of used tires?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Rethreaded tires are treated separately under the Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Act which regulates motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts; they are considered remanufactured tires and not used.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for the clarification we just needed to put that on record so that it is clear under our legislative record. Are there any further discussions? Ready.

There being discussions on the floor; S. C. R. No. 19-37: Reporting on H. B. No. 19-89, entitled: “To ban the importation of used tires; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 19-89, HS1., was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-38: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-61, entitled: “To establish the Related Service Providers Scholarship; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-38: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-61, entitled: “To establish the Related Service Providers Scholarship; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form.*

There being no discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-38: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-61, entitled: “To establish the Related Service Providers Scholarship; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-39: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-30, entitled: “To appropriate the sum of up to \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 13-42 to fund the expense of removing Junk at the Koblerville Field, Kagman, Lower Base, and various other villages; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-30., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

S. C. R. NO. 19-39: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-30, entitled: “To appropriate the sum of up to \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 13-42 to fund the expense of removing Junk at the Koblerville Field, Kagman, Lower Base, and various other villages; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-30.*

Representative Yumul: Just for clarification and I understand the position of the committee to file the bill since we are currently doing clean-up around the island, but my concerns are from what our last meeting is with I believe it was CARE; and FEMA came out with the position that they will not cover expense if there is trash in undeveloped properties so right now as citizens are dumping trash practically everywhere. And my concern is with the fast removal of these trashes that are now on the streets and the infestation of rats, I believe our citizens are dumping household items onto the streets and my concern is with the speediness and I believe to leaving this in the committee and at least waiting a couple of more

months down the road and see if the Mayor may need the funding. I am glad that the bill was brought out from committee it went through the discussions and at least it is going to be put on before the floor, but all I ask of the members is to at least leave it in the committee and wait because the way things are moving right now, the Mayor will need funds and they are going to come to this body and ask and I believe that the beautification funds which funds the Solid Waste most of the trash that are on the streets are households, roofing tins, lumbers and this fall under that expense and they are a part of it. I know that DPW is also doing it, the Mayor is currently renting trucks throughout the year; we cannot even rent our own if we wanted to help. So I ask that the members leave this in the committee and should the Mayor decide to ask for funding at least it is available. That is all Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I now recognize the Chairman of Ways and Means, Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: And to respond to colleague Yumul, I think we are all mindful of the current environmental conditions out there as the result of the typhoon disaster, but in deliberating on the said legislation the committee took into consideration that under the recent budget Public Law 19-8, we did provide for a \$200,000 funding to the Office of the Mayor and we also understand that the comments made from the representative from FEMA during the meeting with CARE did make a distinction of what would be eligible for federal funding with regards to the clean-up. But subsequent to that we have also deliberated on a couple of local appropriation bills that will earmark or appropriate additional funding to the Office of the Mayor to address its operational needs. The ultimate consideration here taking everything into perspective is that the Department of Public Works have come out strongly against tapping any amount of the \$3.6 million dollars that is available in the Solid Waste Management Revolving Fund. We are in receipt of communication from the DPW Solid Waste Management Division that the current cell one is anticipated to be full within a year's time and then in preparation for that closure funding in the million dollars will be required to prepare cell three so that the operations of the landfill is in compliant with EPA standards. I understand that colleague Yumul is asking that we leave this in committee; I will leave it up to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I recognize for the second time Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: And thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I understand I believe \$3.6 Million dollars is in the account so that is actually way too low with our agreement with EPA I think it should be more \$10 Million dollars if we run the landfill the way it is supposed to be. So that opens up another door, why do we only have \$3.6 Million dollars we should be in the tens of million dollars. As you may have notice the current dump that was going under closure I believe we are putting a park there is going to cost us \$16 Million dollars. So \$4 Million dollars to open cell number one or to prepare to open cell number two, I actually had drove by this past weekend dumping some household trash up north and the dump is about 30 to 40 feet above ground. So I guess we should be prepared for the next cell and I think it is going to cost us more than \$3.6 Million dollars to prepare. So this is just a comment and I do not expect other comments after this.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. And I think that was the basis for the committee recommending the filing of the bill is that the \$3.6 Million dollars is available and I think the DPW had come out saying that they need at least \$4.5 Million dollars, there is a \$900,000 shortfall and that is why they came out in writing opposing the bill. Are there any further discussions? Ready.

There being no further discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-39: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-30, entitled: "To appropriate the sum of up to \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 13-42 to fund the expense of removing Junk at the Koblerville Field, Kagman, Lower Base, and various other villages; and for other purposes." Your

Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-30., was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-40: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-48, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §§ 2201(c) and 2205(c) to authorize CPA to grant a master concession agreement for each point of entry at Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, respectively; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

S. C. R. NO. 19-40: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-48, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §§ 2201(c) and 2205(c) to authorize CPA to grant a master concession agreement for each point of entry at Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, respectively; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1.*

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I am not mistaken and Mr. Speaker I do not know exactly but I am sure there are regulations and policies under the CPA that allows to have concession stands within the different areas on the landing areas and what not; they are in existence right now; it is just that I do not know what will this bill would do to weigh the additional provisions with regards to the existing provisions of the CPA. I feel that the less intervention that we come about with regards to the operation I think it is a lot better because most of their funding are basically federal funds. We try not to interfere as much and if the Board promulgates regulations and policies and procedures we believe it is an Autonomous Agency and we should leave that and respect the autonomy of the agency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, I now recognize the Chairman of Commerce and Tourism, Representative Guerrero.

Representative Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with Representative Benavente’s concern, yes, there is a provision which is notwithstanding in the bill itself, however, it has been 40 years, Representative Benavente, I think we must be mindful that if we allow each senatorial district to run its concession they find the right business that they can run the airport concession. Apparently to date the Duty Free has yet to allow anyone because of business approach; I am probably sensing that it is not doable for them and not profitable but allowing each senatorial district to manage their own airport that is the whole intent of this bill is just to give them the courtesy to handle their own affairs and not only that Duty Free had publicly brought out a press release that they are supporting Tinian and Rota to handle their own concession rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Before I recognize Representative Benavente for the second time, just a note I believe there is already an RFP issued out and this is just for members’ information. And I believe that the RFP does have for the individual islands to grant a concession for the individual island and so the bill and the RFP are consistent; the intent of the bill and the RFP I believe is in conformance. Representative Benavente, you are recognized.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: The reasons with regards to this bill is that like I had said, we do not want to be meddling with the constitutionality of the formation of the autonomy of the board and with all due respect to everyone in the Chamber, I personally respect the formation of the autonomy and the formulation of the CPA Board. And with that autonomy there is certain requirements and certain provisions with the Federal Communications Commission and with the Federal Aviation Administration requirements with the Civil and Audits Board are encumbered into the existence of the CPA; and maybe within that scope of authority there are certain provisions that might limit or allow the existence of all

these type of activities and that is the only reason why I say we have to give the exclusivity authority to the Board and the autonomy of the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you and I believe the concerns of what Representative Benavente is raising is the issue of the bond debt service that CPA is required and I believe by the FAA to make sure that it continues to pay that; but I do not think that this bill interferes with that, Representative Benavente. To continue with discussions I recognize Representative Maratita.

Representative Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I would just like to ask the members to humbly and respectfully support the bill because this is actually a meaningful bill, just like Representative Guerrero had stated earlier that it has been over two decades that the entity that was granted the concession has done nothing. And so with this opportunity this perhaps we can see the light at the end of the tunnel with both respective senatorial districts that is stated in the bill. I was reading the comments by the Executive Director she does not oppose the bill and as a matter of fact she pointed out that it is a well taken bill that she otherwise supports it. I have had the opportunity to talk with some of the members of the board and there is no issue as far as this is concern. But I just wanted to point out that even with Mrs. Pierce from the DFS does not object to this although she recommends some changes to the bill but the bottom line here is to give the opportunity to the First and Second Senatorial District. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Maratita. I now recognize Representative Aldan.

Representative Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill does not exclude any other interested party in joining the RFP, eventually, CPA will still follow whatever we pass here and we are not intruding into their duty as board members we are just clarifying that each senatorial district has its own concession instead of a one whole CNMI-wide master concession which has been in existence until 1995. But Tinian and Rota has been there and has been waiting for any individuals that are interested in opening up a master concession but we have not been given the opportunity and this is why this bill came about and we are asking for the members to support the bill. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Aldan. Are there any further discussions? Again just to clarify what the bill proposes to do is for CPA to RFP out master concessions for each point of entry, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. And like Representative Aldan said, whoever it could be that one bidder could win all three islands or it could be that there may be different operators for each island; in any event, public comments were sort and comments did come in and I believe all have supported the bill as written, however, I believe that the Attorney General's office did make one minor recommendation that there should be a correction made as far as citation of the code and maybe when we get to the bill calendar we can address that. Are there any further discussion and ready for the vote?

There being no further discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-40: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-48, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC §§ 2201(c) and 2205(c) to authorize CPA to grant a master concession agreement for each point of entry at Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, respectively; and for other purposes." Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1., was carried by voice vote. There was no "Nay" vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-41: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-58, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC §2111(a) to include a member of HANMI on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and for other purposes." Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-41: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-58, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §2111(a) to include a member of HANMI on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form.*

There being no discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-41: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-58, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §2111(a) to include a member of HANMI on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-42: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-65, entitled: “To prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

S. C. R. NO. 19-42: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-65, entitled: “To prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form.*

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Just for curiosity how is it compared with the smoking bill? We can chew pugua inside the office but we cannot smoke inside the office. Thank you, that is all Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think the issue here is for minors. Under the age of 18 and I think all studies have shown that this bill is warranted and even I will support this bill. But the difference just to answer your question between smoking indoors and chewing betel nut is you can get second-hand smoke I cannot give you second-hand chew. Are we ready for the vote?

There being no further discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-42: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-65, entitled: “To prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-43: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-76, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §1401 and 4 CMC §1402 (a) to separate cigars from being taxed as a tobacco and establish its own tax rate; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair recognized Representative BJ Attao.

S. C. R. NO. 19-43: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-76, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §1401 and 4 CMC §1402 (a) to separate cigars from being taxed as a tobacco and establish its own tax rate; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form.*

Representative Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to the author and the committee on Ways and Means, I was just wondering under the cost benefit analysis does Finance even have the numbers that deals with the cigar sales in the Commonwealth or the importation of cigars into the Commonwealth. The comments received from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce they are always in support in lowering cost, but there is nothing that is coming from the Department of Finance; the

Department of Commerce in regards to the benefits or the lack thereof benefits in regards to this legislation. The 18th Legislature just increased the cigarette tax and it is on an annual increment increase but yet this high-end product we are going to be decreasing the cost of it knowing the fact that a major industry that will cater to high-end clientele will be purchasing high-end products i.e. cigars; but we are going to decrease the cost but yet sell it to high-end clientele; the same token increase the cost of the cigarette tax and the difference again you use the betel nut and cigarettes; cigars can still give you second-hand smoke too. So with an industry that we say that it is a high-end clientele and we all know it is a big industry this product will sell easier; the importation of this product will increase because of the clientele availability. The cost benefit analysis only states that it would keep us competitive with Guam with regards to the cigar rates, but we are way ahead of the game in regards to that for the mere fact that they do not have the casino industry; they do not have the poker industry. You go to Guam and you go to any of the open-ended stores; a mom and pop store or laundry mats there is no poker arcades; but when you come to the CNMI and you have that; a lot of smoking that happens in there. So with the live training facility going on right now I know that the Hard Rock Café is being disturbed by the second-hand smoke that is coming from the bottom up to the top. A high-end product that we are going to decrease it and maximize profits for who? Can the committee go back and revisit this specific; ask Finance for the numbers to see what our Customs or maybe Commerce; and what are the projection cost would be if we did not have this tax and what we will lose if we decrease the cost of this specific product. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Attao. Would either the mover or the Chairman of the committee like to respond? Representative Guerrero.

Representative Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear our colleague about going back to the drawing board and figuring out the numbers. We are trying to cater this actually, to tourist; you do not see this in a mom and pop store; this is not poker; this is not casino; this is cigar. The comparison wise between cigarettes and cigars, I would smoke this more (cigar) I will not smoke cigarettes because there are additives in it. Yes, we talk about second-hand smoke but the intent of the bill by lowering it down the bottom line is that sales are going to increase; we are going to see that in the economy; maybe not in a tax form. But why do we have to classify it the same as the cigarettes; I do not understand. If the concern is to bring it back and come up with a different tax structure I think this would suffice because we took the comparison of Guam and Hawaii. We are actually higher by a couple of cents from Guam and Hawaii. This is actually just for high-end customers and nothing else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Would you like to continue Representative Attao?

Representative Attao: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Exactly what the author of the bill said, it is for high-end customers. The casino industry will bring in high-end clientele which will spend the money no matter what. Have you ever seen a pack of cigarette or a stick cost \$500, I do not think so. This is a product that like he had said for high-end customers, the Guinness Book of World Records has the Commonwealth as the highest consumption of alcohol per capita; why not decrease the cost of alcohol...

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Point of clarification I think that was specific to Budweiser products.

Representative Attao: But you know why not decrease the price we are going to collect it anyways through other BGRTs collections. So high-end products, decrease in price; I do not know the math is not right. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognize the Chairman of Ways and Means to respond.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to colleague Attao's concerns, it is true that maybe on some of the classes of the cigars the revenue generated might be less, but you have to be mindful that by breaking the size of cigars that are packed individually and smaller size that are packed more in a package. But the item behind this and because I did take the time to ask those that deal with wholesaling cigars to like, the duty free shops and all that, and there are not a lot of cigarette wholesalers or dealers; the intent here is to make the product competitive so that the change in the tax structure is made up by volumes in sales. And that is basically the intent, that in order for us to be competitive and that this particular product sells more and that we generate more revenue that this legislation is needed and without this they find it hard to market it. And so when we are talking about the tax rates for cigarettes and we have requested for information from Finance but we have not gotten all that we have requested back, but the intent of the legislation is to make this particular market competitive for those that cater or buy cigars; and those are generally found in the high-end duty free shops that are located in the island. I sincerely hope and like I had mentioned to the committee we cannot sit down and try to project as much as we can, but the only way to get numbers is to allow the new tax structure to be implemented and somebody can come back in a year and look at the result. Basically the intent is to make the product affordable to those that do buy cigars and I will assure you that this is not an item that majority of the general public would want to go out and buy; but this product is targeted towards as I have already mentioned, the high-end spenders and hopefully by making it competitive that the differences in the various structure and I think we have like four breakdowns that the increase in volume in sales would more than make up for the difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. For the last round, Representative Attao, recognized.

Representative Attao: Thank you. The Chairman just had mentioned again, competitive edge. We have the industry that is coming up, that is a competitive edge, which will bring in high-end clientele and we keep on repeating that this is for high-end clientele. But yet we are charging them really at a smaller rate. How about we hold on to this legislation and let us see what these high-end clientele are about and see how much we can collect at the rate that we have today and if it is not, then we will revisit after that year and come back and decrease it if we have to decrease it, but we are not even giving it a chance today to be able to collect whatever funds we can collect out of it. So if that is the argument is to decrease it we have not even seen what we can get from it today. So allow what we have in our books today to proceed forward and see how the high-end clientele will deal with the tax rate or the cost of the product here in the CNMI. If it does not make sense and the sales are short then maybe we can go back and revisit it and decrease the actual price or tax on it but to not even give that a chance and we are predetermining what is going to happen four or five years from now, I think we have held back long enough over the years in the existing statutes. Why not test it out first before we decrease it. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Recognize, Representative Vinny Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to ask clarification. So the language in the findings and purpose in the bill says removing cigars from the definition of tobacco. Will that in any way allow anyone under 18 of age to purchase cigars? Because there is this law that says no one under 18 can purchase tobacco. Maybe we can ask John if it is mentioned in the bill does it still protect that law. Because what we are doing is we are redefining cigars to be defined not as tobacco.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A question has been raised by Representative Sablan. Representative Sablan, you use the word "removes" and I am looking at the bill and I do see on the title where it says "to separate it" I think for tax purposes to kind of separate it from the tobacco tax structure and have its own tax structure I think is what it is trying to do. But I am not sure if it says to remove it.

But I think your main response is whether current law which prohibits persons under the age of 18 from smoking tobacco products and using tobacco products still applies, I believe so, and anybody can correct me if I am wrong. Legal Counsel?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: That is correct. This is only for the taxation purposes; all the regulation relating to the use of the tobacco products are separate from this law and it is not modified by this law.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are you okay now, Representative Sablan?

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Yes, it is just the word “remove” I was just concern about that; it looks like you are not calling it tobacco anymore and you are calling it cigars so just to make sure that a 17 year old does not walk into the store and says they passed HB 19-76 which redefines the name that takes away tobacco from cigar so can I by a pack; so just to make sure that is covered.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for raising that concern and I am glad that it was raised and that the Counsel has clarified that current law still stands. Let me first recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to point out something that we have not really talked about with regards to this. I understand that cigars, it tends to be more expensive; we talked about the cost and everything, but I wanted to try and talk a little bit about the health aspect and there tends to be a general misconception in even talking to friends and other people about cigars. They tend to think that because they do not inhale it that it is safer; that it does not have all the chemicals but if you just look about on any statistics and pages you will find a lot of information about how bad cigars are for you and many sites like www.cancer.gov that they talk about cigars being more harmful then cigarettes just a few things – it has a higher level of cancer causing substances it has more tar, a higher level of toxins, and also the fact that you take into the size of the cigar a longer smoking time results in higher exposure to many toxic substances. And I am just concerned is it something that we really want, we already have so many health concerns. I have had a cigar once but honestly when I was younger I did not know it was harmful to you and again it was only through research and reading about it that did brought up these concerns. I just wanted to point that out. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Propst. I now recognize the Chairman of Commerce and Tourism, Representative Guerrero.

Representative Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to Representative Propst I hear and I have read up on that and it is no different than cigarettes. The price of cigarettes continues to rise because of the taxes; in respect to cigars I do not see the locals buying it. To be honest with you I have gone out there and see how many locals smoking cigars, I hardly see. And this is again and to echo again that this is for the tourists. There are hardly any sellers that are willing to risk the importation because of the cost of the taxes in itself. And even cigars have born on dates – I mean if I were to be a seller and I wanted to bring it in by volume it is going to cost me more and the retailer would probably say I got to buy this at the minimum, where is the profitability for the seller. I mean we are just trying to court both the sellers and buyers. I do hear the importance that we have an addiction of smokers; an addiction of chewers; an addiction of drinkers; but this is again for the tourist; I do not see the locals probably buying this; give me a name that is smoking cigars I really want to meet up with this person to find out the effect on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Members it is almost 12 noon and we have a few more committee reports, so we will try and wrap it up and probably break for lunch and come back and deal with the bill calendar; but we will allow for a few more. Recognized Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that this debate has gone to its lengthy discussion already. I smoke personally, and I do pay my dues with regards to cigarettes. My dad smoked cigars and he smokes pipe too, but when it comes to taxing cigarettes and taxing cigars and whatever that we tax; it comes to my mind that really the business activity on the island we just got over Souldolor; we passed the budget passed; can I just share this Mr. Speaker. We have passed the budget yet the budget was anticipated prior to the typhoon and then we went ahead and passed the post-typhoon. After the typhoon the business activity has dropped; a lot of the businesses cannot operate because they do not have power. No businesses are operating and basically the government is going to feel the problem. What I really like to share among all of us legislators here is that we continue to swing CNMI and when I say that we continue to swing CNMI is that there are opportunities for us to earn money for this government to earn rightful money for the people, but we continue to swing it by constantly amending the laws to satisfy certain areas why not do it like Singapore does it; they make a law and they stick to the law and then they let the business compete with the threshold of what the law is. And I think, Mr. Speaker and I would just like to share among everyone, I am not against the bill but I am just sharing this so that everyone can understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. I think that we had enough discussions on the issue and we also have a bill calendar if we want to make amendments or if you do not agree with the bill there is ample time to deliberate on it further; we are just deliberating on the committee report right now. I think we will end discussions and move to the vote.

There being no further discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-43: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-76, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC §1401 and 4 CMC §1402 (a) to separate cigars from being taxed as a tobacco and establish its own tax rate; and for other purposes." Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., was carried by voice vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-44: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-23, entitled: "To increase the Commonwealth Minimum Wage to match the Federal Minimum Wage applicable in the Commonwealth." Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-44: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-23, entitled: "To increase the Commonwealth Minimum Wage to match the Federal Minimum Wage applicable in the Commonwealth." *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form. – {Adopted – 10/27/15}*

There being no discussions on the floor S. C. R. NO. 19-44: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-23, entitled: "To increase the Commonwealth Minimum Wage to match the Federal Minimum Wage applicable in the Commonwealth." Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form." was carried by voice vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-45: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-36, entitled: "To appropriate up to Four Million dollars Two Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$4,200,000.00) of lapse funds from Business Unit No. 3490; and for other purposes." Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-36., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

S. C. R. NO. 19-45: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-36, entitled: “To appropriate up to Four Million dollars Two Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$4,200,000.00) of lapse funds from Business Unit No. 3490; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-36. – {Adopted House vote [12-7] – 10/27/15}*

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I am sure the Committee of Ways and Means deliberated on the bill; just to ask was there any certification or at least what the Secretary of Finance brought in by the Committee and asked the questions on Business Unit 3490.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Yumul. Recognized Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response, we go back again when this bill was introduced and I am aware of Business Unit 3490 being the Alien Deportation Fund and we have accessed that account in the past. And so I communicated directly with the Secretary of Finance in regards to the introduction of the legislation and the fund status under that account. The response is, that there is nothing there; that the amount under that account was used prior to her becoming the Secretary; but to support the response of the Secretary with the help of our financial analysis Mr. Demapan, we did use the statement of revenues expenditures for the year ending September 30, 2014 that shows a fund balance deficit of \$9,300.29. So I believe in looking at this particular activity there has not been any activity out of this account even prior to 2014. So we have here an appropriation bill that tries to appropriate \$4.2 Million dollars from an account that has a negative balance of \$9,000 and so the committee came up with the only option which is to report out and recommend that the proposed legislation be filed. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Continue, Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand, I read the committee report and I believe that the committee used FY 2014 audit statement, but going back to the beginning of the year when I asked the Secretary of Finance and other Department personnel there is. So at the least I could see here is to just to verify is the certification, there is nothing more, I mean if there is a negative balance there which I did see and as a matter fact it was not the year 2014 that showed negative, it was actually 2013 and it goes beyond that. But account 3490 opens up doors because back in 2007 \$1.2 Million dollars went to DPS, prior years it was an average of two to three hundred thousand that goes to DPS. So my concern is the year 2007 and 2008 where, \$1.2 Million dollars went to DPS and in 2008 \$700,000 went to CUC; that brings up the question now is the Public Law 10-1 which was amended by Public Law 11-5 clarifies how the money was to be spent. So maybe the legal counsel can clarify that is back then diverting funds from this account to CUC is allowed by the law that created this earmark.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Legal Counsel?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: I have no knowledge as to how the funds were moved or under what circumstance.

Representative Yumul: Well it is in the audit statement, in 2007 \$1.2 Million dollars was given to DPS; I am not aware – I know that the DPS was used to apprehend illegal aliens or contract workers that basically skipped bail or are on the run. So there is funding that was given to DPS every year in the amount of \$300,000 to \$400,000, but in this one given year \$1.2 Million dollars was given, and then the next year \$701,000 was given to CUC. So my question is, Public Law 10-1 as amended by Public Law 11-5, was that allowed legally to transfer funds to this?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: We have to look at the time limits involved and what reprogramming authority the Administration had at the time. It could be covered by the reprogramming authority.

Representative Yumul: Okay, so the reprogramming authority, I did note Public Law 15-1, and which this body back then gave 100% reprogramming authority to I believe Governor Fitial. But now moving forward, that was in 2006, so 2007 and 2008 there was no reprogramming it was back to normal. It was only on the 2006 I believe. So where the funds were moved and I believe that it was moved illegally you can correct me if I am wrong just by reading Public Law 11-5 the latest one that amended Public Law 11-1. So was that allowed – this body was not given the authority to at least appropriate correctly or rightfully to for example CUC. I have no objection with the money going there is I was here back then but was that done legally?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I see the Chairman of Ways and Means raising his hands, to respond, recognized Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that colleague Yumul is directing the question to the Legal Counsel, I do not think that Legal Counsel is in the position to answer the question at this time without knowing the full background of how and when those funds were expended. But for the record the request has been made in regards to this particular account and its status; a request has been made to OPA to look into the matter and I ask that we leave it at that. But in regards to the proposed legislation at hand I think it is quite obvious that we cannot appropriate anything if there is no money in the account. So I ask that we move to the previous question. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Go ahead, Representative Yumul for the last time.

Representative Yumul: Just for the record, the journal back in March 18 and I believe that the Chairman of Ways and Means did state that there were funds there, just not in that amount. So just to clarify everything – I mean a fund certification is all that I ask if the Secretary cannot provide that then let us bring in the Secretary and ask. I know the question at hand right now is the \$4.2 Million dollars but I have direct conversations here with the Secretary back in March, although it is a private messages between the Secretary and I, but she did clarify that there was funds there and I would have never had have introduced the bill knowing the fact that this was not communicated to me. And that is all that I ask is for the Committee to bring in the Secretary in and let us ask the question. And I believe that the Committee has not done so and I think it is rightful that this body at least ask the question – whether it has happened in the past or not you know that is up the body to decide, but I personally believe that we should at least ask. It is justified and warranted I believe one of the authors was here earlier and we can ask that question. But at least let us bring in the Secretary you know I leave it to the members to decide whether to file this bill or not, but it does not justify when I verified in early March the funds was there and if between March and now the funds supposedly is gone then maybe there is funds or you know we do not know because we do not have any certification and that is the least that I ask for. Like I said it is up to the body to decide whether to file this bill or not, but it is our responsibility now, we have this problem or question at hand and we should at least address it. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Let me ask the Chairman of Ways and Means, the statement of revenues and expenditures and changes in funds balance that is included in the committee report, is that based on the independent auditors report, the one that shows the \$9,000 deficit. Because if that is based on the independent auditors report and if it is on Fiscal Year 2014 which would have been the last fiscal year that an audit was done because 2015 just finished and I do not think that we have a 2015 independent audit coming out and if that is the case and in March Representative Yumul was given

information that there was a fund balance, but this report states that as of the end of Fiscal Year 2014 there should not have been any balance in there. And I think that this is the basis for the committee's recommendation to the full House. Please respond, Chairman.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And like I have said, from the very start in regards to this particular, when I saw the amount and I am aware of the Alien Deportation Fund because I came from Immigration – I was surprised that, that amount supposedly was in that account knowing since the takeover we have not had any collection of non-resident workers fee going into the particular account. And the only way for that amount to build up that way is if we continued to collect the deportation's fund share of \$25 per application going into this account. But again, like colleague Yumul said, I have communicated back and forth with the Secretary and I am surprised that his version of his communication is different from mine and mine is that there is nothing in there. And I think for the record she had already come out publicly in the media trying to explain this particular matter. And again just for purposes this afternoon the bill is trying to appropriate \$4.2 Million dollars and there is no \$4.2 Million dollars and in fact the last independent auditors reports says it has a negative balance of \$9,000. So it is obvious what our vote should be on this particular committee report. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. State your point, Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Just point of information this account 3490 we are not sure or at least in the other reports they did collect past 2008 other reports it is in my office but I believe 2008 and 2009 and some part in 2010 did see some movement in that account. I just do not have the exact – I know the last was under \$100,000. So there is funds that was going into this account at least to my knowledge with the reports and the fund number is 2042 it is not – Business Unit actually is the one where they pretty much transferred the money into that account and then the expenditures happened. So the magic fund the earmark is 2040 and that is all that I am asking and you know just put it in writing and if the members decides to file it that is their I respect their choices, but I am not going to stop I am going to go forward and go through other means whether it is the OGA or OPA to actually look at this account and that is for the record. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Yumul. And I do not think anybody will dispute the prior years whether there was movement in or out. I think that all the committee is saying is that they are basing their recommendation to this body based on the latest data and that is FY 2014 and that is the basis for this decision. Recognized, Representative Anthony Benavente.

Representative Anthony T. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I did request the Chair and the Chair had communications with the Secretary of Finance and the reason why I, myself, agreed upon in terms of the Committee is because of the response that the Chairman received from the Secretary of Finance saying that there is no funds and at the same time Dave our analysis indicating with this audit report if it is the independent of a shortfall or a deficit of over \$9,000, as a member I felt that yes there was no money. However, I am in question again as to why the Secretary of Finance is saying that there is still some money, I know that the bill is stating \$4.2 million dollars, but there is money based on Representative Yumul's statement; on the committee report findings from the Chairman indicates that there is none but in fact a deficit. So I myself voted yes to adopt to file this House Bill. I am still kind of questioning as to the reality of what is transpiring but as a member of the committee I do not object to the filing of this bill. Thank you. Still question the Secretary thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Please notwithstanding the verbal comments by the Secretary of Finance I think what the committee did was based on the data provided by the most recent

independent audit and I think that is all that you can go by. I do not that we can even rely on some verbal assurance or amount by the Secretary. If the Secretary used the data that is front – I guess what I am saying my friend is, we should not base our decisions on verbal issues, we should base it on data and the latest data indicates a negative balance and that is what the committee has done. And we will go for a vote from that there. Are we ready?

Several members voiced ready. There being no further discussions the Chair called for the vote; there was a division on the floor the Chair recognized the Clerk for the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 19-45: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-36, entitled: “To appropriate up to Four Million dollars Two Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$4,200,000.00) of lapse funds from Business Unit No. 3490; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-36 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	no
Representative George N. Camacho	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 Taman 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	no
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent-excused
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	no
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 12 members voting yes, and 7 members voting no, the motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 19-45: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-36, entitled: “To appropriate up to Four Million dollars Two Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$4,200,000.00) of lapse funds from Business Unit No. 3490; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House file H. B. NO. 19-36 has been carried.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-46: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-59, entitled: “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.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

S. C. R. NO. 19-46: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-59, entitled: “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.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in its current form. – {Adopted – 10/27/15}*

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former Board member and Board Chairman for the Board of Education, I wholeheartedly support the intent of the bill, although, there are certain portions of the bill that I do not agree with. And again, we are back to the constitutional mandate again. The constitutional issue that reflect that it has to go through CDA. And the reason that I believe in that is that because the PSS is not a revenue generating institution it is being financed by the operations of the CNMI government and other entities, grants and what not. So with that if we are going to make a loan and I know that they have mentioned it is stipulated in their provisions that the loan would be paid through the budget every year, \$400,000. But still circumventing the provisions of the constitution I think is uncalled for and I think Mr. Speaker I would agree with it if they would include that it would go through the CDA, I will personally agree with it because I care for those kids and their future. I am a supporter of the Public School System and I am supporting it 100% but we have to make amendments and follow the law, that is all. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you and just to clarify the statements about the constitutional authority given to CDA that it is a statutory authority under 4 CMC §10203(a)(27) for the record. Are there any further discussions? Recognized, Representative Vinny Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Speaker. I am always in support of the children and of our school system, but just like you mentioned 4 CMC §10203(a)(27) which states in language which is, CDA is to act as financial advisor and coordinator with respect to any public borrowing by the Commonwealth. And that is the language that is concerning me. Another concern and question I have is why is CDA being removed or they are not seeking CDA’s advise. I know in the past they have approved borrowing in the bonds for both PSS and CDA, was there anything that happened or do we think they are not going to support this bill if it goes through them; their comments just states they are in agreement, but they just respectfully request that it goes through CDA Board approval. So I just feel that if it goes through the process that it would be a win – win for everybody this thing will go through. So the just the question of why they were excluded from this bill that is my question. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Vinny Sablan and Representative Benavente. Would the Chairman of Ways and Means care to respond?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Let me just clarify some issues with regards to the proposed legislation. Number one, the purpose is basically to authorize PSS to enter into a loan agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the amount of \$3 Million dollars at a rate of 4.7% per annum and as part of that application and I believe an application has already been prepared as part of it the USDA is not requiring the full faith and credit of the CNMI Government. Secondly, the loan is necessary in that right now PSS continues to turn away early age kids from enrolling in kindergarten and the preschool programs under PSS due to the lack of facilities basically classrooms. And if you look at the numbers we two classrooms from Garapan, two classrooms for San Vicente Elementary School, two classrooms for Oleai Elementary School, two classrooms from Koblerville Elementary, two classrooms for Dan Dan Middle School, the paving of parking lots for Tinian Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School, and the Joaquina Rabauliman Head Start Center, and added to the initial list is, for the purchase and procurement Pad Mounted Transformer for

the Kagman Elementary School. Unfortunately the information that we got is that the damage to the Pad Mounted Transformer is not a result of the storm, so that does not qualify under the disaster funding. But essentially the question is that when we send out requests for comments from CDA, CDA came back with comments that with their recommendation that the bill amended to require their approval. As a result the committee had set up a committee meeting when we invited both PSS and CDA to appear before the committee so that the issue can be discussed. During that deliberation basically the question that we kept on hearing from CDA is that what happens if PSS cannot meet its repayment obligation. And that is basically their concern, what happens. And the response from PSS legal counsel is that it would be incumbent upon PSS to address if that ever comes because the CNMI Government is not part of the loan, it is strictly between PSS and USDA. And as a and I think the difference between to this and other loans or debt arrangements is that generally CDA comes into the picture to review the potential bond ratings and all that and whether the CNMI Government can afford to carry upon that obligation. In this case the guarantee for the loan is the 25% mandate under the Constitution that PSS gets funded. And the Board has already gone on record during the committee meeting that they have been given the approval for PSS to set aside from the 25% share of the general revenue available for appropriation in the amount of roughly \$390,000 roughly \$400,000 for the annual repayment of the loan. So the guarantee is there – there is no need for any extra bonding or no extra appropriation to finance the loan. And with that let me reemphasize the recurring question and that is primarily all we heard is what happens if PSS is not able to and the response that we keep giving them is like any other loan note you are basically dealing with the parties to that note and PSS is the only party and not the CNMI Government and so taking into consideration the urgency of the need of the classrooms to address the shortage of the rooms and the need for these rooms so that kids can start coming into the education system age. The committee decided to support the intent of the legislation. Let me go back and people say you know we need CDA, let me read off Public Law 11-14 reads: To establish a special account to pay obligations for certain PSS financing, to continually appropriate \$2,000,000 annually from liquid fuel taxes to the special account to pay such obligations; and for other purposes”, and under Section 4 of Public Law 11-14 reads: Exemption from CDA Approval. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, 4 CMC § 10203(a)(27) shall not apply to any public indebtedness authorized by House Joint Resolution 10-36. Let me read the title of House Joint Resolution 10-36: Authorizing the Public School System on behalf the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to incur public debt up to \$15,685,000 for the financing of the construction of a new high school and other capital improvement projects by the Public School System by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the Legislature pursuant to Article 10, Section 3 of the Commonwealth Constitution. And under this resolution let me read: it is basically requiring the full faith and credit of the Government; the Public Law basically exempts the PSS from their requirement as required by House Joint Resolution 10-36. So there is precedence in what House Bill 19-59 tries to do. And this became Public Law and PSS did meet its financial obligation and this obligation was paid off. During the discussion with CDA – CDA came out straight and said they do not question the ability of PSS to you know they have a tract record in regards to bonds and other obligation public debt in the past; and so this is not the first time that thing is going to be done on the exemption of CDA approval. But I think what we have to bear in mind with this particular loan is that PSS has a fixed or earmark of 25% of whatever we generate that is subject to appropriation as the guarantee; they are not asking from this body of any special funding; the USDA is not requiring them of any full faith and credit backing; they are basically using the funds that is coming from their 25% of the funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman. Did everyone get that? Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the highlight of what you have mentioned. John, I hear a lot of this and I know the urgency and the needs of

PSS, but are we in line or are we violating any law with regards to as we assume to pass this bill are we violating any provisions or statute or what not as what is required. Because I know the resolution that was passed that was highlighted by Representative Sablan, the resolution at the time was to construct the high school, junior high school, and Sinapalo and all those at a \$15 Million dollars loan; I was active during that time; I was aware of that loan and it is true PSS have accomplished all the requirements; and if there is no impediment to the requirements from the USDA and if you see that there is a light in the tunnel and we are not violating any provisions and knowing the urgency and the needs of the school children I think I would also agree to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Before I go back, John I think the question was posed to the Legal Counsel. And the question is, will we be violating any law by approving this bill?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: The easy answer is no. The only law that would apply is the provision of the CDA Act that requires all lending to basically go through them and we are specifically exempting that provision of the law just like we did in respect to the earlier borrowing by PSS in Public Law 11-14 which was authorized by House Joint Resolution 10-36, HD1, SS1. Basically it is the same circumstances except the authorization under the House Joint Resolution 10-36 comes out specifically and says yes, this is also relying on the full faith and credit of the Government. We do not really know that in respect to the \$3 Million dollars borrowing because we have not seen the loan agreement. The loan agreement will determine a lot of the questions that people have like what will happen if PSS does not pay; you go to loan agreement and see what the loan agreement says happens; we have not seen that. I do not know if it involves the Commonwealth that it may or may not. But the only restriction I would see is that the Constitution itself that requires approval of a public debt and that is in Article 10, Section 3 Public Debt Authorization for purposes of our vote and the number of votes required, I would treat this as involving public debt; so it would involve two-thirds of the members of each house of the Legislature to approve it; that is the only requirement I see.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, John. And just to clarify, yes, when we vote for this bill it will require – John, would the committee report require the two-thirds or just the bill?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Just the bill itself.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The committee report would just require a simple majority?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Correct. And again we have not seen the exact wording of the loan agreement which would tell us whether or not there is any Commonwealth conditional liability involved, however, when you actually read the bill House Bill 19-59 and you do go to Section 3, and that is the one that does exempt the bill from the involvement of CDA. It reads: Notwithstanding any law to the contrary 4 CMC §10203 (a) (27) shall not apply to any public indebtedness authorized by this bill. So the bill itself refers to itself as public indebtedness. So just to be on the safe side, we would recommend a vote of two-thirds of the members.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: On the bill?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: On the bill.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, John. We will continue on, recognized Representative Guerrero.

Representative Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and maybe to sum it up looking at the letter to Joseph Diego, (Area Director USDA Rural Development) from the Governor, expressing his support for the \$3 million dollars loan to PSS. I quote on his letter “It is my understanding that the loan has a term of 10 years and a 3.75% interest rate. PSS will source the repayment of \$399,840 per annum from their annual local appropriation. Please note that I have recommended an increase to the annual appropriation to the PSS of over \$2 million dollars beginning next fiscal year in accordance with a recent amendment to our Constitution. Thank you for your support for these projects directly benefitting our children.” So we have the Governor supporting it, so what is the question, why are we so worried about CDA? The Governor has the authority. Let us give him the benefit of the doubt that if PSS does not pay let them go after the Governor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Next is Representative Propst, followed by Representative Attao, and then Representative Maratita.

Representative Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to point out so that everyone is clear on this, that we all share common ground the fact that we do in fact support this bill and the standing committee report almost to the fullest extent of it. But the question that is before us is, whether it should go through CDA. Chairman, I did read the Governor’s letter to Director Joseph Diego, but I did not see any part of it he said that it should not go through CDA. I read it twice in fact again as you mentioned that and I just wanted to point that out. And again, I mean we all believe in putting our students first and the bill itself has wonderful merits, I have talked to Mr. Tim Thornburg and we are going to make this fly but again the general concern is ignoring a very important statute and circumventing a law that has a deeply troubled. Can we make an exception to this, yes, okay, maybe we can do that as our legal counsel has said get two-thirds and then we can go to another and another we are making exceptions to the rule and I feel a little bit troubled by that. If you look at the letter from the Executive Director Manny Sablan of CDA, he was not opposing it either, he was just saying, I look forward to working with you on this. And if CDA as our good Chairman of Ways and Means mentioned earlier has no problem with it, CDA is okay with it, then it should be able to proceed forward. I do not see why we cannot include CDA if that is the statute and we follow the letter of the law. Just so that we can have some consistency and we would not have to come back later and regret it. I also do want to mention that I will support this if we can just simply make an amendment to include CDA. But the bill itself I completely support it and I do believe I signed off on it as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Propst. Recognized, Representative Attao.

Representative Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am actually glad that the Chairman of Ways and Means brought up House Joint Resolution 10-36 and Public Law 11-14. It was cited under Section 4 of Public Law 11-14 the notwithstanding any law to the contrary which is a similar language to House Bill 19-59 the only difference is on Section 3, they guaranteed the \$2 million dollars from the liquid fuel tax. We circumvented a process when we started this legislation in the first place, it should have come in a form of a joint resolution so that CDA can look at the financials behind the CNMI Government whether this debt can be afforded should our resources diminish. That is one of the things that CDA is responsible for the public’s debt and I wished that the former Speaker of the House was here because he was Speaker during the time when this debt was given to PSS and I believe that you were a member of the Sixteenth Legislature when the same process was being introduced as a joint a resolution that was adopted by both houses but the legislation itself never made it through to allow PSS and NMC to share in the \$20 million dollar loan. So I believe that the process has been circumvented not to allow at least a review through a joint resolution by both bodies of the legislature, as the Chairman of Ways and Means the author of the legislation reflected under Article 12 Section 3 which public debt may not be

authorized or incurred without the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature. So if this is not a public debt then why is it going through this body and its whole process for it to allow PSS to take out a loan in this case they call it a loan in other cases it is called a bond, but when you look at section 4 CMC 10203 (a)(27) it is very clear to what the debt is – it is inclusive of loans too. If we were to do this properly we go through a resolution process we all support the PSS, we all support education, but yet we are going to take away a major part of the loan process as a government; it is good to say that the 25% is their guarantor for the next ten years; we also did not see our economy was going to crash ten years ago where we were down to \$93 million dollars in our budget, so just take \$145 million down to \$93 million and take 25% of that – that is not going to allow PSS to pay for this debt that is close to \$400,000. The difference between Public Law 11-14 and House Joint Resolution 10-36 it guaranteed the liquid fuel tax money of \$2 million dollars annually to pay for that, whether our collections would dwindle that money is secured to pay for that loan. This is a little bit different because they are saying that the PSS would take care of it through their 25% but if you decrease the CNMI budget by 25% and they take 25% of that at \$400,000 we will be back to square one where they are going to come here and ask us for additional money and then it is going to be oh you do not support education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Before I recognize any other member if I may just clarify just some of the statements you made. At first you said this is not a public debt I think the Counsel has already come out and said that this is a public debt.

Representative Attao: No, I said it is a public debt – it is the definition with the loan and the bond itself.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Okay, but we are all in agreement that this is a public debt, second, and it is on the bill on Section 3, there is no question about that that is why the vote would have to be two-thirds on the bill. But the part about what would happen if our revenues would go down. In our budget process there is two things that happen before we begin to appropriate any funds to any department or agency, one, we have to put aside funding for debt service these are bonds and loans especially ones that have been required full faith and credit before we even go to touch anything else and spread the pie around, the second would be this one because it is guaranteed in our constitution. So this money to PSS would regardless of whether our revenues go up or down they are guaranteed 25% and it is in that guarantee it does not matter what happens with the economy we have to pay that – similar to our liability to the Settlement Fund we have to pay that before we budget other agencies and so that will happen. I just thought I throw that out so that there is no misunderstanding about this and since 25% it is already between the borrower and USDA it is already a commitment the \$399,000 will be paid out of that. And perhaps that is the reason why USDA did not require full faith and credit – I do not know the reasons behind it but apparently it is well within – just this year alone they got a \$2 million dollar or the Governor has said it would increase by \$2 million and I believe that is the amount that it went up. But third, just to kind of touch on Representative Propst's point about the Governor he did not see anything saying that it could bypass CDA, I think you can read into it in the second sentence after the first paragraph where it says "this letter will serve in lieu of an intergovernmental review" I think that is his – you can read into that as saying that his approval – that letter is in lieu of that – and I just thought I point that out. We will continue one and there are a few more hands that have been raised, but right now Representative Attao still has the floor and I believe after him will be Representative Maratita and then Representative Vinson Sablan and Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero. Continue Representative Attao.

Representative Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a clarification on your statement with the concurrent resolution and all the obligations of the CNMI Government. The difference between the Settlement Fund and the Constitutional mandate by House Legislative Initiative 18-12 that gave 25% to

PSS – the difference between those two is that the Settlement Fund has the exact number that we are going to pay; the 25% does not have the exact appropriation that is going to go to them. So unless we can tell what is going to happen here on out then it is understood but we all know we have been through it you were a member of this body when the budget was slashed by \$45 million dollars and that was a tough decision that happened – the Government went into shutdown so we look back at history; we have this legislation in front of us; I believe and just my own personal opinion that we have circumvented the process without adopting a joint resolution too; but be it as it may we support PSS in its entirety to help our kids further their education, but I believe that the legislation itself needs amendments so when we get to the legislation during bill calendar we will present that amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. And again in the order and the next one is Representative Maratita.

Representative Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again if we were to make good better then why not. But what is important before us is the support of having PSS go through this process of the \$3 million dollar loan. I was going to point out actually some of the issues that was brought up by our good Chairman Lee Pan and of course with you Speaker – when Commissioner Sablan was here she also pointed out the constitutional budget which PSS was guaranteed and one of the things that she brought up was of course if this is to move forward PSS already had looked into this issue and they guaranteed the payment and of course that is one of the areas of concern that was always brought up by CDA. But even with the Governor like you have mentioned earlier or Lee Pan had mentioned earlier PSS has been guaranteed by approximately \$2 million dollars starting next fiscal year. So again I ask for the members' favorable approval of this bill and like I said again if it does need for an amendment then let us do it but you know I understand that we are just trying to make good better if not best. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Vinny Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I read the committee report and I would like to go on record to pose the question to PSS the improvements to the listed schools and projects below are schools scattered around the island and even in the First and Second Senatorial District – my question is to PSS and I know the Representatives here cannot respond unless we dissolved but maybe I would like to respectfully request a written answer to my question that I am about to pose is none of the schools in our district Precinct 4 is addressed in this list and there are needs. I am the President of GTC Elementary and Vice President of Tanapag Middle School and there are needs there – parking lots at GTC there is flooding there also and these are not damages from the storm, but I want an answer as to how the projects came out and what their plans are to address the two schools in Precinct 4 and were they asked if there were needs at both schools. So I just like to go on record as I represent the people of Precinct 4 and most importantly I represent the children over there. So as I look at the list of schools that is spread all over the First, Second, and Third Senatorial District and I want to be prepared to answer to my constituents why our two schools were not included. So I would like to respectfully ask PSS and their leadership to address their answer in writing to me. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Although we have others I believe Chairman Sablan do you intend to respond to that?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes, Mr. Speaker and basically in I think in response to colleague Sablan's inquiry with regards to of what is PSS's plans up there; aside from this \$3 million you know there is I think an earmarking in the amount of a million per year for the next five years from the deferred maintenance program and I think they will recommend that a request be made directly to CIP office PSS to get details of what those scheduled deferred maintenance projects that are going to entail

for the next few years but I think being obligated I think a million a year for the deferred maintenance program so I thought I would share that. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Representative Vinny Sablan, did you get that.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Yes I did. I just want to know the plans of how they are going to address the needs up there. If we are going to go through this you know we shoot it out one shot and get the needs of all the schools so that everybody can win – this would be the time. So I just want to know the plans of how the two schools in our district are going to be addressed. If it is not here are we going to come again and you know borrow more money for future projects or so. I just want that answer in writing so at least I have that and I know what to answer to my constituents when they see this list of schools and say what happened to us. So I am just respectfully asking.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you and I believe Tim Thornburg will be getting with you after words and I believe Representative Tony Sablan said that there are other funds that are available for the deferred maintenance program – is that it that is the Army Corp helping out and federal funding assistance. Let us continue, under my list, recognized Representative Larry Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and this is very short and simple I do support the bill but just to let the members I am going to be making floor amendments and maybe a technical area to include the transformers for Kagman Elementary School and I would also like to propose a floor amendment to include the overhead structures for the staging facility of the Kagman High School as I mentioned to the Board Chair and the Commissioner of PSS last week when we met. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Members, it is already one o'clock I please ask that we sum it up or keep your statements concise so that we can break for lunch. Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero for your comments. I will allow for two more comments Representative Roman Benavente and then Representative Edwin Aldan and then we will act on it and then break for lunch.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share this among the members of the needs of PSS as far as the priorities that PSS has. PSS has already highlighted their priorities they already have what are the most critical needs and what are the most critical areas that is needed to be done. Of course each and every one of us wants to see that things are addressed accordingly because it seems like everybody needs everything. But I will share something with you, San Vincente Elementary School right now has about 11 classrooms that are inoperative and they are doing double sessions. In order for PSS to try to stop the double session and because double sessions are very costly, one, it is hazardous you know kids after school sometimes go home at 4:30 PM and stuff like that. That has to be addressed in a priority level and I think PSS if I am not mistaken, Tim knows and they are in line with their priorities and I agree with that. And I would like to ask my colleagues here to please when it comes to the needs of PSS I know that they are looking at all sides of priorities so let us give them a chance to more or less look into the needs. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Members I will allow for Representative Aldan to make the last statement, if there are still comments to be made we will first break for lunch and after come back and continue on if we need to. If there are no further discussions we will go to the vote. What I am hearing though a lot are comments that would be relevant for the discussion on the bill calendar and so that is why we should save some of these comments for the bill calendar because there are recommendations for amendments and so forth. For now, recognize Representative Aldan.

Representative Aldan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just hope that PSS have enough money to undergo all of these projects \$3 million dollars I think is going to be enough for this kind of stuff and especially we just heard of amendments coming right up. That is all, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Aldan. Is the consensus of the members ready to vote on the committee report?

Members voiced ready and being no further discussions the motion was carried by voice vote. During this time the Chair called for recess.

There were no objections on the floor the House stood recess.

1-The House recessed at 1:05 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:46 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are now back in session. We have left off on Item 12, Reports of Standing Committees we have completed and adopted all of the committee reports and before we go onto our Resolution Calendar I wanted to ask the members if there are no objections for us to go back to Item 7, Senate Communications, the Chair had inadvertently referred Senate Communication 19-83 to the Committee on Ways and Means which was a mistake I was supposed to refer that to the Bill Calendar. Are there any objections?

There were no objections from the members. And at this time the House returned to Item 7, Senate Communications.

SENATE COMMUNICATONS

During this time the Chair withdrew and placed S. B. NO. 19-56, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC §50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. (Sen. Comm. 19-83) onto the Bill Calendar; there were no objections on the floor.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Now let us move on to Item 15, Resolution Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker I would just like to ask if it is okay with you being that we have PSS here that we move to Item 16, Bill Calendar; make a motion for the passage on the PSS bill and then move back to the Resolution Calendar and back to Bill Calendar; if that is okay with everyone?

There was no objection raised on the floor. The House proceeded to Item 16, Bill Calendar; the Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading S. C. R. NO. 19-46: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-59, entitled: "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.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

H. B. NO. 19-59, entitled, A Bill for an Act 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.” [S. C. R. NO. 19-46]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under discussion and prior to coming back in we have discussed whether the members wanted to dissolved into the Committee of the Whole to allow PSS to answer some of the concerns that were raised prior to the lunch and there was no objections; so I would like to turn it over to the Floor Leader to dissolve.

Floor Leader Camacho moved to dissolve into the Committee of the Whole; the motion was seconded; and being no discussions was carried by voice vote.

The House dissolved into the Committee of the Whole at 2:52 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House reconvened at in plenary session at 3:28 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back and we left off on item 16 the Bill Calendar; and the motion offered by the Floor leader was for the adoption of House Bill 19-59 and we are still under discussion; I recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Attao: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to offer a floor amendment to House Bill 19-59; to remove Section 3; I have it written up for you; and this is in accordance with the Counsel’s opinion that this is a public debt; therefore I move for this amendment and copies will be provided to the members.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let us take short recess for members to get copies.

2-The House recessed at 3:30 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:49 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We now return back to our session. We left off on Item 16, the Bill Calendar. After discussions on House Bill 19-59 a floor amendment is being offered by Representative BJ Attao, I now recognize Representative Attao for the introduction.

Representative Attao: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is to formally introduce a floor amendment to House Bill 19-59; to delete in its entirety Section 3, from lines 12 to 14, on page 2. So move.

FLOOR AMENDMENT

To: H.B. 19-059

Page 2, Lines 12 to 14, Section 3.

Offered by: Representative: Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

AMENDMENT:

To amend House Bill No. 19-59 to read as follows:

~~**Section 3. Exemption from CDA Approval.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, 4 CMC § 10203(a)(27) shall not apply to any public indebtedness authorized by this bill.~~

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you Representative Attao. A motion has been offered to strikeout Section 3 in its entirety and I guess to renumber...

Representative Attao: The amendment, Mr. Speaker allows the Counsel – thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you Representative Attao. The motion has been offered for the floor amendment and it has been seconded we are now under discussion. Any discussions? Ready on the floor amendment? Short recess.

3-The House recessed at 3:51 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:51 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back to our plenary session. Ready for the motion to adopt the floor amendment?

There being no further discussions on the floor amendment offered by Representative Attao, the motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back to the main motion. Are we ready for the vote? Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members and before we get on to the vote let me just state for the record that this legislation came up by request from the PSS to address critical needs with regards to the shortage of classrooms for the early head start and kindergarten programs. The funding is geared toward the construction of ten classrooms for Garapan, San Vicente, Oleai, Koblerville and Dan Dan Elementary Schools; and some parking lot paving on Tinian, Rota, the Joaquina Rabauliman Head Start Center; and for the Kagman Elementary School for the procurement of the Pad Mounted Transformer. The original version of the legislation included Section 3 that basically tries to clarify the position and the intent of the legislation that it be exempt from CDA approval based on the fact that this is an Agency loan agreement; it has been done before where CDA approval has been exempted; and upon the committee as a whole questionings of Mr. Thornburg from PSS; the CDA approval to this proposed loan will not change anything to the condition of the loan nor the guarantee condition of the loan. We are mindful that the legal counsel had said that this is a public debt and therefore it would require a two-thirds vote which in this case is 14. But you know these are issues that have come forth before this legislature in the past; they have gone ahead and granted the approval for the exemption of a CDA approval and even at a higher debt for the government but I understand that the two-thirds requirement then and it has gone through a House Joint Resolution because that particular indebtedness required the full-faith and credit of the Government. And in this case we have heard it all over again that the USDA is not requiring such a guarantee and nor is PSS asking for that guarantee or

asking any special appropriation to finance the repayment of the loan; nor is PSS asking for a floatation of a bond to support the loan. Let me just say we had just adopted an amendment that removed that language but in legislation we want to make sure that we include language that makes it clear for everybody on the intent of the legislation and the original intent is that the CDA approval will not be necessary or required for this particular loan by PSS. I just certainly hope that HB 19-59, HD1, does not cause any delay in regards to the intent of the funding for PSS. It is not like we pass it today and the Senate acts on it next week and the Governor signs it in the same week and the projects starts. We have kids that are continually turned away every year because of the lack of classrooms and that is the urgency. And again I just question what a CDA approval would do to this particular loan package. I do not think that the USDA care so much about CDA approval. It is not like we call Mr. Sablan tomorrow and he push forth his support; he's got a board that he's got to put together and all this and he is going to have his people to try to crunch the numbers to see whether PSS would be able to afford this loan. But in the end what you have in front of them is that PSS is not asking for any other funding other than what is going to come from them pursuant to the 25% Constitutional mandate and I think we all know that. But I certainly hope in support in ensuring that we move this forward. I voted for the amendment but I just certainly hope that when it comes to issues like this that we look at the bigger picture and try to ensure that we take the best appropriate steps to ensure that undue delay such as the matter of ensuring that we have enough classrooms for incoming kindergarten and head start kids are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Are there any further discussions before we go to the vote? None. Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-59, HD1, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, meets the required two-thirds vote H. B. NO. 19-59, HD1, hereby passes the House. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is no objections on the floor can we move back to the Resolution Calendar and take care of one resolution that we are going to be presenting Friday evening and I am hopeful that we can adopt it today.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any objections? Without objections, Floor Leader proceed.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of C. RES. NO. 19-17; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

C. RES. NO. 19-17: A House Commemorative Resolution To honor the memory of the late Honorable Melchor Joseph Mendiola and to recognize his distinguished public career and memorialize his countless exemplary accomplishments and contributions to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote. The Speaker recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of H. RES. NO. 19-32; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

H. RES. NO. 19-32: A House Resolution to welcome and commend Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr in her leadership and dedication to professionalism in Fire Service.

There being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote. The Speaker recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of H. RES. NO. 19-33; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

H. RES. NO. 19-33: A House Resolution to honor and commend Mr. Francisco Mendiola Sablan for his many years of loyal service to the field of education in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote. The Speaker recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of H. RES. NO. 19-33; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

H. RES. NO. 19-33: A House Resolution to honor and commend Mr. Francisco Mendiola Sablan for his many years of loyal service to the field of education in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote. The Speaker recognized the Floor Leader.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Floor Leader, we referred H. Res. 19-34 to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications the next one would be C. Res. 19-5 all the way to 19-16. Is there any objection for the Floor Leader making one blanket motion? Okay, without objections, recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of C. RES. NO. 19-5; C. Res. 19-6; C. Res. 19-7; C. Res. 19-8; C. Res. 19-9; C. Res. 19-10; C. Res. 19-11; C. Res. 19-12; C. Res. 19-13; C. Res. 19-14; C. Res. 19-15; and C. Res. 19-16 the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

C. RES. NO. 19-5: To acknowledge Guam Power Authority for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-6: To acknowledge Telesource CNMI, Inc. of Tinian for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-7: To acknowledge S.E.T Pacific Inc.-Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-8: To acknowledge Palau Public Utilities Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-9: To acknowledge Polyphase System, Inc. of Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-10: To acknowledge Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-11: To acknowledge 249th Engineer Battalion for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-12: To acknowledge JJ Global Services of Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-13: To acknowledge Commonwealth Utilities Corporation of Rota for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation of Saipan in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-14: To acknowledge JMSI Electrical LLC-Guam for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-15: To acknowledge Kosrae Utilities Authority for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

C. RES. NO. 19-16: To acknowledge Yap State Public Service Corporation for their collective efforts in collaborating with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to restore utility services back to the people of Saipan after the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

There being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote. The Speaker recognized the Floor Leader.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: That concludes our action under Resolution Calendar let us move back to Item 16, Bill Calendar and I turn it over to the our Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-37, HD2, SD1, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to transfer the Administration of the Government’s Group Health and Life Insurance Programs to the Department of Finance, and to amend 1 CMC §8364; and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

H. B. NO. 19-37, HD2, SD1, entitled, A Bill for an Act to transfer the Administration of the Government’s Group Health and Life Insurance Programs to the Department of Finance, and to amend 1 CMC §8364; and for other purposes. [**SEN. COMM. 19-76**]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: This bill was amended by the Senate; we consulted the author and the committee and it appears they are fine with the amendments. Are there any further discussions on the motion and are we ready for the vote? Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-37, HD2, SD1 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, H. B. NO. 19-37, HD2, SD1, hereby passes the House. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-52, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 9 CMC Section 2116 by adding new subsections (g) and (h); and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

S. B. NO. 19-52, entitled, A Bill for an Act to amend 9 CMC Section 2116 by adding new subsections (g) and (h); and for other purposes. [SEN. COMM. 19-82]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: This is the gold star license plate for families of those who have served in our armed forces and have paid the ultimate sacrifice and I think this is in conformance with other States also to recognize their fallen heroes. Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-52, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, S. B. NO. 19-52, hereby passes the House. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-56, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

S. B. NO. 19-56, entitled, A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §50204 to exempt developer infrastructure taxes from qualifying certificate tax abatement or rebate for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. [**SEN. COMM. 19-83**]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: This is the QC bill for the Third Senatorial District basically exempting the abatement of taxes or rebates for developer infrastructure tax for the Third Senatorial District. If we are ready then Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-56, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, S. B. NO. 19-56, hereby passes the House. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-89, HS1, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to ban the importation of used tires; and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members. The Speaker opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

H. B. NO. 19-89, HS1, entitled, A Bill for an Act to ban the importation of used tires; and for other purposes. [**S. C. R. NO. 19-37**]

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get the clarification from the author with regards to the tire. I know like you said the rethreaded tires or recapped tires; if it is normally, that one is put in the factory to rethread or recapped tires and if that is recapped it is considered not necessarily new but half new. So I think in the outside of the context of a used tire or

importation of a broken tire or what not and so I think maybe we can do a floor amendment or is there already an amendment with regards to that.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think I have raised that issue during the Committee Report review and I asked the legal counsel and the legal counsel has already clarified that rethreaded tires are considered remanufactured and so therefore do not clarify under the definition of used tires. So it would not apply.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Okay, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further discussion on HB 19-89, HS1, if we are ready then Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-89, HS1, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, H. B. NO. 19-89, HS1, hereby passes the House. Floor Leader if you are going down the line being HB 19-61, by request of the Chair of Committee on Health, Education and Welfare is requesting to leave it on the calendar pending some information that the committee is waiting for until the next session. So the request is to leave it on the calendar and not act on it today and we can act on it on the next session? Chairwoman Ogumoro.

Representative Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be acted on in our session on Rota.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Okay, so we will act on this in our next session on Rota. Floor Leader for the next bill.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §§2201(c) and 2205(a) to authorize CPA to grant a master concession agreement for each point of entry at Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, respectively; and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1, entitled, A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §§2201(c) and 2205(a) to authorize CPA to grant a master concession agreement for each point of entry at Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, respectively; and for other purposes. [**S. C. R. NO. 19-40**]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Are there any further discussion at this time on SB 19-48, HD1? If there is no discussion there is just one little point and I think I have raised it up earlier and that is a slight correction to the citation as requested by the Attorney General in his comments. Can we ask the Counsel on the Attorney General’s comments he states that subsection 3 cites the wrong provision of law to amend to correct citation is 4 CMC §2205 (a) do we need to offer a floor amendment to this or can we do it as a technical?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: For the purpose of the HD1 makes that correction.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So the correction has already been added under the House Draft 1. Okay, so there is no need. Thank you and I stand corrected. If we are ready then Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1, hereby passes the House. Floor Leader for the next bill.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-58, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §2111(a) to include a member of HANMI on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

S. B. NO. 19-58, entitled, A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §2111(a) to include a member of HANMI on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and for other purposes. [**S. C. R. NO. 19-41**]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: This is the MVA HANMI Board of Directors and having HANMI be represented. If we are ready then Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 19-58, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, S. B. NO. 19-58, hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-65, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes.; the motion was then seconded by several members. The Speaker opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

H. B. NO. 19-65, entitled, A Bill for an Act to prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes. [**S. C. R. NO. 19-42**]

Representative Roman C. Benavente: [Note: Representative Roman C. Benavente’s microphone was not turned on; hence his comments were not recorded.]

During this time the Speaker recognized the Chairwoman of Committee on Health, Education and Welfare Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends the passage of this important piece of legislation, HB 19-65, that would prohibit the sale of betel nut to any person below the ages of 18. One of the surveys conducted and that was the 2000 Commonwealth Youth Tobacco survey, showed that 33.9% of our high school youths chewed tobacco and in the middle school 34.7% of that population chewed betel nut. It gave a very strong indication that something must be done because if the trend continues we will end up with a population of youths that are not healthy. So your committee also went ahead obtained some preliminary data from CHCC on the number of oral cancer diagnosed between 2007 and 2014 but this is for all ages. They will give us some data later on that would show just the youth population, but that number stands at 31 of persons diagnosed with oral cancer. We must make every effort to make sure that number decreases especially when it comes to our youth population. So Mr. Speaker and members your committee once again supports the passage of this bill and I ask that everyone supports.

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

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to provide further clarification on the percentages of high school students and middle school students that was just cited. Those numbers are the percentage of high school students and middle school students who were chewing betel nut in association with tobacco. So that complicates the situation health-wise for our youths in this age bracket. So I think it is important that we clear that. Thank you.

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

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to share this. It is a very serious issue with regards to oral cancer. We have seen so many in the school level and everywhere already. A lot of our residents in the CNMI are hit with oral cancer – they have been tested and have been found positive to having cancer. Mr. Speaker, I feel that of course that we intend to enforce the law by establishing the age level which is that you need to be 18 years in order for you to purchase betel nut and what not. But I would like to ask you and maybe John would highlight to give some information – with regards to the initial introductions of the restrictions of betel nut and tobacco when it was outlawed that it should not be – that you cannot smoke within the premises or in the government office or any place that is near a public place that restrict smoking area. I do not know and that is why I would like to ask our legal counsel is it enforceable also for betel nut or only the tobacco?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: John did you get that?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Right now the law is only smoking within 25 feet of an entrance of a government building.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: So you mean to say Counsel, that there is no restriction with regards to chewing anywhere near.

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Not that I know of.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Because the reason why I say that is that they both have their bad sides with regards to tobacco and betel nut has both bad sides with regards to health and safety. The tobacco you know smoking cigarettes can gain second-hand infection from smoking or cancer. But in the other hand also you know spitting of betel nut all over the place even the parking lots or even in offices and everywhere you go in schools you know people spitting betel nuts down in the parking lot and whatnot is very unacceptable and it is very dirty it is very uncalled for. So that is the reason why if anything I think a lot of this emphasis that we argue and we try to impose regulations and policies to our people betel nut is considered a culture and a habit, but I think it has to come down to the home. How much regulations and how much laws do why have to establish to control this kind of if we do not come down to the home. In the past elders only chew betel nut and then now everywhere from little kids I go to somebody's house and I see little kids chewing betel nut and the dad is fixing the betel nut and giving it to the son and that is really unhealthy. I would like to register this as a concern among all of us that we are trying to pass bills and laws and restrictions and whatnot but yet we never sit back and really look at it in reality and say what I am missing within myself or what am I doing that I am not supposed to be doing. And basically Mr. Speaker that is what I wanted to say. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente and I think that is the intent of this bill is to prohibit minors from chewing although it restricts vendors from selling to minor. Are we ready for the vote. Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-65, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, H. B. NO. 19-65, hereby passes the House. Members, I did say that we were going to cut-off at 4:30 if we do not finish; we were going to have a recess and continue on tomorrow, but by the way we all acted today it looks like nobody wants to have a session tomorrow. So we have two more bills for action; I wanted to ask the Floor Leader if we

can act on HB 19-23 the minimum wage increase which should not take too long and if we have time we can do the cigar bill.

Representative Yumul: Point of clarification I do not think that we discussed HB 19-23 in the House committee – was I in here?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We passed the committee report.

Representative Yumul: We did, okay.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Without discussion. Floor Leader is that okay, that did not generate much discussion. Floor Leader recognized.

Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-58, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to increase the Commonwealth Minimum Wage to match the Federal Minimum Wage applicable in the Commonwealth.; the motion was then seconded by several members.

H. B. NO. 19-23, entitled, A Bill for an Act to increase the Commonwealth Minimum Wage to match the Federal Minimum Wage applicable in the Commonwealth. [**S. C. R. NO. 19-44**]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any discussion on the motion. If we are ready then Madam Clerk please call the roll.

Several members voiced ready and there being no discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 19-23, 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
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 Taman 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	absent (excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 19 members voting yes, H. B. NO. 19-23, hereby passes the House. Members with regards to the last bill which is HB 19-76 I know there was some discussions about amendments that were going to be offered and I am concern that if we tackle that today we may not finish and go into the wee hours of the night so let us save that for Rota and allow for those members who want to make amendments ample time to make sure that they get their amendments in order. And so with that – that will conclude Item 16, Bill Calendar and we can now move on to Miscellaneous Business, Item 17.

During this time the Chair directed the House to item 17, Miscellaneous Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If we are ready I just wanted to come on record and it is actually under announcement and miscellaneous. Tomorrow I believe at 9:30 am there has been a call to the members to join the Acting Governor who will be signing HB 19-94 the Drug Court bill into law tomorrow morning. Under miscellaneous though I wanted to state for the record I believe the Lieutenant Governor was interviewed regarding the line-item veto that the Governor did on the Appropriations Act and he stated that they will be working with the Judiciary to find the funding. I just wanted to come on record that in my discussion with other members and the legal counsel – the Governor line-item vetoed that provision in the budget bill because it cannot appropriate funding to a non-existing entity but in my discussion with the legal counsel that funding that was appropriated to the Judiciary remains intact pending the signature that bill into law. So tomorrow when the Governor signs that bill into law that funding of \$150,000 appropriated to the Judiciary for the Drug Court should still be intact and it will be available. I thought I mention that for the record. Are there any further discussion? Recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. With regards to the line-item veto because that is an item-veto I think I have discussed this legal counsel on maybe a need for a supplemental appropriation to reappropriate that particular item since it is stricken out. Again the funding is still in there but the class code or the business unit for that was vetoed so it is not in the Budget Act. We will look into the options on trying on how to properly – but that money that amount since it is a subject to the line-item veto should still be available.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So it is just an issue of restoring the business unit. Okay, fair enough. Are there any further? If none we move on.

There being no other members being recognized the Chair moved to Item 18, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Okay, the only other announcement I have is that the Chair has sent out a notice for a session on November 6 on the island of Rota and I believe that there are two public hearings on the 5th. The Session is on the 6th which is a Friday, I believe on the 5th there will be three public hearings - Committee on Natural Resources; Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs; Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. Are there any other, none.

There being no further announcements the Chair recognized the Floor Leader for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The House adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
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: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE
