



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2016

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

2nd Day, Third Regular Session

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Third Regular Session on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 10:20 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Before I recognize the Clerk for roll call let me take this time and also recognize our visiting guest for today's session, former Representative Ana Teregeyo and members from the grant and everyone of course. I do understand that the Mayor is coming so I would also like to recognize the Mayor. So with that Clerk for the roll call.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and sixteen members were present; Representatives Angel Demapan, Glenn Maratita, Francis Taimanao and Ralph Yumul were absent.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Just for the record I did receive a notice for Representative Angel Demapan, Representative Yumul and Representative Francis Taimanao. I just thought I would let you guys know that they are excused. I understand that Representative Maratita will be in shortly. So with that we will go ahead and move down to item II, Public Comment. If there is anyone from the public who wishes to comment on any items on today's agenda you may do so. The podium is right up in the front.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Alex Camacho, General Manager of Triple J Rentals Micronesia
Mr. Jay Santos, Representative of Triple J Rentals Micronesia

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Are there any other public comments at this time? It appears there is none. So we will go ahead and move down to item 3, the adoption of journals. Clerk?

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal:

First Day, Sixth Special Session Journal – July 16, 2015

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt the 1st Day, 6th Special Session Journal.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor. The motion was seconded, discussion? Appears to be none.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the 1st Day, 6th Special Session Journal was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan moved to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized the Floor Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have several items that did not meet the OGA requirement to be on our agenda. However, although we cannot act on these items if included in today's agenda I would like to include them for today, but before we do that I would like to make a motion to amend our agenda to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) this is to allow the House to amend its agenda to include Commemorative Resolution 19-20, Senate Communication 19-11, House Communications 19-71, 19-72, 19-73 and Miscellaneous Communication 19-16. The motion to suspend Rule IX, so move Mr. Speaker.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions.

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

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The motion was seconded. Any discussion on the motion? It appears to be none. I now call for a roll call on this motion.

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

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

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 16 members voted “yes” and 1 member voted “no.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. It appears that we do have the number so motion is granted. Now we move on to item (a) which is the House Bill and I now recognize the Floor Leader for the introduction. I am sorry Representative Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero.

House Bills:

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced House Bill 19-123 and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill.

H. B. NO. 19-123

To amend 4 CMC §2201(c) to remove on-premises food and beverage consumption from the definition of “Master Concession” to allow for the Commonwealth Ports Authority to issue a Request-For-Proposal and choose the appropriate food vendor for the port of entries; and for other purposes.

REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)\n
(Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan referred House Bill 19-123 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan for the next introduction.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan officially introduced House Bill 19-124 and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill.

H. B. NO. 19-124

To provide legislative oversight over public land leases by limiting the Department of Public Lands' scope of authority relative to parcel size.

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

(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan referred House Bill 19-124 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan for the next introduction.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced House Bill 19-125.

H. B. NO. 19-125

To establish separate application requirements, fees, and penalties for car rental vehicles; and for other purposes.

REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan referred House Bill 19-125 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan for the next introduction.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan officially introduced House Bill 19-126.

H. B. NO. 19-126

To amend 1 CMC §3405 regarding the Judicial Building Fund; and for other purposes.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan referred House Bill 19-126 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro for the next introduction.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro officially introduced House Bill 19-127 and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill.

H. B. NO. 19-127

To establish the Northern Marianas Cultural Center, a governmental Corporation, which shall be under the management and control of the Resident Representative for Indigenous Affairs, who is, and shall be responsible for the planning, development, establishment, operation, management and control of the Northern Marianas Cultural Center pursuant to this Act.

REP. FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Anthony T. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(Referred to the Committees on Health, Education and Welfare and Ways and Means)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan officially introduced House Bill 19-128.

H. B. NO. 19-128

To amend Public Law 18-56 to permit persons under the age of 21 to transit through casino gaming areas; and for other purposes.

REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)
(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I respectfully ask the Chair if he can expedite their review work on this matter. There is a concern on safety measure so I thought I would point that out Chairman. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan referred House Bill 19-128 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental operations and House Bill 19-127 is referred to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Privilege Mr. Speaker. Just a clarification. This is to both HEW and Ways and Means House Bill 19-127.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan restated his referral of House Bill 19-127 to be referred to the Committees on Health, Education and Welfare and Ways and Means.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Referring to House Bill 19-125, we did receive testimonial from two individuals and if we could possibly ask for those written comments so that it can be readily available when the committee deliberates on the bill. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. I just received a letter from Triple J and this letter will also be included and will be referred over to every member. Recognize Representative Vinson Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Speaker. Just for the record, I did also request comments from Triple J, as well as AVIS, also Commerce and DPS. So just to get ahead of the game these comments will be turned in to committee so at least when we meet we have those comments available. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So noted. Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to seek clarification reference to House Bill 19-128, if you said Commerce and Tourism or was it referred to JGO?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: It was referred over to JGO was that clarified Floor Leader?

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So with that we will go ahead and move on to the Local Bills.

House Local Bills:

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan officially introduced House Local Bill 19-47.

H. L. B. NO. 19-47

To re-name the Beach Road Pathway, the “Governor Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway”; and for other purposes.

REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Frances S. Taimanao)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan moved to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Floor Leader George N. Camacho for the next introduction.

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Floor Leader George N. Camacho officially introduced House Commemorative Resolution 19-19 for Representative Angel A. Demapan and the Committee of the Whole.

C. RES. NO. 19-19

To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Governor Eulogio (Eloy) S. Inos and to acknowledge his lifelong service and countless contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)
(**Moved to Resolution Calendar**)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan officially introduced House Commemorative Resolution 19-20.

C. RES. NO. 19-20

To congratulate the Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows Program on the occasion of the graduation of the 2015 class and to recognize and commend the inaugural 2014 class and the 2015 class of the Pacific Century Fellows for their exemplary community service in response to Typhoon Souledor.

REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Vinson F. Sablan)
(Moved to Resolution Calendar)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan placed House Commemorative Resolutions 19-19 and 19-20 on the Resolution Calendar for action. The Chair then proceeded to item VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk for the announcement.

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 19-102: (12/30/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-121, HD2, entitled, (To amend Public Law 19-8, Section 602(b) Hiring Restrictions and Section 702(d) Judicial Branch Probation Officers; and for other purposes). Became **Public Law 19-29**

GOV. COMM. 19-103: (12/30/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-35, S1, entitled, (To appropriate \$63,606.95 from the funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission; and for other purposes). Became **Rota Local Law 19-7**

GOV. COMM. 19-104: (1/6/16) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. L. B. 19-37, D7 (To appropriate \$4,272,000.00 from revenues to be collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended anticipated being collected for fiscal year 2016; and for other purposes.). Became **Saipan Local Law 19-11, item vetoed [Deadline 3/6/16]**

GOV. COMM. 19-105: (12/29/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, at the Capital Improvement Program Office to receive an annual salary of \$100,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-106: (12/31/15) Submitting the annual report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

GOV. COMM. 19-107: (1/21/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-87, HD1, SD1, entitled, (Adding new Classes & Fees of Special Liquor License; Special Casino Liquor License; and Special Electronic Gaming Liquor License under the Alcoholic Beverage Control). Became **Public Law 19-30**

GOV. COMM. 19-108: (1/21/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-59, HD1, SD1, entitled, (CNMI-PSS USDA LOAN AGREEMENT). Became **Public Law 19-31**

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Any comment or messages from the Governor? Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just to extend appreciate for the support and this is to comment on Governor's Communication 19-102 again to extend the support of the members I know this particular legislation introduced had a time sensitive issue. This is in regards to the continued employment of two probation officers and our appreciation to the Governor for signing into law becoming 19-29. Also, if I may comment on Governor's Communication 19-108 that became Public Law 19-31, again extending my appreciation to the members support and this is in regards to the legislation that authorize the PSS Loan with USDA. Again, my appreciation to the members support and the Governor for signing the legislation into law. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Any other member wishes to comment?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, also in line with Representative Sablan's comments. We also have in front of us just been introduced from the Judiciary request for a loan. This is respectfully commenting on the Governor's Communication 19-106. As we all know, we also received information that the settlement agreement that there may be a shortage of close to \$2 Million right in front of us on 106 it is letting us know that there is a \$9 Million short or deficit for last fiscal year. I would request Mr. Speaker through your office that we bring in the appropriate entity as soon as possible so that we are clear in all this information on 19-106 and perhaps even more than the information that is in front of us on 19-106. I am not sure what is the disposition of the leadership, I would appreciate that we do that. Perhaps, next week if possible and get all this information so that we are clear on what we are heading in anticipation of the budget.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So noted, Representative Tebuteb. As I recall we did have an audience with the court last week and I pointed that out that if and when the House take a position on their plan to the possibility on their proposed plan or project, we will definitely have a communication. I respectfully ask the Chair to expedite the review on that request. Thank you. Recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker, my concern rests within the information in front of us with respect to 19-106 and that is the deficit as indicated in the Governor's Communication 19-106. I would suggest that we do this as soon as possible, practical next week if possible.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So noted. Any other member? Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to perhaps get more clarification on the request by our good Minority Leader. I think he is requesting that you bring in maybe the Secretary of Finance, maybe the OMB so that we can have an audience with them and go over the annual report because there was a deficit. I did look through the report and it is very clear the reasons for the deficit. It is attributable to two things. One was the affect or the impact to our economy as a result of the cable cut – the fiber optic – the Typhoon Soudelor and Champi, which impacted economic activity here and so that reduced the revenues that was anticipated and

further it was over expenditure, but again as the report claims it was a result of several things. One is storm preparation and also the recovery efforts. I believe that resulted in a lot of overtime expenditures to deal with the Soudelor and Champi. And so, I just wanted to get clarification what we are going to look into further when we meet with the OMB. It is very clear from the report why there was a deficit. So may I ask the Minority Leader to maybe enlighten us, as least me, what further we hope to achieve by meeting?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Minority Leader, do you want to respond to that?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that picture is up there right now, specifically on the majority of the over expenditure for the fiscal year attribution as also mentioned by Vice Speaker. We can perhaps look at this and anticipate that if we are doing an over expenditure in lieu or on top of what is an appropriation then we need to perhaps adjust our strategy within the House and so that we know where we are heading with respect to anticipation of what the proposed projections in the near future that is simply just requesting in lieu of that.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. I recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And on this matter as I have mentioned in previous session, the Chair has taken the liberty to communicate with the Secretary of Finance in making herself available before this body to explain in detail the annual report with concern I guess like the Minority Leader has asserted to the \$10 Million shortfall and I think we can all relate to why that would have been expected the communication blackout the two storms, but I think more importantly, I think as part of what we can look forward to is to making the Secretary available and ask her for projections in regards to the first two quarters of this current fiscal year. I think I would not be surprised if the Secretary of Finance come up with a projection in increase in revenues as a result with the recovery restoration activities. So, again as I have noted before it is often difficult to get the Secretary over here, but I am under process of arranging it so that she makes herself available and we will advise the Chair as soon as that is confirmed. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman and I appreciate you reminding the members of that communication that is my understanding that you are working with the Secretary in getting all those facts over so that the members can be appraised on those information. Any other members who wishes to comment? Appears to be none, we now move on to item VII, Senate Communication. Now recognize the Floor Leader for the acceptance.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to accept Senate Communications 19-112 to 19-116 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 19-112: (12/23/15) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 19-62, HD2 (To remove the three legislative day

requirement for local appropriation for local appropriation bills; and for other purposes.) on December 23, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-113: (12/23/15) Returning H. B. 19-121, HD2, entitled, “To amend Public Law 19-08, Section 602(b) Hiring Restrictions and Section 702(d) Judicial Branch Probation Officers; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on December 23, 2015. [*For info-Became Public Law 19-29*]

SEN. COMM. 19-114: (1/11/16) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-26, entitled, “To recognize and congratulate Dr. Dora Borja Miura on her marvelous achievement in earning the honorary title of the 2016 CNMI Public School System Teacher of the Year Award and to express a deep appreciation for the passion and commitment she exhibits by providing students in the CNMI with a quality educational experience.”, which was adopted by the Senate on December 23, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-115: (1/11/16) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-27, entitled, “To convey a heartfelt appreciation to Byron Lizama Dela Cruz Jr., for courageously voicing out his opinion in the effort to spread awareness on the destruction that drugs have caused to the community of Tinian, and to express a sincere thank you to all the agencies, the schools and the community for contributing in the cause to put an end to drug abuse.”, which was adopted by the Senate on December 23, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-116: (1/5/16) Informing the House of its new elected officers of the 19th NMCL Senate. [*For info*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion on the floor and the motion to accept Senate Communications 19-112 to 19-116 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: My apologies Mr. Speaker, I forgot to include the new communication, which is Senate Communication 19-117 informing the Governor of the vacancy in the Senate. I would like to offer an additional motion.

SEN. COMM. 19-117: (01/22/16) A letter from the Senate President to the Governor regarding the acceptance of the resignation of Senator Victor B. Hocog and declaring of vacancy in the Senate. [*For info*]

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I would like to go ahead and make an additional motion to accept Senate Communication 19-117, so move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Motion again was seconded. Discussion on the motion?

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communication 19-117 so that it may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We will go ahead and move down to item VIII, which is the House Communication. I now recognize the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

There Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 19-64: (12/14/15) From the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare submitting travel report on the official travels made by committees to the island of Guam. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-65: (12/21/15) From Representative Yumul, informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on personal business beginning Wednesday, December 23, 2015 to Saturday, January 2, 2016 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-66: (1/14/16) From Representative Angel A. Demapan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning Thursday, January 14, 2016 until Friday, January 29, 2016 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-67: (1/20/16) From Representative Guerrero, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning January 22, 2016 to January 24, 2016 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-68: (1/20/16) From Representative Antonio P. Sablan, Ways and Means Chair, submitting amended composition to the Ways and Means Committee, appointing Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero as member of the W&M Committee replacing Speaker Rafael S. Demapan. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-69: (1/20/16) From Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Commerce and Tourism Chair, submitting amended composition to the Commerce and Tourism Committee, appointing Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero as member of the C&T Committee replacing Speaker Rafael S. Demapan. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-70: (1/20/16) From Representative Glenn L. Maratita, Judiciary and Governmental Operations Chair, submitting amended composition to the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, appointing Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero as member of the JGO Committee replacing Speaker Rafael S. Demapan. [*For info*]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Any discussion on the House Communication. Recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you. I would like to actually comment on House Communication 19-64 and that is submitting the travel report on the official travel from the committees. Basically, I would like to extend that this is a well taken report that I also had the opportunity to go over and it is very informative and for that I would just like to commend the committee for a job well done. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. So noted. Any other discussion on House Communication? If none, we will go ahead and move down to item XI, Miscellaneous Communication. I now recognize the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 19-11: The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WESPAC) - 2016 US Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarship Announcement.

MISC. COMM. 19-12: (1/20/16) From Christine F. Castro, Youth Congress Clerk, transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-2, entitled, “To recommend that the CNMI Board of Education adopt new policies and procedures to have private and public high schools mandate a sum of civic service hours for students to complete throughout their years of high school,” which was adopted by the 15th Youth Congress on January 16, 2016. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 19-13: (1/20/16) From Christine F. Castro, Youth Congress Clerk, transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-3, entitled, “To recognize the Saipan Chapter of The Compassionate Friends Organization for bringing their hearts and services to the island community and supporting families who experience a loss of a child,” which was adopted by the 15th Youth Congress on January 16, 2016. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 19-14: (1/20/16) From Christine F. Castro, Youth Congress Clerk, transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-4, entitled, “Recognizing and acknowledging the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation for their heartfelt contributions to the communities in the CNMI and to express a sincere appreciation for their generous donations in the Typhoon Soudelor relief effort,” which was adopted by the 15th Youth Congress on January 16, 2016. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 19-15: (1/20/16) From Christine F. Castro, Youth Congress Clerk, transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-4, entitled, “To respectfully urge the Honorable Representatives of the 19th Northern Marianas

Commonwealth Legislature to work collaboratively with the Public School System – Office of Pupil Transportation to oversee and repair all damaged bus stops of their respective precincts to ensure the safety of all students who rely heavily on school buses for transportation,” which was adopted by the 15th Youth Congress on January 16, 2016.
[For info]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Any discussion on item XI? Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with respect to Miscellaneous Communication 19-15 with the passage of Youth Congress Resolution 15-4 asking this body to work with PSS to oversee and repair damaged bus stop. I wanted to maybe ask if you can assign the appropriate Chair to maybe meet with PSS so we can look into this issue. We all know the individual representatives from various precincts have been conducting or fixing various bus stops, but I think what the Youth Congress is asking is that we meet with PSS and identify all of them and see how we can help to assist to repair. Just so that we heed the request of the Youth Congress that we take some formal action to appoint somebody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. So noted. We now move down to item XII, which is the Reports of Standing Committees, we do have four here for action. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First is Standing Committee Report is 19-73, reporting on Senate Bill 19-42, SS1. Mr. Speaker, the author himself of the Senate Bill has asked our good Chairman if we could refer this legislation back to the committee for further review and I believe a couple amendments. The good Chairman has asked me to go ahead and offer the motion. Mr. Speaker, the motion is to refer Standing Committee Report 19-73, reporting on Senate Bill 19-42, SS1 back to its appropriate committee, so move.

S. C. R. NO. 19-73: Reporting on S. B. No. 19-42, SS1, entitled: “A Bill for an Act 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.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the full membership of the House decide on S. B. NO. 19-42, SS1.*

(Recommitted to Natural Resources)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The motion was seconded. Any discussion on the motion? Recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no objection on that motion and the Floor Leader also mentioned a few items that may be addressed. Perhaps if I may ask a summary of those few items that the author is mainly concerned with the communication.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will go ahead and yield to the Chairman of Natural Resources to respond to the question.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Chairman.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was called by Vice President of the Senate and Senator Palacios and we met and discuss the preamble of the bill. He needed to insert some clarity to the real intent of the bill; the constitutional issues that would help this body make a better decision in regards to the proposed bill. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Aldan. Any other information Minority Leader? Recognize Chairman.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: And that is why Speaker we decided to recall the bill and do it in the committee level and then bring it back to the body.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. So with that the motion was offered by the Floor Leader. It appears to be no more discussion.

There was no further discussion and the motion to recommit Standing Committee Report 19-73 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Motion granted. I now again recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-74.

S. C. R. NO. 19-74: Reporting on S. B. No. 19-13, SS1, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 9 CMC §2301 to provide for stricter penalties for operating an illegal for-hire vehicle within the CNMI; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House file S. B. NO. 19-13, SS1.*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion was seconded. Any discussion on the motion? Recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you. I know we have the committee report, but why file? Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Villagomez. Now recognize the Chairman on Tourism.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to Representative Villagomez concern, the main reason that we filed this Senate Bill 19-13, Public Law 19-17 that was recently signed addressed the concern of this on the penalties issues as well so there seems to be a duplication and 19-17 really support the intent of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other concerns from the Chairman? Recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Just on that note so that I am clear on the question from Representative Villagomez to the Chairman of the committee that there seems to be a duplication. Can you elaborate further so that we are clear? So, there is a duplication or there seem to be a duplication?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Now recognize the Chairman.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: As to the concern to the Minority Leader, Mr. Speaker the Senate Bill had increased the penalties to \$2,000.00 and we addressed that in particular to that perspective. On Public Law 19-17 it did address this portion of the penalties in itself. The Senate Bill strictly emphasize on increasing the penalties in Public Law 19-17 it was incorporated to that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman and that was well said. Any other concern? Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly to the Chairman, how about the imprisonment with regards to the imprisonment is that basically the same?

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Yes.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Ready? Recognize Representative Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Yes to the Chairman I just like to – simple question. I would just like to ask if you have personally discussed with the author of the bill prior to filing the bill. Thank you.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: In line with that to Representative Benavente. I did not discuss the bill with the author because he was off-island. There was no form of me communicating with the author. In respect to the bill, I support the intent of the bill, but why

should we have two bill at the same time pass the House when Public Law 19-17 address the concern of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: I yield Mr. Speaker.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-74 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan recognized the Floor Leader for the next Standing Committee Report.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-75.

S. C. R. NO. 19-75: Reporting on S. B. No. 19-54, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 3 CMC §4532 to exempt the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation from the restrictions on government employment; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-54, HD1*

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion on the floor. Standing Committee Report 19-75 was adopted by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan recognized the Floor Leader for the next Standing Committee Report.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-58, D1.

S. C. R. NO. 19-58, D1: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-90, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §2891 and §2892 and to add a new §2893 (The CNMI Office of Grants Management); and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-90, HD1.*

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion on the floor. Standing Committee Report 19-58, D1 was adopted by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan moved to item XV and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 19-19.

C. RES. NO. 19-19

To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Governor Eulogio (Eloy) S. Inos and to acknowledge his lifelong service and countless contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion on the floor. House Commemorative Resolution 19-19 was adopted by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We do have one more Commemorative Resolution, but we will not act on this because of the OGA requirement, however this Commemorative Resolution will continue to be on the Resolution Calendar. So we will now go ahead and move down to item XVI, which is the Bill Calendar and before we proceed with any item on the Bill Calendar, I now recognize the Floor Leader again.

There was no action for the following House Commemorative Resolution.

C. RES. NO. 19-20

To congratulate the Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows Program on the occasion of the graduation of the 2015 class and to recognize and commend the inaugural 2014 class and the 2015 class of the Pacific Century Fellows for their exemplary community service in response to Typhoon Souledor.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Appearing on your Bill Calendar you will see House Bill 19-103, HD1. Mr. Speaker, the House has passed this legislation with some amendments on it. After the passage of this legislation and before transmittal, the Clerk and the Legal Counsels themselves found an issue with the bill regarding the floor amendments and needed further clarification. So they asked if could place the bill on calendar, which I was willingly to do so in order to correct such issue. Mr. Speaker, fortunately upon further review by the Legal Counsel, he has found that the amendments is sufficient and do not need further amendment to it. So the motion to reconsider our action will not be offered. If you have any further questions you may go ahead and refer it to the Legal Counsel.

H. B. NO. 19-103, HD1

A Bill for an Act to regulate drag racing within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands; and for other purposes.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Any discussion on what was said by the Floor Leader?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: To the Floor Leader then, because I did not quite hear whether there was a motion from the Floor Leader. So in lieu with, absent a motion or any motion, you also indicated that there was some legal issue that may have been raised by the Legal Counsel. Could you share with us at least from what you understand? I am not sure where we are going on this one and if there is none then perhaps you just need to offer a motion for passage if any.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I did not catch the first part of the question. I will refer that to the Legal Counsel, but to answer the latter part of your question, what is the next step that we will take. The motion to reconsider will not be offered therefore, the bill itself would continue as is to the Clerk and shall be transmitted to the Senate for their review.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Minority Leader does that answer your concern?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Actually, that kind of produced more questions than concern being. Perhaps, I will just yield for now.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if this may help clarify the concerns. The bill was passed during the last session. The Legal Counsel and the Clerk had found an issue with one of our amendments. Let me look at the bill. It was an issue about whether it was allowed on private lands or not, something to do with that and that is why the request for a motion to reconsider was made. I guess the latest decision based on the Legal Counsel and the Clerk was that amendment or that motion is no longer needed. And so, right now the bill is passed and we do not need to act on it any further. It will continue on to the Senate. I guess they addressed the technical. Anyway, I just thought I would clarify that. Thank you, members.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Any other concerns? Recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Since it is kind of related to what we are talking about. I think there should be a proper type of protocol for issues like this. I mean sometimes we should think like devil's advocate. Like what if someone is trying to really play politics and the intent was to mess up the bill. I am just saying there should be a more clear way of bringing this issue forward. I just want to state that for the record. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Villagomez. Honestly, I do not quite understand what you said but let me go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to answer the question. I guess Representative Villagomez is trying to ask the procedure regarding this and let me try it because the House has passed the legislation and it has not left the House yet and as the authority of the Floor Leader with regards to agenda, we can put it on the agenda, however, at the end of the day because we have already passed it the motion to reconsider would need to be offered before we can take any action on this. So pending approval of the motion to reconsider the bill should be as is whether the motion passes or fail then we can continue with the bill on the calendar for now. I hope that clarifies the question.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Does that clarify Representative? Alright, so with that we will go ahead and move down the Bill Calendar. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to pass Senate Bill 19-54.

S. B. No. 19-54, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 3 CMC §4532 to exempt the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation from the restrictions on government employment; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion was seconded. Any discussion on the motion? Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, if I may ask that the Counsel, Joe have we prepared the amendment? We are going to use ELMO? Mr. Speaker and members if there is no objection, I would like to offer a floor amendment at this time. The amendment should be on page 2, line 13 to 14, after the word “government employment,” to reinstate the following language, “but CUC must comply with certain employment regulations which are subject to the certifications of the CNMI Secretary of Labor.” So offered.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The floor amendment that was offered by Representative Sablan was seconded. Discussion on the floor amendment? Recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker and members. Basically, although we are for this legislation exempting CUC from the hiring requirement or authorizing them to hire non-resident workers and basically the justification and continuously in the area of power plant mechanics while supporting the granting the exemption, I feel that we must still impose and require of CUC to ensure that no local resident or U.S. citizen workers are available before they avail of the exemption. I know that the Attorney General’s comments recommended that this particular language be not necessary, however, I know that the CNMI labor laws are still in the books and I am aware that local companies are still required to comply announce on vacancies and I think companies are required to prove that they have gone through the necessary recruitment process to ensure that no local or US citizen workers available before they are granted the authorization to bring in additional or continue the employment of CW workers. Again, this is just all ensuring that whatever the step necessary we must do all what we can to

reduce the dependency on foreign CW workers and I ask the members support for this particular amendment and the bill itself. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Any other member wanted to comment? Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a question to the mover, how about the lines 20 to 23? It is kind of reflective of the amendment that you just made. The amendment that was made on your floor amendment would it incorporate that portion in the bottom? Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. Chairman, do you want to respond to that?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I am not sure what the – again, this is on page 2?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Yes, sorry, page 2.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Page 2, line 13 and 14 just to reinsert that the particular requirement of CUC having to go through the local labor regulation requirement?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Yes, I agree with your amendment. I am just wondering under line 20 through 24, where it says “Corporation Compliance for certain employment regulation as set forth in the NMI Administrative Code, additionally CUC must obtain a certification from the CNMI Secretary of Labor that it has complied with the employment regulation as set forth in 3 CMC 4532.” I guess the question is should we reinsert that specific section to be in line with the amendment that our good Chairman from Ways and Means had proposed? Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Chair, before you answer that and thank you for that Representative Attao. Can we have a short recess? Any objection?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you.

The House recessed at 11:25 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. We are back from our recesses. And before we got into recess, the floor was with Representative Sablan. I go ahead and now recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we went into recess, we had the opportunity to confer with Legal Counsel and the other members. So if there is no objection, I would like to withdraw my previous motion.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: And offer a new set of motion for amendments to House Bill 19-54 to read as follows.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

S. B. 19-54

I hereby move to amend the current text to read as follows:

- I. Page 2 lines 13-14: After the words: “government employment” on line 13 and before the words “Accordingly the” on line 14: Add the following text: “but CUC must comply with certain employment regulations each year subject to the certification of the CNMI Secretary of Labor.”

Page 3 lines 3-16: Undue the strike through to allow the text to read as follows: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation shall obtain an annual certification of compliance from the CNMI Secretary of Labor certifying that the corporation has complied with certain employment regulations as follows:

- (1) NMIAC §§ 80-20.1-225 (a)-(d) (Job Vacancy Announcement);
- (2) NMIAC §§ 80-20.1-235 (e) (Employer Declaration);
- (3) NMIAC §§ 80-20.1-505 (a) (Census of Employment); and
- (4) NMIAC §§ 80-20.1-510 (a)-(b) (Workforce Plan).

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s failure to obtain an annual certification of compliance of the employment regulations in paragraphs (1)-(4) above from the CNMI Secretary of Labor shall automatically suspend the corporation’s exemption to hire foreign national workers until such time that the corporation complies with the provisions of this section; and the corporation shall be subject to a penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per day for each violation of this provision.”

II.

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

Date: 1/26/16

Offered by: /s/ Rep. Antonio P. Sablan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency: /s/ Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. The motion was seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to the main motion, any discussion? Recognize Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to vote in favor of this bill, but I do want to go on record with regards to this legislation or the almost every year’s request for exemption in the hiring of non-resident workers to continue to work in our very highly skilled positions in CUC. I would like to see Mr. Speaker that CUC not just comply because I do agree completely with the amendment that was offered by Chairman Sablan, but CUC must make effort to come up with a plan to put together a plan on how they are going to take care of their manpower needs. They do not wait until the year is up or it is coming up for them to have to come in with another bill asking that we exempt them from what they are suppose to do. If they have a plan, we will not be hearing us having to hire and looking out to an outside labor of pool to come in and take care of our needs here. That plan, the plan that I am talking about is and should include what the manpower requirements look like. Manpower requirements that are filled, the positions that are filled currently by non-resident workers; and see and make an effort and work with our local resources to make sure that we come up with a fully developed capacity; local capacity to take over these jobs that are currently being filled by non-resident workers. So Mr. Speaker, I think this is to serve notice to CUC because I have been hearing the same thing for the past ten years, over ten years of exemption, exemption. We are going to do this and we are going to do that. Well let us do it. If the plan requires that we need these men locally hired people in the different skilled areas, let us make sure that we do the necessary training. We look and work together with SHEFA, the CNMI Scholarship, NMC, NMTI and all the available resources to make sure that we do not have to come in with another request for exemption. That is all Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Madame Chair. I now recognize Representative Edwin Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note with Madame Chair Ogumoro, not only in terms of building capacity for skilled workers for CUC. Also to be cognizant in looking at the original salaries of these skilled workers, just because we are getting CW worker or non-resident worker at a cheap price, that do not mean that price, that salary is good for our local workers also. We tend to lose a lot of our skilled workers that have gone through the process, have gone to the trainings that worked at CUC for a long time, but when Guam comes around and offer them almost double their salary that they are going to get here, they tend to go to a greener pasture. So, I am encouraging CUC to look at the salaries also for these local workers. The CW are cheap labor, so be it but our investment for our people working

through the program to become skilled that is where the buck stops. We give them a good salary so they can stay. That is all Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman Aldan. Any other member? It appears to be none. So for the final passage of Senate Bill 19-54, HD1 as amended HD2. Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 19-54, House Draft 2 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	absent (<i>excused</i>)

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: With the vote of 17 “yes,” Senate Bill 19-54, HD2 did muster the needed numbers to pass. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to pass House Bill 19-90, House Draft 1.

H. B. NO. 19-90, HD1

To amend 1 CMC §2891 and §2892 and to add a new §2893 (The CNMI Office of Grants Management); and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion by the Floor Leader was seconded. Any discussion on the motion? Appears to be none. Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-90, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	absent (<i>excused</i>)

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 voted in the affirmative, House Bill 19-90, HD1 passes the House. I guess that took care of all the bills in our Bill Calendar. We will go ahead and move down to item XVII, which is the Miscellaneous Business. Recognize Representative Vinson Sablan.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if this is the proper time to bring this up but just to awaken the issue and concern of the excavation of the remains and bones that were at the Samoan Housing. We do have an outcry and some of our community members questioning where these bones are, where the remains are. I did have a conversation with one of the staffers of HPO and he said that the bones were moved from I guess a container around the Poon’s Restaurant area, now it is somewhere in Lower Base. I also understand that the remains that are in a container is required to be air-conditioned and as well provided a 24-hour security guard to ensure that nothing happens to the remains. So, just to bring that up, I understand there is two groups of bones, one from the Nakamoto project which was 17 years ago and then there is another contractor taking care of the recent excavation maybe we can have an audience with this contractor and ask the questions of where these bones are, I do not know where they are, there has been no light shed on where the whereabouts of the bones or how they are doing and stuff like that. I just feel that our people deserve to know and deserve to know where these bones are, what are they doing with them and what their plans are. I do acknowledge that the casino licensing did have plans for a some sort of monument for the remains but as we can see the stagnant activity of the project at the Samoan Housing area, we are not sure how long this is going to take. Do we wait and keep these remains of our so-called ancestors or the indigenous people before us in a container or do we figure out a way or try to have them in a resting place. And I understand that the Nakamoto bones project excavation is at the Museum, maybe that is the appropriate place for as pending their memorial, but just a concern of the people it has been written in the papers and social media. Hopefully we can expedite the final

report of recovery and have an audience with the contractors so our people are informed of where these remains are. Our people deserve to know and the remains of our ancestors that got excavated deserve to rest. So I just thought I would bring it up since it has been quiet no one has really looked back and question where they are at. I would like to see these contractors whoever is managing these remains that belong to our land and to our people and ask the questions. And get at least a report or inform our people. Some of our people even want to see the bones. I feel that we have all the rights, those bones were excavated against the will of the people and it was a very loud outcry. So I think it is only fair that we give back the opportunity to them and to us to know where these remains are at. Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan and I hear you. If it is not much ask if I may, can I ask you to go ahead and coordinate with HPO, ask them to come over so that we can appraise the members also with those information. That would be nice to have them so that we can be informed also so that we are better able to answer to those concerns to the general public. Before that, I recognize first the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just to kind of shed some light on the issue. There are two issues with regards to that area. The human remains of the artifacts as Representative Sablan pointed out, there is the earlier project, the Nakamoto project. For those that do not know the history, a developer Nakamoto had proposed to build I think a hotel in the area. They did contract to have the remains or that area excavated, they call it data recovery, which was done and some of those remains were sent to an off-island osteologist, a person that studies human remains. There was an artifact agreement. Whenever artifacts or remains are to leave the Commonwealth, an agreement is signed to ensure that they follow the protocols, the appropriate requirements. They have been gone a long time and I understand that for various reasons especially the human remains were held back by the osteologist that is a big issue because I just heard I am not quite sure but the osteologist may have passed away and the status of those remains needs to be followed up and brought back. With regards to the current project, the Best Sunshine project, I am not that clear – I am not there anymore, I do know that they have to comply with HPO requirements which is the same and it is consistent that any – first of all them excavating it the site is because of the HPO's requirements to ensure that archeological sites are not adversely impacted by the undertaking. So they are following it in accordance with the requirements of the HPO. Where they stand right now I am not sure. I am sure though that eventually they will have to be after analysis, they will have to be brought back. The HPO does have a policy on human remains, which require that remains after being studied will have to be reentered back to an area dedicated for their re-internment where they were found. And I am not sure that will have to be done. When? I guess depends on when the osteological analysis is done. I am aware of the recent outcry; I think though that with all due respect, the HPO should be given an opportunity and the developer – the party that is being permitted to finish their work. If they do not then we should follow up with the HPO why they are not doing it but this is kind of complicated because there is two issues here and I do know for those of you that were present during the first public hearing for Grand Mariana or for the Best Sunshine project that took place at the Multi-purpose Center, I came out and spoke about this. The big issue here is how do we require. There are two developers. One developer for I do not know what reasons, maybe they went bankrupt or whatever and so they cannot fulfill their part. They basically left. Do we impose the requirement to finish that work on the second developer? It is a legal issue itself. When they did not conduct the work, they did not impact the site it was the first developer, nevertheless, the HPO's concern

has always been that the important thing here is that we get the data from it. It is one site so it would be like one book but different pages and that cannot happen. I do not know how to resolve that but yes, I agree with you Representative Sablan and other members that eventually we do need to get it back and the artifacts will eventually either go to the museum or to the developer if they want to create some kind of interpretative display at the site which we as a Commonwealth encourage to showcase our history or they go to the museum. The remains will eventually have to go back into where they were found. So, I just thought I would share that for the members and to answer any questions if they have. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Go ahead Representative Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Speaker. Thank you, Vice Speaker for the information. I understand the process of HPO and their requirements and what it has to go through. What I would like and probably what our people would like is maybe just a status of what is being performed. What kind of analysis and stuff like that or when is the last time they did analysis. It maybe just sitting somewhere, it may be on a laboratory bench under the microscope and stuff like that but just to awake the issue and to have our people informed. So at least they have some comfort that the remains of our ancestors and the people before us are being respected and dealt with so that was why I asked that we probably just have an audience with HPO and the contractor or whoever is managing the remains. Speaker, I know that you tasked me to get information and have that audience, but I would feel more comfortable if it is passed on to the appropriate committee just so the process is gone through official process. I am not sure what committee you would pass it on to but it would be best if the Chairman of the appropriate committee would do that. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan so noted. Go ahead, I recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. And just to add on, this project is permitted under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. It is a major citing permit, it compromises of HPO, DEQ earth moving and in the permit they are required to submit reports such as excavation reports or remain recovery reports. I do not know whether it is monthly, quarterly but if we are to pursue inviting the proponent of this major citing permit I would like to suggest that we add, we include the BECQ as well because they are the one that actually signs-off the major citing permit. So just to add on to Representative Sablan and Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. So noted. Any other members? Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is on a separate issue. I just wanted to reach out to you Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues about an ongoing problem that we are faced with in every single village and it seems to be increasing each and every day. And I am talking about litter and trash. And the reason that I bring this up to you is that no village is exempt from this and littering does not discriminate. Every day that we are out and we go to the beaches and we go to places, it is almost rare that we go to a beach or place that is actually clean. So my question is what is happening? We have regulatory agencies out there. We have MINA,

we see a lot of these things going on but is it even making a dent and that is my concern. Where is BECQ in this? How many fines have we issued? How many people are getting busted for litter? We are always told that, “well, we have to catch them in the act.” Well, if it is not working then perhaps we need to look as a body in doing something else, but one of the things my dear colleagues is that we really need to look at the importance of education and enforcement and reinforcement and redoing it. We see in our villages so many illegal dumping grounds and we are always told, “well, we do not have a transfer station in the south” that does not give you the right to throw it in the parks or in the boonies and everywhere else. We talk about tourism as our number one industry and how important it is to us and I know that several of us would go out, we volunteer, we help out, but this is just much bigger than just this body, but I do believe that this body has the power to reach out to the executive branch and the respective committees to call in BECQ along with other agencies to find out where we at with this and how we can help control this ongoing problem. I am embarrassed when we have visitors that come in from the island and they say “wow, there is so much trash here.” And we do not just see it in our villages, we also see it in the main tourist area. Walk down Paseo de Marianas, any of the side streets, look at the trash overflowing. Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, we take great pride in our islands, we need to ensure that everyone else does and they are doing their share. I ask this because as we call in and look for more tourism we want to make sure this is considered one of the jewels of the pacific. We want to make sure our children enjoy the beauty of our islands. I know growing up here and all of us growing up here that we did not see this amount of trash. We cannot blame it on tourist, we cannot blame it on outsiders, we must look to ourselves and find out what is happening because we see it even in the elementary schools. You see it when the kids throw their trash and I have seen it. I know you all have seen it. What has happened? If these kids are not learning at home about the importance of not littering then it is up to the schools it is up to all of us to ensure that we keep our island clean. Sorry to take up your time on this Mr. Speaker but I do believe this is a very important issue. It is an environmental concern and all that of that trash that we see ends up going into our ocean. So I thank you for your time colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you colleague. I am sure the Chairman on the respective committee is taking a note on that. I also ask you if you can assist the committee and see how we can have these folks come over and so that we can have an audience also. I would really appreciate, I know the committees are doing a lot of work right now. If you could assist, I would appreciate. Any other concerns? Representative Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to echo Representative Propst. I do also share the same feeling with regards to – and I went further on that, I went and I attempted to meet with the enforcement individuals who are suppose to be enforcing the law in this issue, in regards to the rubbish, the trash or the litter or whatever you call it. They still do not, I do not know where it is coming from whether it is their supervisor or their secretary – they are just not enforcing the law. And we are all geared right now to invite tourist in our economic hoping that our economic trend is moving as far as the tourism is concerned, but yet we cannot clean our own house, our own island. We invite tourists, you go to Obyan, you go to Laulau, you go everywhere; there is trash all over the place and we have all kinds of organization like MINA, Nature Alliance and all these other organizations that is supposed to be going out and doing some community contributions, but yet Mr. Speaker maybe you as a Speaker might now make probably make a change or something, maybe through the Administration. If you cannot do it as a pyramid down, maybe we will do it as a people from the bottom up to try to address this issue

because this is really a problem. I would just like to share that and echo Ed Propst and the rest of the members too. I am sure all of us are being affected by it; all our representatives here. So, I would just like to share that. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Benavente. First of all, let me just make this thing clear. Although I am Speaker, I am just one of the twenty. I just hope that we all work together to make sure that we move forward and assist the Commonwealth. Again, I need the cooperation of everyone to guide me, assist me on other matters. So with that your statement is well noted. We will now move down to item XVIII, which is the Announcement. Any member wanted to – recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I was just going to make a statement under Miscellaneous Business. Is that alright?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I apologize, you may.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: We just acted on Senate Bill 19-54 and passed and our good Chair of Health, Education and Welfare, Representative Ogumoro brought up points in regards to training our local workforce and maybe the Typhoon Soudelor and all the other disasters that happened in the summer of 2015 is reflective of maybe it is a blessing in disguise showing us how weak we are in manpower in regards to providing to the community and other businesses that are expanding here in the Commonwealth. I am glad that our good Chairman from Ways and Means had proposed the amendment that passed this body to make sure they are accountable for that and CUC is accountable for that, but in that retrospect and in regards to saying that I am respectfully asking the good Chairman to follow up with our Secretary of Labor in regards to the CW fees. How is it being distributed right now? How much are being used for our skilled employment in regards to the NMTI and the educational field or NMC maybe even PSS for that matter. With all due respect Chairman of Ways and Means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. I am sending a letter to the Secretary of Labor, the letter is soon to be sent over however, I think she is off-island right now. So we will wait until she gets back and from there we will have an audience with the Secretary of Labor so that we can ask questions relative to CW and of course the labor issues. So I just thought I would point that out. So, when that time comes, please be sure that you are here and be part of that. Thank you. Any other members who wanted to comment or any announcements? If none, I would like to make two announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: First, we will be having another session, hopefully if not the first week of February, maybe mid-February, that session will be on Tinian so I ask the members to get prepared I just thought I would let you guys know that. So that session will be in Tinian. The other announcement would be for tomorrow, Geri Dela Cruz, she is the Director Corporate and Rita Chong from the Corporate Social Responsibility under the Imperial Pacific dba Best Sunshine they wanted to come over tomorrow and do some presentation. I understand their group they are doing a lot of village projects within the village. Maybe this is the time where we can come together ask for any assistance, any help that does a lot of things in our community. It is all

about what is the Village Pride Project and why the program is there. So again, I ask the members to be present. I have scheduled that for tomorrow. In addition to what they are doing in the community, they are also doing some rehabilitation on the social and playground and so on. The time would be tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. I encourage members to come and ask questions and maybe from there we can learn about what they are doing in our village so I just thought I would mention that. So that I will now recognize the Floor Leader for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go ahead and make a motion that we adjourn subject to you call.

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

The House adjourned at 12:14 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:

H. L. B. NO. 19-45: To appropriate Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on December 21, 2015

H. L. B. NO. 19-46: To name public land, specifically Lot Number 005/486 located in Koblerville, Saipan, to “Koblerville Community Park”. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogomoro, and Francis S. Taimanao) on December 21, 2015.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session 1/11/16: None

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 19-89: (12/7/15) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. No. 19-37, HD2, SD1 (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.) [***Deadline 2/5/16***]

GOV. COMM. 19-93: (12/4/15 received 12/7/15) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. B. 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 (Casino Act Amendment). Became **Public Law 19-24, item vetoed** [***Deadline 2/5/16***]