



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2016

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

4th Day, Third Regular Session

Friday, February 19, 2016

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fourth Day, Third Regular Session on Friday, February 19, 2016, at 10:33 a.m., in the Tinian Courthouse, San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and fourteen members were present; Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero and Edwin K. Propst were absent and excused. Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb arrived at 1:49 p.m.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. For the record the Minority Leader and the Speaker will be coming in late. Representative Lee Pan Guerrero, Representatives Propst, Yumul and Representative Roman Benavente are hereby excused for today's session, they have all submitted communications. With that let us now move to item II of our Order Business, Public Comments. At this time, we open up the podium for any public comments on any items appearing on today's Order of Business. We kindly ask that when you step you please identify yourself for the record and the reference subject. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Mayor of Tinian
Mr. Ray M. Cing, Tinian Municipal Council, Chairman
Mr. Jose P. Kiyoshi

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We will move to item IV, Introduction of Bills and before the Chair recognizes the first mover and even before – there were some members that asked if they could introduce their bill today and it was not prefiled, but just for the sake of introduction we need to offer a motion to suspend rules to amend our agenda. So before I turn it over to our good Floor Leader I left out somebody to extend our appreciation on the list to our good Congressman from the Second Senatorial District for all of his tireless efforts to prepare for this session here on Tinian and for being a gracious host to all of us. Thank you Congressman Aldan and to the people you represent. At this time, the Chair will turn it over to the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, before we proceed on our session I would like to offer a suspension motion, which is to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) this is to allow the House to amend the agenda to include several communications and unnumbered bills for introduction for today. So move Mr. Speaker and I call for a roll call.

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 Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered to suspend pertinent rules to amend the agenda, the motion has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

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

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

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

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 14 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. The vote of 14 affirmative votes, the motion as offered by the Floor Leader hereby passes. Again, in accordance with our earlier discussion the Minority Leader will be coming in late and the first bill for introduction is his. We will go ahead and continue on with the other introductions. So we will go ahead and allow other members to introduce bills and when he comes in we can go back to that item and allow for the introduction.

House Bills:

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced House Bill 19-133 and referred the bill to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. The Chair recognized Floor Leader George N. Camacho for the next introduction.

H. B. NO. 19-133

To harmonize the statutes on the authority of the Office of the Attorney General with the constitutional requirement for the election of the Attorney General and its independence as a constitutional office within the Executive Branch.

By: REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO, of Saipan, Precinct1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, George N. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Francis S. Taimanao)

(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

Floor Leader George N. Camacho officially introduced House Bill 19-134.

H. B. NO. 19-134

To amend 3 CMC §1506 (a) and (b) Administrative Librarian: Duties and Qualifications and to provide a global amendment in Title 3, Chapter 5; and for other purposes.

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

(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

The Chair referred House Bill 19-134 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced House Bill 19-135 and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill.

H. B. NO. 19-135

To amend Public Law 12-64 Section 7 (b) Special Appropriation: Expenditure Authority.

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

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

The Chair referred House Bill 19-135 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan for the next introduction.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced House Bill 19-138.

H. B. NO. 19-138

To amend Title 4 Economic Resources, Division 1 Revenue and Taxation, Subsection 1407(a) and (b) by changing the grace period of payment for Excise Tax from 30 days to 15 days; and for other purposes.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

The Chair referred House Bill 19-138 to the Committee on Ways and Means. There were no other House Bills for introduction so the Chair moved to House Local Bills and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.

House Local Bills:

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced House Local Bill 19-48 and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill.

H. L. B. NO. 19-48

To equally appropriate funds realized under Public Law No. 18-30 for the Third Senatorial District for various projects for each respective precinct located within the Third Senatorial District.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, and Edwin K. Propst)

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Are there any other House Local Bills for introduction? Recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we move away from the introduction of the House Local Bills, I do not know whether I am in order here, but in consideration of House Bill 19-135, I think the contents of the said legislation is pretty basic. If there is no objection from the members whether the Floor Leader is willing to place in on today's calendar for final action. Thank you.

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Since there is no objection, let us move back to House Bills since because we are under House Local Bill so that the Chair can recognize the Chair for a motion to place it on the Bill Calendar. So without objection we go back to item IV (a), House Bills and recognize the Floor Leader a motion to place House Bill 19-35 on today's Bill Calendar. Floor Leader.

House Bills:

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the notion from the Chairman of Ways and Means itself, I would like to go ahead and offer the motion for the placement of House Bill 19-135, "To amend Public Law 12-64 Section 7 (b) Special Appropriation: Expenditure Authority." on calendar for action today. So move.

H. B. NO. 19-135

To amend Public Law 12-64 Section 7 (b) Special Appropriation: Expenditure Authority.

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

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

There was no discussion and the motion to place House Bill 19-135 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Please note that House Bill 19-135 will be placed on today's Bill Calendar for action. I believe that takes care of item IV, now let us now move on to item V, Introduction of Resolutions. The Chair now recognizes Representative Ogumoro.

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro officially introduced House Resolution 19-38.

H. RES. NO. 19-38

To convey sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to the bereaved family of the late Augustin "Itibweshigh" M. Tagabuel on the occasion of his untimely passing and paying tribute to his services to the people of the Commonwealth.

REP. FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*),
Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Angel A. Demapan, and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair placed House Resolution 19-38 on the Resolution Calendar for action and recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan requested that House Resolution 19-38 be introduced as Committee of the Whole.

There was no objection on the floor and the Chair requested the Clerk to note that House Resolution 19-38 will be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any other resolutions for introductions? If not, we move on to item VI, under Messages from the Governor, the Chair recognizes the Clerk.

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Governor's Communication:

GOV. COMM. 19-111: (2/11/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. 19-23, SS1, entitled, (Prohibiting electronic cigarettes where smoking is prohibited; regulate electronic cigarettes; and prohibit minors under the age of 18 from the use of electronic cigarettes). Became **Public Law 19-32**

GOV. COMM. 19-112: (2/11/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. 19-64, entitled, (To establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-33**

GOV. COMM. 19-113: (2/12/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-40, D1, entitled, (To appropriate \$63,606.95 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 19-3 Section 2(d); and for other purposes.). Became **Tinian Local Law 19-9**

GOV. COMM. 19-114: (2/11/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-44, D1, entitled, (To appropriate Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56; and for other purposes.). Became **Rota Local Law 19-8**

GOV. COMM. 19-115: (2/16/16) Executive Order 2016-003 Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporations.

GOV. COMM. 19-116: (2/16/16) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. 19-62, HD2, entitled, (To remove the three legislative day requirement for local appropriations bills; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-34**

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Any comments from the members on item VI? Recognize Representative Edwin Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to extend my appreciation and recognizing the Administration for expediting Governor's Communication 19-113, House Local Bill 19-40, D1 and the other one Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to applaud the Administration for the expeditious signing of Governor's Communication 19-116, the three day stay of appropriation that would take care of a lot of our request throughout the whole three senatorial districts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Any other comments under item VI? Ready?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Members we move on to item VII, Senate Communications and I turn it over to our Floor Leader for the proper motion.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to accept Senate Communications 19-124 through 19-131 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 19-124: (2/3/16) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-29, entitled, "Respectfully requesting private health insurance providers to enter into a joint venture with CNMI Medical Referral Services Program and Vitacare Health Management to maximize the best healthcare services for medical referral patients in Manila, Philippines.", which was adopted by the Senate on January 27, 2016. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-25: (2/3/16) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-30, entitled, "To honor and commend Monsignor Louis Antonelli for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, most especially the Island of Rota.", which was adopted by the Senate on January 27, 2016. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-126: (2/11/16) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 19-54, HD2 (To amend 3 CMC § 4532 to exempt the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation from the restrictions on government employment; and for other purposes.) on February 10, 2016. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-127: (2/11/16) Returning H. B. 19-66, HS1, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC §5251 to include crosswalks, designated school bus stops, school drop zones, and pick up zones to protect our pedestrians including children from speeding vehicles; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate without amendments on February 10, 2016. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 19-128: (2/11/16) Returning H. B. 19-97, (To amend Title 70, § 70-30.3-220, Small Purchases, of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code.), which

was passed by the Senate with amendments in the form of **H. B. 19-97, SD1**. [*For action on Senate amendments*]

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

SEN. COMM. 19-129: (2/11/16) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-44, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC §§8459(a) and 8460(a) to require employers to contribute 4 percent of an employee’s compensation if an employee contributes at least 4 percent to the employee’s Defined Contribution Plan individual account; and for other purposes.” which was passed by the Senate on February 10, 2016. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

SEN. COMM. 19-130: (2/11/16) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-68, SD1, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §51403 by adding a new subsection (f) and for other purposes.” which was passed by the Senate on February 10, 2016. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism)

SEN. COMM. 19-131: (2/11/16) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-69, SD1, entitled, “To Amend 4 CMC §5643 by adding a new subsection (e); and for other purposes.” which was passed by the Senate on February 10, 2016. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism)

The motion was seconded with no discussion on the floor, the Chair called for a voice vote with no nay vote.

The Chair moved Senate Communication 19-128, reference to House Bill 19-97, SD1 to the Bill Calendar for action. Senate Communication 19-129, reference to Senate Bill 19-44 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Senate Communications 19-130, reference to Senate Bill 19-68, SD1 and 19-131, reference to Senate Bill 19-69, SD1 were referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism. The Chair asked the members if there were any comments on item VII and the members were ready to move on to item VIII, House Communications. The Chair recognized the House Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 19-75 (2/1/16) From Representative Guerrero, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning February 11, 2016 to February 20, 2016 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-76 (2/18/16) From Representative Propst, informing the Speaker that he will not be attending the 4th Day, 3rd Regular Session on Friday, February 19, 2016 on Tinian due to personal matters and requests to be excused. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-77 (2/18/16) From Representative Yumul, informing the Speaker that he will not be attending the 4th Day, 3rd Regular Session on Friday, February 19, 2016 on Tinian due to personal matters and requests to be excused. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-78 (2/18/16) From Representative Roman C. Benavente, informing the Speaker that he will not be attending the 4th Day, 3rd Regular Session on Friday, February 19, 2016 on Tinian due to medical check-up and requests to be excused. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-79 (2/19/16) From Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, informing the House that he designates Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero as Speaker Pro Tempore to preside over the House of Representatives 4th Day, 3rd Regular Session scheduled for February 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tinian Courthouse, San Jose Village, Tinian. [*For info*]

The Chair asked the members if there were any comments or discussions under item VIII, there being none, the Chair moved to item XI, Miscellaneous Communications and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 19-18: (2/2/16) From the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts providing update on status of long-term recovery post typhoon Soudelor and requesting support for continued efforts to helping CNMI residents. [*For Info*]

MISC. COMM. 19-19: From the Rota Legislative Delegation informing the House that the Delegation be organized during its 2nd Day, 3rd Regular Session on February 16, 2016. [*For Info*]

The Chair asked the members if there were any comments or discussions under item XI, there being none, the Chair moved to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-77.

S. C. R. NO. 19-77: Reporting on S. B. No. 19-37, SD1, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend certain sections of the Pure Food and Drug Control to include lime (*afok, bweesch*); and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends the House pass S. B. No. 19-37, SD1 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 19-77. Under discussion, recognize the Chair of HEW.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of Senate Bill 19-37, SD1 is to regulate the manufacturing of *afok* or *bweesch*. Your Committee on Health Education and Welfare recognizes the prevalence of oral cancer in the CNMI and although *afok* or *bweesch* is not directly linked to oral cancer or other deadly diseases the Committee feels that we must make every effort to see that our people protected from these deadly diseases. Even if there is no finding yet that there is a direct link between oral cancer and the use of *afok* or *bweesch* we need to – like I said we need to make every effort that the use of *afok* or *bweesch* is regulated. Your committee has taken a note that the legislation is aware of what this legislation is trying to do and we will be discussing the merits of this legislation when we come to the Bill Calendar, but for now I will yield. Mr. Speaker it is important that this is a needed legislation and I recommend its passage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-77 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote. The Chair recognized the Floor Leader for the next motion.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-78.

S. C. R. NO. 19-78: Reporting on H. B. No. 19-61, entitled: “A Bill for an Act 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 the form of H. B. No. 19-61, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 19-78. At this time, the floor is open for discussion. Recognize the Chair of HEW.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be the third time that we place a bill in front of us for consideration. As recommended in the past the committee has done its work and is now recommending again that we pass the bill. I know that we should get to the Bill Calendar that would get our discussion so the members will be able to provide their thoughts on this particular measure. We do know and we have outlined in the committee reports the importance of making sure that our related service provider’s scholarship would be in place to take care of our much needed field of studies that we have been looked for so many years and it seems to be having problems with. Although this is a difficult bill because we are talking about putting away money set aside this amount of money that we may think the Commonwealth does not have but the committee still sees the need to take this recommendation in and let us discuss it. I just wanted to also iterate that I have been on the SHEFA Scholarship

board and this is one area or field of studies this related service provider's scholarship that we are attempting to authorize have been a difficult area to – the scholarship is there. We may have to work a little harder to get our students to apply, but in any case we need to make sure that the students in these areas, the special needs areas are taken care of. So Mr. Speaker with that let me rest and allow the members to each give their perspective on the committee report.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro. Are there any other discussions on the motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objections to the Chair weighing in?

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. First let me say that I do support the intent of the bill. I think all of us should not support the intent of the bill. However, now having said that I have several concerns. Some of them may be could be addressed maybe in the committee and some of them are just problematic from potentially constitutional stand point and just some from a policy stand point. The reason I am going to discuss it now rather than wait for it to get on Bill Calendar is so that we can determine whether we should maybe refer it back to the committee rather than it getting on the Bill Calendar and risk possible defeat. First let me say from the constitutional part and I have not discussed this with any Legal Counsel. The bill proposes to create a new classification, a new program to offer scholarships to require PSS to offer scholarships and further related service type of fields that in itself, I do not know may infringe upon the PSS state board of PSS board who are the constitutionally creative body to make such policies that is one issue in itself. The other is that we mandate PSS to create this program and not only mandating them to create this program, but telling them to set aside, I think under the bill is Three Thousand a year to pay for that program without providing the funding to PSS, that most will say is creating an unfunded mandate. You are mandating something, but you are not providing the funding for it. Right now as it stands is at least \$300,000 a year. The third part is it sets for \$300,000 a year it authorizes up to ten applicants per year with a ceiling of up to \$20,000 per applicant per year and when you do the math it is \$20,000 times 10 is \$200,000 with the bill it provides \$300,000 every year. I think the math does match now with Three Hundred relevant Two Hundreds. In the second year, you have the first year \$200,000. In the second year maybe it does not bench. In the second year, this is a three year program. So the first year they approve ten applicants, you have to pay for the \$200,000 for the 10 applicants. In the second year if 10 new applicants apply, you have to provide \$200,000 for the 10 new applicants plus the 10 new applicants from the first year that is \$400,000 on the second year. On the third year because this is the three year program, if 10 new applicants again are approved and that is another \$200,000 plus the \$400,000 from the previous two years, that is \$600,000 that is needed for the three-year program and we are authorizing them to use \$300,000 from their funds for mandate that requires up to \$600,000 by the third year. So that in itself is problematic and that is why I felt that maybe – the other thing is I will have no problem supporting this bill and if this body was putting this mandate on the scholarship office or the SHEFA office whose function is to provide scholarships to our students, but not only that this body can and should prescribe what other areas we need to put priority on. I think that is the purpose of this bill is just that it puts the mandate on

PSS and I was going to ask if the good author if this thing is intense to mandated to our scholarship office to provide these funds and prioritize these bills, I would fully support it. Further, I was looking at the fields and there are other similar fields here that not just PSS could benefit from. Our community guidance centers could certainly benefit from getting funds or scholarships to provide us with more counselors for drug treatment or drug treatment specialists. So that it will not only benefit PSS it could benefit other related agencies. Again that is why I feel it is more in line if we were to mandate the scholarship office. I do not think that is the only one that is the only one that succumb at the top of my head. Again, as it is written I cannot even support moving it up to the Bill Calendar. So I was hoping that we can discuss it and find a course of action that can be workable. Any further discussion? Recognize the author.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regards to the legislation, if we are going to move it back to committee, we have looked at the body within this including the committee report. You mentioned the constitutional issues. We received comments from the AG’s office and all its recommendations were included in the draft 1 version as per the AG. In regards to the funding source that we are not allocating to them to assist them with this specific program. We have got to remind ourselves that PSS just took out up to Five Million Dollar loan that they said they did not need an appropriations to and they already had the funding source, which their funding source is the automatic 25% of our CNMI budget. So if we want to make amendments to the bill let us put it in the Bill Calendar and fix it. The Scholarship Office as we know it and I believe it is mostly of our generation that were afforded the opportunity of the teacher’s scholarship. They gave you an annual scholarship of \$4,000.00, but with that maybe only 30% completed it. They only switch to the teacher scholarship to take advantage of the higher scholarship level. Regular scholarship recipient back then was about \$1,500 to \$2,000, so \$6,000.00 is way more than that. So they only switch for those purposes. The Scholarship Office today is probably more money on writing letters that are returned mails to these recipients. By obligating these directly to PSS is going to benefit both the student and the PSS in its entirety. If they do not complete the program they are going to have to pay back PSS. If they complete the program they are going to have to provide services three years for each year to PSS because that is a minimum of nine years. It is a contract that they agree, if they cut short of that nine year program well you know you are on a contract obligation so you are going to have to pay back. So if it is a constitutional issue I really want to see that because the AG’s office brought it up and we took care of it on a committee level. If it is a funding source that Five Million Dollar loan that they said they do not need a funding source because they already have it through the 25%, I rest with that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Attao. The Five Million loan is about \$450,000 to pay off a year. The repayment for that is like \$400,000 sum a year so we have to minus that from what they have already. Now this mandate would be almost equivalent to that for this program. I know that I have heard some issues about the – if you do not make it – can I recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I myself appreciate the certain provisions that the legislation – I was hoping that we will get to those when we get to the Bill Calendar and that is basically because this is being the third time that this has appeared on calendar. Somehow we have to make a decision – the members have to make a decision on the eventual action for this bill. Some of the issues appear that has been mentioned such as the

contractual obligations. The contractual obligation provisions are no different than other existing scholarship programs. We all require contractual obligations that those avail the scholarship funding made available in turn with the CNMI and work for a specific number of years according to the number of years that they avail of the scholarship. In this particular legislation, we have a provision on page 4, line 3 and this provision says that the individual “Agree to return to the CNMI six months after graduation from the master’s program and work as a Related Service Provider in the Special Education Program waiting for three years for each year of scholarship assistance.” It goes here to read, “If he/she fails or refuses to complete these obligation” meaning returning and working for three years for each year then “he/she shall remit all the scholarship funds received through this scholarship program back to PSS within a year after receiving the last disbursement of the scholarship.” Two things here, one it only mentioned evaluation, it does not mention withdrawing from the program. Subsection 6, mentions something similar to this it says, “Agree to reimburse the PSS of all moneys received if the student chooses to switch other course...” does that mean when you switch courses you fail to complete the required master’s program. And the other part to the concern under this subsection 5 is the word where it says “to pave that goal” the scholarship fund – now it does not take into account the situation where the individual provides services to PSS for example for six years and then – they do not receive credit for providing services for six years. This says that they need to pay for everything to be able to think the full requirement of nine years. I think the Speaker has mentioned some of the concerns in regards to this. Again the intent is noble and I agree with the intent. I wish that this legislation intention is to create this program service provider scholarship with an existing CNMI scholarship and SHEFA. The issue here for me again is just some of the concerns already mentioned by the Speaker. Again, I am not sure whether duplication of scholarship program is necessary. The move mentioned earlier or the rate of completion under programs under CNMI scholarship and basically that is the result of the individuals that avail from the program. I am not sure whether this would not be the same thing with what bills is intending to create or mandate with PSS. So I am not sure whether the members are ready for a resolution or the members ready to reconsider the intent or mandating this to PSS, but personally for the sake of voting for this bill I am ready to vote for the standing committee report and leave it up to the members once we get to the Bill Calendar. Thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Any further discussion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are ready to vote on the committee report.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-78 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XV, Resolution Calendar and called upon the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho requested for recess and the Chair approved.

The House recessed at 11:45 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvened and the Chair recognized the Floor Leader to continue with item XV, Resolution Calendar.

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 19-20.

C. RES. NO. 19-20

A House Commemorative Resolution 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 Soudelor.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Question to the Clerk. Was this introduced by the Committee as a Whole?

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: No, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Is it too late to request it?

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: No, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objection to having Commemorative Resolution 19-20?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Madame Clerk, can you make that note before we pass. Any further discussion then on Commemorative Resolution 19-20?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 19-20 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt House Resolution 19-38.

H. RES. NO. 19-38

To convey sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to the bereaved family of the late Augustin “Itibweshigh” M. Tagabuel on the occasion of his untimely passing and paying tribute to his services to the people of the Commonwealth.

REP. FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Angel A. Demapan, and John Paul P. Sablan)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 19-38 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, let us move on to item XVI, our Bill Calendar and I turn it over to our Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9.

RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY

Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference

committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action.

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House. Such documents, testimonies or other evidence may be attached to committee reports as supporting documents.

[Note: Rule VII, Section 9 (e), amended by H. RES. 19-19, HS1]

The motion was seconded.

There were no discussions and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to pass House Bill 19-135 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. NO. 19-135

To amend Public Law 12-64 Section 7 (b) Special Appropriation: Expenditure Authority.

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

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded for the passage of House Bill 19-135. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-135 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	absent (<i>excused</i>)

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 14 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With all 14 voting “yes,” House Bill 19-135 hereby passes the House. Maybe we still have time for a few more bills. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to pass House Bill 19-97, Senate Draft 1 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. 19-97, SD1

To amend Title 70, § 70-30.3-220, Small Purchases, of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code.[*See Senate Communication 19-128*]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion is for the passage of House Bill 19-97, SD1 it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is a minor amendment offered by the Senate they struck out two words. Any discussion? Recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the mover is alright with the amendment from the Senate. I believe the original intent of the \$10,000 cap is increased to roughly \$24,000 or \$25,000 and I am just concerned whether that amount is contrary to the intent of this particular provision in our procurement regulation. Again, the intent of the provision is to ensure that we maximize the expenditure of public funds. Personally, I think \$24,000 is quite substantial difference from the \$10,000. Again when I saw the amendments, personally I am not too comfortable with the amendment adopted by the Senate. I am still not comfortable in supporting it with that amount. I think the \$10,000 original intent is reasonable, but I do not know I just thought I would bring that attention to the members whether that should be a concern.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Any further discussion? Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to comment on the legislation. The amount our good Chairman is referring to that was the House version that we sent up to the Senate. Anything above \$25,000 would require bonding and which is why we do not want to pass the \$25,000 so we kept it at a number below that. Again that was the House version that we sent up to the Senate. The only Senate amendment is on page 3, line 13 which they deleted “but is not encouraged” but is encouraged to. So the sentence now reads “binding is not required, but procurement over...” and so on. The context of the Senate amendment is still the same, they actually just it is may and shall to encourage the House version the Senate took that off and just to make the sentence run through. It does not change the meaning of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Just clarification from the Floor. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my previous statement.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Any objections to the Chair raising – just for clarification.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor, so the bidding is not required but they need price quotations? Three price quotations for anything falling over \$2,500 to \$24,999. They still must get three price quotations that is how I read it.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Please you are recognize.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Currently, anything above \$10,000 you require the bidding process, you have to go through the bidding process and get any quotations. Anything below \$10,000 which is considered small purchase. The intent of the bill to redefine small purchase rather than being below \$10,000 to make it below \$25,000. We are just increasing the threshold of what a small purchase is. Anything above that will then require bidding a bigger purchase and would have to go through the proper procurement processes and bidding.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Bidding and obtaining three price quotations are not the same thing? Or is the same thing? Let me read it, “The official with expenditure authority must obtain price quotations from at least three vendors and base a selection on competitive price and quality for any procurement valued at \$2,500 to \$24,999.00.” So for any procurement within those range you need to get three price quotations that is how I read it.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: The word “bidding” is not required.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I am not bidding, but I said three price quotations.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Or anything that falls under the definition of small purchases is not required. If you are reading on line 15 bidding is not required.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Right bidding is not required for procurement over \$2,500 and under, but the expenditure authority must obtain price quotation from at least three vendors and base selection on competitive price and quality for procurement valued at that same price range. So it is requiring three quotations –

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Right.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: It may not be bidding but it requires three –

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Yes.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, I just wanted to understand that. Alright so that is the case, everybody clear?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright now are we ready for the vote? Are there other discussions on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-97, Senate 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	absent (<i>excused</i>)

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 14 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With 14 affirmative votes, House Bill 19-97, SD1 hereby passes the House. At this time, let us take a short recess.

The House recessed at 12:15 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:49 p.m.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Back to our session. Prior to our lunch recess, we were left off to item XVI, Bill Calendar and we have disposed of two bills. Before we continue on with anything on the Bill Calendar let us go back to item IV without objections?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: To allow the Minority Leader to introduce his bill. Minority Leader you are recognized.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb officially introduced House Bill 19-132.

H. B. NO. 19-132

To require all contractors to be licensed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

The Chair referred House Bill 19-32 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism. The Chair then directed the members to item XVI, Bill Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to pass Senate Bill 19-37, Senate Draft 1 on First and Final Reading.

S. B. No. 19-37, SD1

A Bill for an Act to amend certain sections of the Pure Food and Drug Control to include lime (*afok, bweesch*); and for other purposes. [See S. C. R. NO. 19-77]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered and seconded. The floor is now open for discussion.

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 19-37, Senate 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	absent (<i>excused</i>)

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With all 15 voting “yes,” Senate Bill 19-37, SD1 hereby passes the House. Short recess.

The House recessed at 1:54 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let us now return back to our session and before that short recess, the Chair had recognized the vote already on Senate Bill 19-37, SD1 however, the Chair has been informed that the call was not correct so I turn it to our Clerk to give us the right call.

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker it is 14 voting “yes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, now I recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to submit my “yes” vote to the legislation. Thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objections?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With no objections, Madame Clerk can you give us the revised vote now?

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: 15 voting “yes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 voting “yes,” Senate Bill 19-37, SD1 hereby passes the House. I turn it over to our Floor Leader for a motion to adjourn. Before we do that sorry, let us go to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. Are there any miscellaneous business? Recognize Representative BJ Attao.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if this is appropriate this time, but this is in regards to our government travel. I know that they have their selected airlines in order to get beyond the CNMI. Right now with the challenge of Delta Airlines flying in the afternoon, there is an overnight stay in Japan and that is not accounted for in any of the government travel and out of our people that are getting out for conferences or any training are liable for the expenditures associated in Japan it is not included in their per diem rate. So it is just something that we can be mindful of and maybe we can bring that up to the travel because I think it is a lot of burden maybe for just the cost of hotel and accommodation because Japan is at a higher rate. So maybe there can be a subsidized being added to their per diem. If we help them

maybe fly the other route so that it is a direct flight and they do not have to stay overnight at their own expense under government travel.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Attao. Any other comments? If not, under item XVIII, Announcements. Any announcements? Recognize Representative Aldan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to extend my appreciation to all the members that came down to make this session on Tinian. You know we tend to take care of business on Saipan in the whole year round, but coming down although we do not see a lot of people coming up, but I know you have met them out there maybe in the store and they will express their concern. I thank you again for coming down and also to extend the appreciation to the Mayor's Office for making all those public hearings that we conducted. The Municipal Counsel for their support in some of the microphones that we are using and also the Judiciary for accommodating the session here in the Courthouse. Maybe the next time we have session this building will be expanded so we have space to conduct our business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Aldan. I, too and I am sure the members who would like to echo your expression of your appreciation to the Judicial branch and to the staff of the Tinian Judicial Courthouse for their assistance towards to this session. At the same token, I do not know if it is official yet, but word has come down to many of us that the settlement fund is now processing the checks for the 25% for the retirees and we should also thank everyone involved. Thank you members for the work we have done. Did I see your hand Representative Maratita?

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Speaker. And thank you Chairman for everything you have done. Anyway, I would like to inform the members of JGO that I have tentative schedule for public hearing on March 9 in Rota. So this is something to share and perhaps you can make necessary arrangement. I will keep you posted if there is any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Glenn. Any other announcements? Recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Portions of Representative Antonio P. Sablan's announcement were inaudible. On video it appears that the microphone was a few inches away from Representative Sablan and the recording was not loud enough to hear.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you. Let me just take this opportunity, I know the past few days have been so stressful for everybody. At times we – I know that the statement in yesterday's session I think we all questioned each other – and I think we are all doing what we can to make things happen. This is just on my part to extend my appreciation to everybody and – so called personal discussions and all that it is nothing personal I sincerely hope again that – to

work together in these past few days let us show that we get together – come and go – good things can happen – I just thought I wanted to share that – thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Any last words?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I also want to thank our bureau staff for the hard work you have done. Alright, Floor Leader for the motion to adjourn subject to the call.

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 your call.

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

The House adjourned at 2:03 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. 19-47: To re-name the Beach Road Pathway, the “Governor Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway”; and for other purposes. Introduced by 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) on January 26, 2016.

*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session
2/2/16:*

H. B. NO. 19-129: To amend 1 CMC §7406(a) (4) to allow for parole officers to utilize their government vehicles to carry out their duties and responsibilities more effectively and efficiently; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita,

Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, and Antonio P. Sablan) on February 2, 2016 and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-130: To amend 1 CMC § 2809. Homesteads by inserting a new subsection (c) that would allow the Department of Public Lands to require water and power infrastructure designs from all contracts pertaining to the development of homesteads; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 2, 2016; was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on February 4, 2016.

H. B. NO. 19-131: To amend 2 CMC, § 4831, Coordination with Other Agencies; Issuance of Permit; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 2, 2016; was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on February 4, 2016.

House information on deadlines for override:

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]**