



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

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2<sup>nd</sup> Day, First Regular Session

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

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*The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, First Regular Session on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at 10:15 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.*

### ROLL CALL

*The Clerk called the roll and all twenty members were present.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Clerk. With all 20 members present we may begin and proceed with our session today. Before we move down to item II, let me ask the Floor Leader to go ahead and make a motion to suspend the rule and that motion is to allow all other communications that are not appearing on today's agenda and bills and resolutions. You may proceed Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to make a motion that we suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) so that the House amends its agenda to include unnumbered bills, resolutions and communications not filed within the Clerk's office seventy-two hours in advance when a notice of session was given and posted. 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 Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Again your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

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

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Representative Francisco C. Aguon          | yes |
| Representative Edwin P. Aldan              | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Donald C. Barcinas          | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco              | yes |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz      | yes |
| Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero   | yes |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero  | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan            | yes |
| Speaker Rafael S. Demapan                  | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero  | yes |
| Representative Alice S. Igitol             | yes |
| Representative Jose I. Itibus              | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita           | yes |
| Representative Janet U. Maratita           | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst             | yes |
| Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.     | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan         | yes |
| Representative Vinson F. Sablan            | yes |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With all members voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) is hereby adopted. Now moving along we will go ahead and move down to item II, which is the Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the items on today's Order of Business, you may do so at the podium. I ask that you specify your name.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Jason Hudy, Animal Welfare Group (Saipan Cares for Animals)  
 Mr. Juan Tenorio  
 Mr. Clyde Norita, Commissioner, Department of Fire

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other person? If none, we will go ahead and proceed down to our next Order of Business that is the item III, the Adoption of Journal. Clerk.

## ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

*The Clerk announced the following journal for adoption:*

First Day, First Regular Session January 9, 2017 – Organizational Session

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. Let me now recognize the Floor Leader for the motion.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to make a motion that we adopt the First Day, First Regular Session January 9, 2017 the Organizational Session. So move, Mr. Speaker.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Ready? Recognize Representative Barcinas.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: Thank you, Floor Leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to commend all the LB staff for a great job in organizing and following the inauguration for the Twentieth CNMI House of Representatives for a great great job. So, I think they deserve a clap from all of us. Secondly, I recommend to adopt the motion, but I would like to point some minor errors with regards to some typo issues on some misspelling maybe on last name of our colleague, Representative Aguon's middle-name should be "Concepcion" with a "c". Also on page 11 on the sentence that read "Representative Alice Santos Igitol will be heading the Representative Alice Santos Igitol will be heading the Committee on Natural Resources..." very minor mistake. So with misspelling – repetition – so also moving down a little bit on the same page, "meaningful and sound policies in order to meet the needs of our economic growth and addressing faced by our government..." there is suppose to be – there is a word there that is missing – supposedly missing. Just to recommend that the journal be reviewed for these items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Barcinas. Thank you for that clarification. We will let the record reflect on those correction. In the mean time, I would also ask that you submit those correction to the Clerk. Any other discussion? Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out when they transcribe the audio recording during Organizational Session was it suppose to be verbatim or are we allowed to make those technical changes. Just something to point out.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Well thank you, Floor Leader. I guess the Chairman was pointing on the typo errors. Is that correct Chairman Barcinas? So with that further discussion? Ready?

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, First Regular Session January 9, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Journal is adopted. Moving along we will go down to item IV, which is the Introduction of Bills. First, let me recognize Representative Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### *House Bills:*

*Representative Joseph T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:*

#### **H. B. NO. 20-1**

To amend 4 CMC §1401 and 4 CMC §1402 (a) to separate cigars from being taxed as a tobacco and establish its own tax rate; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOSEPH T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-1 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao for the next introduction.*

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

#### **H. B. NO. 20-2**

To increase the excise tax on the importation of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) into the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-2 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao for the next introduction.*

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

#### **H. B. NO. 20-3**

To amend and repeal provisions of the Vehicle Code to allow for e-citation implementation; and for other purposes.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-3 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-4**

To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from the MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Tinian and Rota.

**REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-4 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-5**

To establish a graduated registration fee for pickups, jeeps, sedans and automobiles.

**REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-5 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-6**

To amend 2 CMC §7251 to require three (3) public hearings for any proposed change of district boundary, uses, or requirements; and for other purposes.

**REP. VINSON F. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 4, (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-6 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-7**

To amend 9 CMC §2107 to provide an extended time period before the vehicle registration late fee would apply; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Edwin P. Aldan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Vinson F. Sablan)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-7 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Edmund S. Villagomez for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edmund S. Villagomez officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-8**

To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes.

**REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Vinson F. Sablan)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-8 to the Committee on Public Utilities and Communications and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-9**

To require all scuba dive shop operators to impose a \$10.00 surcharge per tank usage to purchase, install, operate, and maintain decompression chambers in the CNMI; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, and Edwin K. Propst)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-9 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-10**

To establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account.

**REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-10 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-11**

To ban the use of plastic checkout bags; and for other purposes.

**REP. VINSON F. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 4, (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-11 to the Committee on Natural and Resources and officially introduced the following House Bills:*

**H. B. NO. 20-12**

To reform drug sentencing laws to effectuate the rehabilitation and treatment principles of evidence-based sentencing.

**REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)

**H. B. NO. 20-13**

To designate and establish Susupe Lake and its surrounding wetland as “Susupe Lake Wildlife Park” for the purpose of and in accordance with this Act.

**REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)

**H. B. NO. 20-14**

To improve the justice system’s response to domestic violence, and for other purposes.

**REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-12 and 20-14 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and referred House Bill 20-13 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-15**

To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, CNMI Drug Court, and establishing a special account.

**REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-15 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-16**

To amend 7 CMC 3101(a) to mandate when a jury is impanel to hear all felonies and misdemeanors charges; and for other purposes.

**REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-16 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-17**

To establish provisions to require the Commonwealth Government and Commonwealth Government Agencies to pay their contractual obligations in a timely manner; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-17 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-18**

To amend 6 CMC §2256 (a) (10), the hours of operation for shooting galleries and shooting ranges; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-18 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-19**

To amend 6 CMC §3156 (b) by requiring a hotel or resort attached to a golf course to have a minimum of eighteen (18) holes in order to be eligible to conduct electronic gaming activities as defined in 6 CMC §3156(a)(6).

**REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Angel A. Demapan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Vinson F. Sablan)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-19 to the Committee on Gaming and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-20**

To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1 § 2104 to provide veterans a discounted benefit for the vehicle registration fee; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Jose I. Itibus, Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-20 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Edmund S. Villagomez for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edmund S. Villagomez officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-21**

To define “general revenues” as it relates to the CNMI Public School System.

**REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.)



*The Chair referred House Bill 20-21 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-22**

To amend 1 CMC Section 1502 clarifying the activities subject to the Occupancy Tax.

**REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-22 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-23**

To define industrial port use, port related operations and to amend 1 CMC §2806 (g), Public Lands: Fundamental Policies; and to allow government agencies on the islands of Tinian and Rota to lease public lands, conveyed to them by Public Lands, for legitimate public purpose related to their agency's mandate.

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

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-23 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-24**

To prohibit cruelty and theft of animals; to provide penalties for such acts; and for other purposes.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-24 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-25**

To prohibit the selling and exporting of copper wire; and for other purposes.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and Vinson F. Sablan)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-25 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-26**

To amend 6 CMC §2143 by adding a new subsection (c) to establish a penalty for businesses who engage in drug-related activities; and for other purposes.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and Vinson F. Sablan)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-26 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-27**

To amend 2 CMC §1645 to establish a penalty for businesses engaging in the act of destroying, harassing, or removing of wildlife or marine species within Bird Island and Forbidden Island sanctuaries; and for other purposes.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-27 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao for the next introduction.*

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-28**

To amend 4 CMC §§ 2306, 2307 and 2308 (Public Law No. 18-56) to authorize, establish, and fund a Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account and CNMI Retiree Future Generation Pension Plan.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-28 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-29**

To appropriate Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) from the Cancer Fund Special Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §1402(g)(2), to support and expand cancer awareness, detection and prevention programs.

**REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-29 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-30**

To require all tour companies and agents to register and be issued a permit by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA); and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Donald C. Barcinas) H. B. NO. 20-31 To retire the CNMI deficit in a significant and consistent manner via imposition of a 5% tax on gaming revenue in the Commonwealth. Prefiled by: REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself, and Representative Alice S. Igitol)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-30 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-31**

To retire the CNMI deficit in a significant and consistent manner via imposition of a 5% tax on gaming revenue in the Commonwealth.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, and Representative Alice S. Igitol)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-31 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-32**

To amend the Developer Infrastructure Tax to bear the cost of the new and additional infrastructure needed to meet the growing demands of our economy; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-32 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-33**

To amend 2 CMC § 4435(f) and to repeal 2 CMC § 4435(h) to expand the use of lease agreement payments to supplement housing assistance; and for other purposes.

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

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-33 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-34**

To repeal in part Section 3 of Public Law No. 19-42 and revive former 6 CMC § 2222(e) and its associated definitions.

**REP. VINSON F. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-34 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bills:*

**H. B. NO. 20-35**

To amend 1 CMC §§8245-8248 to increase compensation for appointed officials and increase the salary ceiling; and for other purposes.

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

**H. B. NO. 20-36**

To amend 1 CMC §8357, to reestablish the special annuity for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, and Representatives Edwin P. Aldan and Glenn L. Maratita)

*The Chair recognized Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-37**

To prohibit the taking and selling of certain sizes of fish species by adding a new section 5645 to Article 4, Chapter 6, Division 5 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S.

Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Let us have a very quick recess just to put numbers on those unnumbered bills. Short recess.

*The House recessed at 10:59 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 11:28 a.m.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Back from our recess. Prior to our recess we were still on the Bill Calendar – on the House Bill relative to House Bill 20-35 and 20-36, those two bills will be referred to JGO and House Bill 20-37 that bill will be referred to Natural Resources. There is still one other unnumbered bill, I now recognize Representative Blanco. I am sorry, apologize. So with that we will go ahead and go down to item b, which is the House Local Bills and I now recognize Representative BJ Attao.

***House Local Bills:***

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 20-1**

To appropriate up to Three Hundred Ninety Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine US Dollars \$393,279.00 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Third Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 20-2**

To re-appropriate Seven Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Fifty Eight US Dollars (\$799,558.00) allotted to the Second Senatorial District pursuant to 4 CMC §2307(b); and for other purposes.

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

*The Chair recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao for the next introduction.*

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 20-3**

To appropriate funds realized under Public Law No. 18-30 for the Third Senatorial District for the construction of a temporary shelter(s) within the Third Senatorial District.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair recognized Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr. for the next introduction.*

*Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr. officially introduced the following House Local*

*Bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 20-4**

To re-appropriate the unused funds under Business Unit No. 1605 (of Saipan Local Law No. 19-06) for the continued repair and renovations of the Northern Marianas College (NMC) As Terlaje Campus; and for other purposes.

**REP. GREGORIO M. SABLAN, JR.** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 20-5**

To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, 10 CMC § 3511.

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: House Resolution 20-2 will be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Recognize Chairman Lee Pan.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Can we have a short recess?

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: I believe we are on House Local Bills, Mr. Speaker.

*The House recessed at 11:32 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 11:34 a.m.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Before we move down to item V, which is the introduction of resolution let me ask the member is there any member wanted to or is there anything to be introduced under House Legislative Initiative. If none, we will go ahead and go down to item V, which is the Introduction of Resolution. Now recognize, Representative John Paul P. Sablan.

*House Legislative Initiatives: None*

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

*House Resolutions:*

*Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 20-2**

To respectfully request the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands to preserve and designate 30,000 square meters of feasible public land on the island of Saipan for the future site of the Indigenous Cultural Center.

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

*The Chair referred House Resolution 20-2 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Resolution and requested that the resolution be placed on the Resolution Calendar for action and introduced as Committee of the Whole:*

**H. RES. NO. 20-3**

To honor and commend Mr. Jose “Joe” C. Ayuyu for earning the coveted title of 2016 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year.

**REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)  
(Committee of the Whole)

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

*The Chair placed House Resolution 20-3 on the Resolution Calendar and recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 20-4**

To amend the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure that was adopted on January 9, 2017; and for other purposes.

**REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (for himself)

*The Chair placed House Resolution 20-4 on the Resolution Calendar and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco for the next introduction.*

*Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 20-5**

To respectfully request and encourage business establishments in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to extend the privilege of honoring our Senior Citizens (55 years old and above) to avail of discount benefits at their establishments.

**REP. IVAN A. BLANCO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Blanco. I just wanted to clarify the resolution has been numbered as 20-5.

*The Chair placed House Resolution 20-5 on the Resolution Calendar.*

***House Joint Resolutions:***

*The Chair directed the members to House Joint Resolutions and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao for the next introduction.*

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution and welcomed the members to coauthor the resolution:*

**H. J. R. NO. 20-1**

Respectfully requesting the Honorable Ralph DLG Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. James Aldan Ada, Secretary of the Department of Public Works to reserve at least \$850,000.00 from the Federal Highway Funds for Fiscal Year 2017, \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018, and \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the A&E design and construction of roads, drainage and water catchment tanks from Capitol Hill to Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill including lateral roads; and for other purposes.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Jose I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Joint Resolution 20-1 to the Committee on Transportation and recognized Representative Francisco C. Aguon for the next introduction.*

*Representative Francisco C. Aguon officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution and welcomed the members to coauthor the resolution:*

**H. J. R. NO. 20-2**

Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Kannat Tabla road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and for other purposes.

**REP. FRANCISCO C. AGUON** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, and Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas,



Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The Chair referred House Joint Resolution 20-2 to the Committee on Transportation.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I believe that will take care of all the resolution for today. Also, let me ask the members especially the committee Chairs looking over those bills that was introduced, some of these bills are prior – so-called bill that was introduced in the Nineteenth. Some of these bills did pass the House. I ask the respective Chairs to look at the history and expedite the process on those bills so that it goes to the Senate.

*The Chair directed the members to Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.*

***House Commemorative Resolutions: None***

***House Concurrent Resolutions: None***

## **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

*The Clerk announced the following Governor's Communications:*

GOV. COMM. 20-1: (1/12/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-189, SS1 (To repeal and reenact 4 CMC Division 2, Chapter 2, eliminating the different types of concessions created by Public Law 4-60 and empowering the Commonwealth Ports Authority to grant concessions for Commonwealth ports and to determine the scope of the concessions that it grants, and for other purposes.). Became Public Law 19-76 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-2: (1/14/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-118, HD1 (BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AMENDMENT). Became Public Law 19-77 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-3: (1/14/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-186, HD1 (To repeal and reenact certain sections of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Act; to establish a Board of Trustees which shall manage and control the operations, functions and activities of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation.) Became Public Law 19-78 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-4: (1/16/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-80, HD1 (PARKING ACT OF 2015 - To establish rules for the creation, removal, and operation of special parking zones and parking meter zones; and for other purposes.) Became Public Law 19-79 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-5: (1/16/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-81 (THEFT OF ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) Became Public Law 19-80 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-6: (1/16/17 received 1/19/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 19-173 (To amend 4 CMC § 1205(c) by adding a new subsection (9) allowing an educational tax credit for donations to the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society; and for other purposes.). [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-7: (1/16/17 received 1/20/17) Executive Order 2017-1 – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

GOV. COMM. 20-8: (1/20/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-158, HD2 (To compensate private landowners whose properties were taken for public purposes and for court judgments.) Became Public Law 19-81 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-9: (1/20/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-85, HD2, SD1 (VEHICLE SMOKE-FREE POLICY: To establish a regulation to prohibit smoking in vehicles when in the presence of minors; and for other purposes.) Became Public Law 19-82 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-10: (1/20/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 19-132, HD1 (CONTRACTORS LICENSING ACT: To require all contractors to be licensed in the CNMI). [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-11: (1/23/17) From SAPLR informing the Legislature that H. B. 19-3, HS1, HD1, (To enact a new base salary schedule for classified civil service government employees pursuant to 1 CMC Sections 8124(g) and 8133 and to increase the salary ceiling for classified civil service government employees and to amend 1 CMC § 8244 and 1 CMC § 1271 to increase the compensation for the Governor, Lt. Governor and members of the Legislature.) became Public Law 19-83 on January 20, 2017 without the Governor's signature. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-12: (1/27/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Teri C. Tenorio, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$65,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 20-13: (1/27/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Charles E. Brasington, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$57,000. [For info]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Any comment or discussions on Messages from the Governor?

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Privilege Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Chairman Lee.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker on Governor’s Communication 20-12 and 20-13 – Mr. Speaker, we continue to see this practice Mr. Speaker. Apparently the AG are charging the certain departmental for service fee for their Assistant Attorney General and here we

are again seeing this given lavishly an increase on their Assistant Attorney General. I think Mr. Speaker that this has to stop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Lee. Let me recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is more for clarification from Legal Counsel or the Clerk. There are a couple of vetoes and so they may be eligible for override. However, particularly Governor's Communication 20-6 the veto message is dated January 16 showing received January 19. I just wanted to clarified when the clock begins taking for the veto deadline.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Counsel can you respond? Are you referring to Governor's Communication –

Representative Angel A. Demapan: 20-6.

Legal Counsel John Cool: The problem is that the bills were enacted by a previous legislature and this legislature cannot act on them.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Can you get closer Counsel to the –

Legal Counsel John Cool: The bills that were vetoed were enacted by the Nineteenth Legislature.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: So clarified.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Counsel. Chairman, did the Counsel clarify that?

Representative Angel A. Demapan: So clarified, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other member wanted to – further discussion? Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Referring to Governor's Communication 20-3 regarding to the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation. He had some recommendations here pertaining to the board of trustees and I would like to see that we expedite the concerns that he made with this communication regarding this Public Law 19-186. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Again that is well noted. I believe the Chair on the Health and Welfare is aware of that but again it is anybody's prerogative to initiate correction or perhaps draft legislation to address the concerns from the Governor. Further discussion?

*Several members voiced "ready".*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Moving along. We will go ahead and go down to item VII, which is the Senate Communication. Recognize the Floor Leader.

### **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communication 20-1 so that it may become property of the House.*

SEN. COMM. 20-1: (1/9/17) From Senate President Arnold I. Palacios informing the House that the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature is duly organized and ready to conduct business. [For info]

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communication 20-1 so that it may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

### **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Chair directed the members to House Communications and recognized the House Clerk.*

*The House Clerk announced the following House Communications:*

HSE. COMM. 20-1: (1/10/17) From the minority caucus appointing Representative Edmund S. Villagomez as the Minority Leader for the 20th Northern Marianas House of Representatives. [For Info]

HSE. COMM. 20-2: (1/12/17) From Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official matters beginning Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and will return on Monday, January 23, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-3: (1/12/17) From Representative Igitol informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official representation beginning January 16, 2017 and will return on January 21, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during her absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-4: (1/11/17) From Speaker Rafael S. Demapan appointing members to the Ad Hoc Committee to review the 20th House Rules. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-5: (1/13/17) From Representative Guerrero, C&T Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-6: (1/12/17) From Representative Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official matters beginning Wednesday, January 18, 2017 and will return on Saturday, January 21, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-7: (1/12/17) From Representative Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., FFA Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee Federal and Foreign Affairs. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-8: (1/13/17) From Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Gaming Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Gaming. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-9: (1/17/17) From Representative Blanco, JGO Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-10: (1/17/17) From Representative Dela Cruz, PUC Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Communications. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-11: (1/18/17) From Representative Aguon, Social and Human Services Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Social and Human Services. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-12: (1/13/17) From Representative Aldan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from Tuesday, January 17, 2017 to Monday, January 23, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-13: (1/13/17) From Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from Tuesday, January 17, 2017 to Sunday, January 22, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-14: (1/18/17) From Representative Barcinas, Transportation Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Transportation. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-15: (1/18/17) From Representative Itibus, Health Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Health. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-16: (1/18/17) From the Minority Bloc outlining key points in engaging on policy issues. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-17: (1/25/17) From Representative Igitol, NR Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-18: (1/25/17) From Representative Aldan, Education Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Education. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-19: (1/27/17) From Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning Wednesday, February 1, 2017 and will return on Monday, February 13, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-20: (1/30/17) From Representative Barcinas, Transportation Chair, submitting amended composition to the Transportation Committee restructure of composition appointing Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz as Vice Chair. [*For info*]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Any comments or discussion on any of the House Communications?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: None. So with that we will go ahead and move down to item IX. Appears to be none on Communication from the Judicial. X, Communication from the Departments and Agencies, we do have two. XI, Miscellaneous Communications we do have one. Item XII, which is the Reports of Standing Committees, none. XIII, Reports on Special and Conference Committee, none. XIV is the Unfinished Business, none. We will go ahead and go down to item XV, which is the Resolution Calendar. Now recognize the Floor Leader.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

None

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 20-1: (1/25/17) From the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) submitting status report on CNMI Agencies’ implementation of audit recommendations. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 20-2: (1/27/17) From the Chairman of the Marianas Public Lands Trust re: DPL’s FY 2015 and 2014 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report and Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control. [*For info*]

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

MISC. COMM. 20-1: (1/9/17) From the 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council informing the House of its officers for the 14th SNIMC. [*For info*]

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## RESOLUTION CALENDAR

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt House Resolution 20-3.*

### **H. RES. NO. 20-3**

To honor and commend Mr. Jose “Joe” C. Ayuyu for earning the coveted title of 2016 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year.

**REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-3 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*No action taken for the following resolutions:*

### **H. RES. NO. 20-4**

To amend the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure that was adopted on January 9, 2017; and for other purposes.

**REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (for himself)

### **H. RES. NO. 20-5**

To respectfully request and encourage business establishments in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to extend the privilege of honoring our Senior Citizens (55 years old and above) to avail of discount benefits at their establishments.

**REP. IVAN A. BLANCO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

*The Chair directed the members back to item X, Communications from Departments and Agencies.*

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I wanted to ask the members if there is any discussions or comment on that communication? None. Recognize Chairman Joe Guerrero.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding Department and Agency Communication 20-2, this is the audit and related findings of DPL that the audit has identified some areas under DPL regarding funding that may be relevant for maybe the Committee on Ways and Means especially when the upcoming budget hearings happen soon. Apparently there are areas where funding was earmarked for like reimbursement of land comp in which they are not authorized by law to distribute. It is in the amount of Five Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand and also there was over a million dollars that is apparently unsubstantiated. Like I said, during the budget process these details have to be made clear and I thought it would be relevant if you would refer this communication to the Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Guerrero and thank you for that – looking at the letter. Yes indeed, Department and Agencies Communication 20-2 – this communication will be referred to the Ways and Means. Further discussion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So I guess that took care of the Communications from the Department and Agencies. I think we are through on item XV, which is the Resolution Calendar. We did approve one House Resolution that would be it for today. Moving down to item XVI, Bill Calendar appears to be none. Item XVII, Miscellaneous Business? None. Item XVIII, Announcement? None. So with that I now recognize the Floor Leader.

### **BILL CALENDAR**

None

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: My apologies Mr. Speaker. We are under adjournment?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Under – we are through with the XVIII, which is the Announcement. So I guess the last motion will be to adjourn.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note –

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Hold on Floor Leader. Let me – I apologize. Let me recognize Chairman Joseph Guerrero.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just clarification, Mr. Speaker. I yield.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Chairman Deleon Guerrero. Now recognize the Floor Leader again.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to 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 11:53 p.m.*



Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario  
House Journal Clerk

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**APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS**

**FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:** NONE

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:** NONE

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*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session*  
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*House information on deadlines for override:*