In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President Victor B. Hocog issued a notice on June 1, 2015 announcing that the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, House of Representatives, and the Senate, and on the Commonwealth Legislature’s website at www.cnmileg.gov.mp.

The Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fourth Special Session, on June 04, 2015, at 1:45 p.m., in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and all nine (9) members were present.

President Victor B. Hocog: With nine (9) members present, the Senate constitutes a quorum to conduct its Order of Business for today’s session. We are now on item B, for Public Comments. Is there anyone from the gallery that would like to make any public statement before the body? If none, C, Floor Leader.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL
REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

1. **Standing Committee Report No. 19-26:** From the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) to represent Tinian.  
   *(ADOPTED)*

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, we don’t have any journals for action so, if there are no objections, Mr. President, I would like to request that we move on to agenda item M, Reports of Standing Committee, so that we can dispose of Standing Committee Report No. 19-26, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Okay, there being no objection to move to item M in or Order of Business for today, I would like to recognize now the Chairman of the EAGI to make the Standing Committee Report in reference to the appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to represent the island of Tinian. Chairman Frank Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President, and before I request the full member of the Senate to support the Committee Report, if I may be allowed to ask the Executive Director whether or not Kimberlyn was made aware of today’s confirmation?

**Executive Director Maryann Lizama:** [inaudible]

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Chair, let me make that clarification. I just had a telephone call with Ms. Hinds and it is unfortunate that she never got the information that it’s her confirmation action today. She has not received any information about today’s confirmation hearing or action. So, in spite of that, I just want to make note that after having her with the committee during her public hearing, I guess the committee has been aware of her intention that she had accepted and are ever willing to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. I believe the Senate full body can proceed and take action on her confirmation during today’s session and with that, I would like first to ask the Floor Leader to effectuate a motion as it pertains to Standing Committee Report No. 19-26.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 19-26, reference to the report on the Committee of Executive Appointments and Government Investigation, relative to the appointment of Kimberlyn K. Hinds, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, so move Mr. President.
President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 19-26 on the Executive Appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and it has been seconded. Discussion? If none, I will give the Chairman to proceed with the Standing Committee Report as it pertains to the confirmation of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds.

The Chair recognizes Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President and members of the Senate, this is Senate Standing Committee Report No. 19-27, the appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds. Mr. President and members of the Senate, your Standing Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority appointed by Governor Eloy S. Inos on April 21, 2015 pursuant to 2 CMC § 2123. It is the intent of your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation to assure the appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds is in conformance with 2 CMC § 2123. Furthermore, Ms. Kimberlyn King Hinds has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 7, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. However, your Committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds overall credentials. In addition, your Committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing and after much deliberation and based on the overall assessment of Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds’ credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Ms. Kimberlyn K. Hinds possess the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to represent the island of Tinian. In summation, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation recommends that the full Senate gives its advice and consent to confirm the appointment of Ms. Kimberlyn King Hinds to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to represent the island of Tinian. Again, I ask for your support on Senate Standing Committee Report No. 19-27. Thank you Mr. President.

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you Chairman Cruz. Anyone that would like to – I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Just for the record, Mr. President, there is an inadvertent clerical error that I wish to make. Just to note and make corrections to the report, we have 19-27, it should read 19-26. Just for the record, Mr. President.

President Victor B. Hocog: Clerk, may I verify that? Thank you. Okay, I ask each member to reflect the correct Standing Committee Report and instead of 19-27, it should read 19-26. Thank you, Floor Leader. Are there any other discussions on the Standing Committee Report for Ms. Kimberlyn Hinds? Okay, I just want to make it known that the adoption of Standing Committee Report means that Ms. Kimberly Hind is deemed confirmed. Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 19-26.

- Senator Francisco M. Borja: yes
- Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: yes
- Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: hunggan
President Victor B. Hocog: With all nine (9) members voting yes on Standing Committee Report No. 19-26, Ms. Kimberly Hinds is hereby confirmed by the full Senate and we would like to extend her a congratulation and although Ms. Hinds is not here, she is well represented by the members of her colleagues and the Board of Directors and the Executive Director as well as the executive staff of CPA. We thank you all for being here to give support to one of the appointee that is now being confirmed to be part of you in the process of moving CPA forward into the right direction. Thank you again Mr. Chairman, Vice, and members of the Executive Office. Director Lizama, thank you. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:10 p.m.

And

The Senate reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

President Victor B. Hocog: We are back to our plenary session. Prior to our recess, we were on item M, on Standing Committee Report which we have already completed on the agenda. So, Floor Leader, I ask that we move back to the Order of Business.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

1. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-55**: May 13, 2015 – Certification for an annual salary in excess of $50,000 for Dr. Lainie Zarones, Wildlife Biologist at DLNR to receive $54,000.00 per annum.

2. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-56**: May 12, 2015 – Signed into local law, H.L.B. No. 19-16 – To appropriate $22,000 from the Developer Infrastructure Tax collected in the 2nd Senatorial District; and for other purposes, became **TINIAN LOCAL LAW NO. 19-2**.

3. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-57**: May 13, 2015 - **Signed** in part, and disapproved in part into local law, H.L.B. No. 19-17, D1 – To re-appropriate $390,000.00 from Tinian Local Law 18-09; and for other purposes, became **TINIAN LOCAL LAW NO. 19-3**.


7. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-61**: May 26, 2015 – Certification for annual salary in excess of $50,000 for Mr. Matthew C. Baisley, Assistant AG to receive $75,000 per annum.


**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we go back to agenda item D, Messages from the Governor. Mr. President, we have nine Messages from the Governor on various issues.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Are there any members that would like to make any statement or comments on the Governor’s Communication one through nine?

The Chair recognizes Senator Teresita A. Santos.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos**: Thank you Mr. President. This is in reference to Governor’s Messages No. 19-59 to 60 and on behalf of the people of Rota, I would like to commend the Honorable Governor and Lt. Governor for immediately issuing this Declaration of Major Disaster and Significant Emergency for the island of Rota. In so doing, the government or the Commonwealth Government can provide the available assistance and resources necessary for the recovery of the effects of Typhoon Dolphin including safeguarding the health and welfare of the people of Rota. In line with this, Mr. President, I would like to pose a question to our Legal Counsel for a legal opinion and I have consulted with Senator Quitugua who said that yes, you know, this question should be raised so we get clarity from our Legal Counsel. Counsel, on Governor’s Message No. 19-60, Section I, second sentence reads in part, “and any government agency acting pursuant to this request, is hereby granted a temporary exemption from any Commonwealth regulation which would tend to prevent, hinder, or delay any action deemed necessary to support this declaration,” and so question number one, Counsel, is the Legislature a government agency or is the legislature included in this declaration?

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Counsel, you may respond to the Senator.
**Legal Counsel Antonette Villagomez:** I am sorry. I was just getting my copy while you were reading it. What page?

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Governor’s Communication.

**Legal Counsel Antonette Villagomez:** I have the communication but where were you reading?

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** On the Governor’s Declaration or the Governor’s Message No. 19-60 on the first page, Section I, where it reads on the second paragraph where it reads in part, “and any government agency acting pursuant to this request, is hereby granted a temporary exemption from the Commonwealth regulation which would tend to prevent, hinder, or delay any action deemed necessary to support Rota’s recovery for Typhoon Dolphin.” Now my question is, is the Legislature considered a government agency or is the Legislature covered by this declaration?

**Legal Counsel Antonette Villagomez:** Senator, I am not sure what the Legislature has to do with this section because it’s talking about a temporary exemption from any Commonwealth regulations. We don’t – I am not aware that the Legislature has any regulations to exempt. I am not sure what is the point.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Okay, I guess Counsel the question is and this is the situation. Senator Quitugua intends to provide Rota with three thousand dollars from his funds to be transferred over to the Office of the Mayor but Finance in return responded that it’s not possible because the Legislature cannot transfer funds outside the Legislature, but by virtue of this declaration, then the question goes back. Is the legislature a government agency because if not, then we don’t go to the next question.

**Legal Counsel Antonette Villagomez:** Okay, Senator, I cannot answer that question right now. I am going to ask you to give me some time to do some more research and then I will get back to you on this.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Good. Thank you, Counsel. I really appreciate that. Thank you very much. I have nothing further from this section Mr. President. Thank you.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Senator Santos. Any other member that would like to make any comments on the communication from the governor or Messages from the Governor? If none, Floor Leader.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY**

1. **Jud. Comm. No. 19-05:** May 12, 2015 – Superior Court Associate Judge Wiseman regarding Drug Court budget.

2. **Jud. Comm. No. 19-06:** May 01, 2015 – Chief Justice Alexandro Castro submitting a proposed amendment to the Rules Governing Traffic Procedure 3(a) for the Legislature’s consideration.

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you Mr. President. We are on agenda item E, Communications from the Judiciary. Mr. President, we have three communications.

President Victor B. Hocog: Is there anyone that would like to make comments to the Judiciary Messages? If none, Floor Leader.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

1. Hse. Comm. No. 19-22: May 27, 2015 – Returning without amendments S.J.R. No. 19-02 - To support the request made by the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, for an extension of the comment period from sixty (60) days to 180 days for the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.

2. Hse. Comm. No. 19-23: May 27, 2015 – Transmitting for Senate action H.J.R. No. 19-5 - To respectfully request that the Covenant Section 902 process be utilized by the President of the United States of America and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as the sole forum of discussion, consultation and negotiation to address the United States’ desire to acquire any interest in real property not already given under the Covenant.

3. Hse. Comm. No. 19-24: May 27, 2015 – Transmitting for Senate action H.J.R. No. 19-1, HD3 - To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency War on Ice Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you Mr. President. There being no communications for the Heads of Executive Departments, we are on agenda item G, Communications from the House. Mr. President, we have four communications.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Okay, on the House Communication, I would like to focus on House Communication No. 19-23 and this is in respect to the Senate Joint Resolution, I mean House Joint Resolution. I think it is Communication No. 23. I would like to probably refer this communication to the Foreign Affair Committee.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Federal Relations Committee.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** I mean Federal Relations. Are there any other member that would like to comment on the House Communications?

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Mr. President?

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Mr. President, on House Communication No. 19-24, transmitting for Senate action, House Joint Resolution No. 19-01, relative to the Interagency Task Force on the War on Ice. That needs to be assigned, Mr. President, to a committee.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Let me ask the Floor Leader to make that assignment.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you. I would like to assign that to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** So noted. Senator Mesngon?

**Senator Steve K. Mesngon:** Noted, Mr. President.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE


Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. We are now on agenda item H, Communication from the Senate. Mr. President, we have three communications.

The Chair recognizes Senator Teresita A. Santos.

Senator Teresita A. Santos: Thank you Mr. President. My question may be moot as the Senate had already confirmed the appointment of Commissioner Norita. However, because there are two Senate Communications here, I would like to pose this question to our good Chairman and this is relative to Senate Communication No. 19-28 and 29 and so, Mr. Chairman, may we know if there was any response or feedback from the Director of Procurement and Supply, including the Commissioner of DPS, regarding the whereabouts or inventory of the DPS Sky Tower equipment? Thank you Mr. President.

The Chair recognizes Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President and Chairman Santos. That is the reason why we proceeded with the confirmation for Mr. Norita because the two departments hasn’t reported in regards to my request. So, I haven’t seen any response, whether or not that the Sky Tower Ladder is somewhere here on Saipan. I haven’t – Mr. Sablan, called me on the phone that he will furnish me with information as soon as he gets the whereabouts of that Sky Tower. Thank you.

President Victor B. Hocog: That should answer your question Senator Santos.

Senator Teresita A. Santos: Yes, Mr. President.

President Victor B. Hocog: I am pretty sure that our [inaudible] Chair from the EGAI will share that as soon as it comes about where the whereabouts of this Sky Tower Ladder.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE
NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS, AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Senate Resolution No. 19-12: Respectfully requesting the Commonwealth Development Authority and banking and lending institutions within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to provide humanitarian aid in the form of deferring 2 monthly payments for all affected residents on the island of Rota due to Typhoon Dolphin’s wrath. (SEN. TERESITA A. SANTOS AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – 05/26/15)

2. Senate Legislative Initiative No. 19-03: To mandate the Marianas Public Land Trust to deposit the interest on the trust proceeds in a separate account to be distributed to eligible NMDs every five years as provided by law by amending Article XI, section 6(d) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. (SEN. JUSTO S. QUITUGUA – 05/27/15)

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, there being no communications from the Congressional Delegate nor Unfinished Business, we are on agenda item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. Mr. President, we have two pieces of legislation that have been pre-filed. Senate Resolution No. 19-12, which is introduced by Senator Santos and as the Committee of the Whole. It is on the Resolution Calendar and Senate Legislative Initiative No. 19-03, introduced and offered by Senator Quitugua. On agenda item L, we are now open for any introductions that are none pre-filed.

President Victor B. Hocog: Any form of Introductions of Resolutions? Bills and Resolutions? None?

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Mr. President, before we move on, I would like to recommend, if there is any objection from the Chair, to refer Senate Legislative Initiative No. 19-03 to the Senate Committee on Resources Economic Development Programs.
President Victor B. Hocog: [inaudible] a Pre-filed Legislative Initiative No. 19-03, will be referred to the Committee on REDP for further review and action.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

NONE

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

NONE

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

1. S.R. No. 19-12

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, we are on agenda item O, Resolution Calendar and we have one resolution for action. I move to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-12.

The motion was seconded by Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

President Victor B. Hocog: Okay, there’s a motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-12 and it has been seconded. Discussion?

The Chair recognizes Senator Teresita A. Santos.

Senator Teresita A. Santos: Yes, thank you Mr. President and after meeting with the members earlier this afternoon, it was recommended that on the title, A Senate Resolution, on line 4, that the word 2 monthly is recommended to be deleted and with that, Mr. President, I would like to offer an oral amendment to delete after the word “deferring”, to delete 2 monthly, and by that deletion it should be consistent all the way where it reads 2 monthly, so move, Mr. President.

Several members voiced, “second”.

11
President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion to make an amendment to delete after the word deferring, to delete 2 monthly payment and that is just a simple oral amendment for deletion. Any other discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Victor B. Hocog: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion carried. Clerk, I would like you and the Counsel to reflect the oral amendment that Senator Santos has made. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, we are back to the main motion. We are still on the main motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-12, as amended.

President Victor B. Hocog: Are you ready for the main motion?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

President Victor B. Hocog: Those in favor to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-12, as amended, say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Victor B. Hocog: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

BILL CALENDAR

FIRST READING

<table>
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<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>S.B. No. 19-01</td>
<td>To limit the wharfage fees charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to cargo offloaded at a port or harbor in the Commonwealth and to waive wharfage fees on cargo shipped to and from the islands within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes</td>
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FINAL READING

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS


2. **Misc. Comm. No. 19-47:** May 08, 2015 – Commonwealth Election Commission request for assistance for funding to procure a new machine and supplies for identification cards to be issued to the NMD applicants.

3. **Misc. Comm. No. 19-48:** May 19, 2015 – Commonwealth Casino Commission be included in any matters concerning the casino industry being brought to the attention of the 19th Legislature.


**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios**: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, there are no bills for action on today’s session so we are on agenda item Q, Petitions, Memorials, and Miscellaneous Communications. We have six communications from various bodies of the government.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Is there any member that would like to - Senator Jude Hofschneider.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider**: Thank you Mr. President. Just for informational purposes. In compliance with the Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I have sent out a letter requesting various agencies in the CNMI to submit their first two quarters expense report and on Miscellaneous No. 19-50 and 19-51 respectively from Ayuda Network and CHC, they have submitted and for the purpose of the budget work for Fiscal Year 2016, Mr. President and members, I will be sending out an official notification on public hearings that would be conducted on the next – beginning the second week of June thorough July primarily to address the request in preparation to pass the budget before October 1st. So, I am just notifying the members. Mr. President, we are going to start with the bigger agencies in the CNMI. The big agencies such as CHC, DPS, PSS and so forth. Thank you Mr. President and I look forward to a very progressive and a fruitful budget process. Thank you.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Thank you Senator Hofschneider. Any other member that would like to make any statement or comments from any of the Petitions, Memorials or Miscellaneous Communications? If none, Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios**: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, I would like to ask for a five minute break if there is no objection.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:40 p.m.

And

The Senate reconvened at 2:54 p.m.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Okay, we are back to our plenary session and prior to recess we were on item R, I mean item Q, and Floor Leader, you make mention that you are going to have a privileged speech. I hope it’s not going to be too long to burden the members here. You may proceed with your speech.
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** It’s not so much a speech Mr. President as it is offering certain prospective. We all know and we are very aware of the ongoing discussions relative to the militarization of the Commonwealth in the recent months with the plan, proposed plans, of the United States Department of Defense for the bombing range on Tinian and Pagan islands. We are fully aware that there is a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that was issued by the Department of Defense that is now under review by many of the agencies, including agencies in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas as well as the public in general. The impacts are monumental, I believe, are multi-generational, the proposal for Pagan and Tinian is not ten years. It’s not twenty years. It is proposed to be at least seventy to a hundred years. The continuing impact of the aftermath of such military bombings and training, live fire training facilities, in the Commonwealth is not going to be a hundred years. It is probably going to be more because after that, three generations of people of this Commonwealth would be burdened with cleaning up the environment. Let me offer a prospective of the Obama Administration. On September 25th, 2014, President Obama made a sweeping expansion, expanding the Pacific Islands, Remote Marine Monument by five times from eighty-seven square nautical miles to four hundred and ninety square miles of oceans that he declares as a marine reserve which will ensure more precinct tropical marine environment that will be off limits to commercial extractions, he said. Let me quote President Obama. He said “We are heirs to a vast expands of oceans and waterways that have sustained our ancestors for centuries and as caretakers of our planet, we share an obligation to prepare this magnificent ecosystem for generations to come.” This expansion was pushed forward by the United States Department of State in international forums. This was also pushed forward, but the White House Council on Environmental Quality, these are very powerful departments in the federal bureaucracy, yet, none of these departments today have said anything regarding the projected and we know, we are fully aware, of the impacts that is going to be faced by the people in the community of Tinian and the people in the community of Pagan and the rest of the people of the Commonwealth. While this expansion that I have just mentioned talks about oceans, it also talks about the resources and the planet itself. I hope that the Obama Administration will seriously consider the prospective that the community members of this Commonwealth have given in the last three public hearings and continue to give in the engagement of public discourse in this particular issue. For some of you that are not aware, the Commonwealth does not own and inch of coastline off of Tinian. There is no territorial water only on Tinian. In fact, it was because of the Department of Defense’s plans and proposal for the island of Tinian that that conveyance of those submerged lands was withheld by President Obama. In the EIS, they intent to use and dreads a su...
are talking about the oceans. We are talking about marine resources. We are talking about marine ecosystem and lastly we are talking about the impacts of taking what belongs to the people of the Commonwealth and that is access to these resources which our ancestors have for generations. The impact is going to be multi-generational. I ask, Mr. President and members, that each of us seriously consider even outside the bounds of the environmental issues. We need to take a look at this as an issue that will impact our lives as people. We will be making some decisions in the very near future. I commend the Chairman of the Tinian Delegation for his comments on one of the public hearing on behalf of the people of Tinian. I hope that we listen with our hearts to the people of the Commonwealth on this particular issue because this is not just about one Department of Defense. This is about the people the Commonwealth for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Floor Leader. With a very educational and meaningful presentation with respect to the subject. Senator Hofschneider, do you have anything to add? Is there any other member that would like to make any comments under the Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications?

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** [inaudible].

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Just before we move to item R, I would like to refer Miscellaneous Communication No. 19-49 to the Chairman of REDP and see the status of Senate Bill No. 19-29 and also on the Election Commission’s request, I would like to refer this Miscellaneous Communication No. 19-47 to the Fiscal Affairs and to make communication with the Election Commission. I guess this is a very important issue that we need to look into. Senator Hofschneider, I think this goes to your committee and Miscellaneous Communication No. 19-46, I would like to refer this, again, to the JGL Committee or the utility committee and that is about it. Any others that would like to make any comments. If none….

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igisomar.

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** I am sorry Pres. I was a little bit off on the section. I, simply, Pres para bai, I just really want to echo si Floor Leader’s comment, but just to state gi fino Chamorro nai, sigi ha ma tulaika i rule of law. They keep changing the rule of law and, of course, I am referring to President Obama because that was his statement when he was arguing against North Korea. Now we have to follow the rule of law and if our Honorable President Obama keeps changing the rule of law and our people are not necessarily united in what we need to do then the rule of law will keep changing. From the President’s Office, back then, they declared about coral reefs, protection of coral reefs, climate change, ozone layer, rising of the tides, but who is really doing all these? It is not us. It is coming from the industrial nations and I am sure that the United States is really partly to blame on this issue and for me in feeling and hearing the sentiments and the speech from our Floor Leader, I believe it’s all about fairness and equality. It’s about fairness and equality on the rule of law and that we must stand up and take a position on where we really need to go especially with this militarization because I know that we all signed off on the resolution to ask the Governor to look into these issues, but I really hope that legislators can be involved as well in the community by helping individuals that are researching and looking into how they can counter or have an academic
discussion on the militarization because I know there are people out there. We have, for example, Alternative Zero and these people don’t have money. They don’t have money. They don’t have resources and they are all doing volunteer work just trying to find answers for the CNMI and it is such a challenging job for them because it almost seems like to me that we are leaving them alone to fight this big giant by themselves. I truly hear the sentiments from our Floor Leader that I think that we just really need to come together and stand as one and united in finding alternatives for us or at least finding out where we are heading on that particular item, Mr. President. Mr. President, before I move on, can I ask a question if you don’t mind, a clarification? The Miscellaneous Business, is that where we can make other comments or do we do that under letter Q?

President Victor B. Hocog: You can do it on the Miscellaneous.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Alright, thank you.

President Victor B. Hocog: If no one will make any other statement on item Q, we will go down to Miscellaneous Business.

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igisomar.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Thank you Mr. President. Well, Mr. President, I have three items. One, simply regarding the question that was brought up by Senator Santos with respect to Senator JQ’s concern. I truly believe that is a very serious question that we need to look into considering the fact that was mentioned earlier too by Senator Cruz is that why is that we are able to support the functions and activities and programs underneath the executive, but when it comes time for aiding and helping Rota all of a sudden it is almost barred that the legislature is not able to directly contribute to Rota’s needs with respect to the catastrophe from Typhoon Dolphin. I believe that is something that I hope that counsel can clarify for us and maybe the Secretary of Finance does have the authority to question, but we at least need it to be clear that if there is something that is not allowable, and not transferable then we have such clarity in place. Otherwise, it almost seems like it’s only when it’s not beneficial to somebody, we will be informed that we can do such transfers, but I hope that is clarified so that we will know how we can actually help Rota out directly or indirectly coming from our body. The next item I wanted to bring up is regarding the article in the newspaper today from PSS Chairman. I must say that I truly appreciate his comments and I am very happy, and I am not sure whether that is his exact statements or quote that was reported in the paper, but I am very happy nonetheless that he made such statement that Senator Igisomar’s proposal intention to force departments to pay the CUC bill is unconstitutional. I am very happy that he is saying that because for me, at least he is acknowledging that there is a bill to pay and for me I really don’t care how. I just want them to make sure they truly acknowledge that there is a bill to pay at CUC whether you are PSS or CHCC and that you come to the front and start making negotiations on how you will pay it because at the end of the day, if you continue not to pay for it, then we the residence are the ones suffering along with the businesses in paying this bill. I know that another question in the pass was a question to the administration when I asked - we should really be supplementing CUC so that they will not increase the rates and from the government side. Well, that is why the government is paying a high rate. Well, that is kind of ridiculous. Sure, we will pay a higher rate, but we must pay the bill not just increase the rate and have CUC be encumbered with receivables but then again, I am very happy that he came out in saying that so that at least we know that they are somewhere down
that line on PSS amount due to CUC on their bills. The next item is I just want to give an update to the member on the drug court. I have a meeting with the Honorable Judge Wiseman next week Tuesday. Mr. President, as we met with the Administration and Judge Wiseman the last, I think, maybe two weeks ago, he will be bringing forward a document where we can introduce as a law for the drug court to support the drug court and some other regulations that he is willing to share with us and I will share those more with the members later. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Yeah, thank you Senator Igisomar. On your first concern regarding the issue of Finance, again, you just hit the nail on its head when you say change of the rule of law. So that is number one that maybe finance is trying to change the rule of law. Secondly, regarding your concern of PSS, I am glad that they acknowledge that they do have payables to make despite of the critics that they made against you, and number three, is we need to move on. Is there any other member under Miscellaneous?

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** No, I think I have Miscellaneous privilege already. Actually, I thought we were on announcements already.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** We are still under Miscellaneous.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Senator Cruz, anything?

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. President. Just for the record. So that your Committee on Executive Appointments should not be blamed on nominees that are not well informed whether or not they have a public hearing or confirmation. Mr. President, the departments were all sent, and also under the Governor’s Office there was a notice sent to them that there is a session and the subject nominee [inaudible] the Senate is going to take action on that. Just for the record, it’s not your committee’s fault that the nominees are not well informed. I hope that the supervisor at the Executive Branch is watching us and this is not the first time that this happened. I have been addressing this to that prospective section to make sure the nominees are well informed and it is not the inaction of your committee on this matter so with that, thank you Mr. President.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NONE**

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Senator Cruz and I will make sure that the communication and concern from the committee will be transmitted to the respective department or agency about taking action on the executive appointment for confirmation that it is their obligation to inform their nominees to whether they are going to be here or not. Under the announcement, any member that would like to make any announcement?
The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: Just to ask the members of Foreign Relations and Independent Agencies that we will have a very short committee briefing on Monday at 1:30 p.m. relative to some of the legislations that have been assigned to the committee. Thank you.

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you Floor Leader. Any other member that would like to or any announcement that they want to make before we move for adjournment? The Chair would like to announce its recognition to one of our Standing Committee on JGL, Senator Steve Mesngon. I congratulate him for cleaning up all referred bills from his committee. I ask other members to look into it and let’s work on all bills referred and do our work and we will send it to our counterpart and let them do their work as we await their work to come to the Senate to do our work as well as a whole. I have met with the Speaker and other members of the House to seriously look into all the legislation that the Senate has passed most especially those legislation that are in their committee that are of most importance, you know, to seriously look into it and take action on all those bills that are now pending in the House which I believe we have a total of sixteen bills presently at the House for their action. I have discussed this with the Speaker whether what action they may have in the House that we need to see that this legislation are acted upon. So, I would like to inform everybody that has been communicated through the Speaker and other Standing Committees in the House of Representatives and likewise also I would like to urge all the Standing Committee on the Senate to work expeditiously on all bills that are being referred so that we can place them out for the whole Senate to take action on them. Any other announcements? If none, Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios: With that, Mr. President, I move for the adjournment of our session subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded by Senator Teresita A. Santos.

President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. Those in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Victor B. Hocog: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion carries. We hereby adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.
The Senate adjourned at 3:20 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Geraldine T. Cruz
Senate Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF SENATE LOCAL BILLS

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<tr>
<th>LEG. NO.</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>19-07</td>
<td>To establish an Irrigation District in the First Senatorial District for the use of water strictly for irrigation and agricultural purposes and not for residential uses; and for other purposes</td>
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[2nd Appearance]

The Senate may consider, debate, and/or act upon any item contained in this Order of Business at the time and place described herein.