



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2018

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

5th Day, Third Regular Session

Friday, March 16, 2018

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fifth Day, Third Regular Session on Friday, March 16, 2018 at 10:04 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you all for coming on today's session. Before we begin, let me take the time to acknowledge and recognize the presence of Mr. Aaron Sami. He's an associate professor from the University of Guam and of course everyone that are here today. Before we move on to our next Order of Business, let me first delegate Representative Angel Demapan to be the Floor Leader Pro Tem. Any objection to that?

Several members voiced "no objection."

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So without any objection, Representative Angel Demapan will be the Floor Leader Pro Tem. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and eighteen members were present; Representative Vinny Vinson F. Sablan was absent and excused.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Because of flight issues from Rota, the Floor Leader was not able to make it for today's session. Also let the record reflect that Representative Vinny Sablan is hereby excused. So with that we have 18 members present and we will proceed with our Order of Business. Floor Leader Pro Tem.

The Floor Leader Pro Tem offered a motion to suspend Rule VI, Section 1.

RULE VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Order of Business.

After prayer or a moment of silence, the daily order of business in the House shall be as follows:

- (1) Roll Call;
- (2) Public Comments;
- (3) Reading and Approval of the Journal of the Day unless the House, by motion, dispenses with such reading;
- (4) Pre-filed and Introduction of Bills;
- (5) Pre-filed and Introduction of Resolutions;
- (6) Messages from the Governor;
- (7) Bills, resolutions, and other matters from the Senate, which shall be reported to the House and referred to committees, placed on the appropriate calendar or otherwise disposed of;
- (8) House communications;
- (9) Reports and communications from the Judiciary Branch;
- (10) Reports and communications from heads of departments and agencies;
- (11) Other Communications;
- (12) Reports of Standing Committees;
- (13) Reports of Special and Conference Committees;
- (14) Unfinished business, upon which the House was engaged at the time of its last adjournment;
- (15) Resolution Calendar;
- (16) Bill Calendar including First and Second Reading of House Bills and Senate Bills;
- (17) Miscellaneous Business;
- (18) Announcements.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule VI, Section 1 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinny Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 18 members voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend on today’s agenda hereby carries.

The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

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

H. B. NO. 20-159

To eliminate the required leave for government employees after candidate certification.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Vinnie F. Sablan)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-159 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. 20-160

To enact a provision to provide tax incentives for employers who hire individuals with special needs.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Donald C. Barcinas, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-160 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita 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. 20-162

To regulate the practice of law.

REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, and Alice S. Igitol)

The Chair announced that he will refer House Bill 20-162 at a later date and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco for the next introduction.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-161

To provide for a tax rate for foreign corporations earning income from outside of the Commonwealth.

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

The Chair referred House Bill 20-161 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

House Local Bills:

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

H. L. B. NO. 20-62

To appropriate the sum of One Million, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000.00) from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Third Senatorial District under 4 CMC §2307(c)(2); and for other purposes.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan.

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

H. L. B. NO. 20-61

To adopt and enact the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989 as approved and adopted by the CNMI Superior Court in *CNMI v. Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, et al.*, Civil Action No. 91-690 (Aug. 18, 1993); To further Amend the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989; To Repeal Tinian Local Laws 14-01, 18-05, 19-12, and 20-05; and for other purposes.

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

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Resolution and welcomed the members to coauthor the resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-20

To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2018 proclaimed as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8th as International Women’s Day.

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

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

Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 20-21

To honor †Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for his unwavering dedication and relentless services to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our sincere condolences to his bereaved family on his untimely passing.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

The Chair recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.

Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 20-22

To honor and commend the late Frances Fibar Rebuonog for her unwavering dedication and extensive length of service to the Commonwealth in the field of law enforcement and to extend our heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family on her untimely passing.

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

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Privilege.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: State your privilege.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Earlier we did discuss House Resolution 20-22. I'm going to make a technical correction on the middle name of Francis, it's Faibar so that throughout the resolution the Clerk will make the technical corrections for the middle name of Francis. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Deleon Guerrero and well noted. Once we get to the Resolution Calendar we will make that note again to reflect a correction on that.

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 20-23

To recognize and commend the Chamorro Hands in Education Links Unity (CHE'LU) Organization for their continuous contributions to the community in their efforts to preserve and promote the Chamorro culture and language.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Alice S. Igitol)

Several members voiced "no objection."

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

Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 20-24

To commend the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) and the Graduate School USA for the numerous training opportunities that they provide to the government employees of the CNMI through the Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiative's (PITI-VITI) Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP).

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

Several members voiced "no objection."

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other resolution to be introduced? If none, with the exception of the unnumbered resolution, all House Resolution that was introduced today and without any

objection will be referred to the Resolution Calendar for action and also all resolution will be introduced as a Committee of the Whole. Any objections?

Several members voiced “no objection.”

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

The Chair directed the members to item VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 20-163: (2/16/18) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-135, SD4, (“To amend Public Law No. 20-11, Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Act to reflect the revised Fiscal Year 2018 Operations Budget for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.”). Became **Public Law 20-41** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-164: (3/1/18) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4, (“To appropriate twenty-four million, twenty-six thousand, fifty-six dollars and thirty-five cents (\$24,026,056.35) from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §2308.”). Became **Public Law 20-42** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-165: (3/2/18) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-140, HD1, SD1, (“Designate DCCA Administrator Authority for Respite Services Program.”). Became **Public Law 20-43** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-166: (3/2/18) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-22, (“Managaha Lane & Papaungan Lane - Street Naming.”). Became **Saipan Local Law 20-20** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-167: (3/2/18) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Nicole Babauta, Administrator, at the Department of Commerce, to receive an annual salary of \$53,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-168: (1/26/18 received 3/9/18) **Executive Order 2018-1** – 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. 20-169: (2/28/18 received 3/9/18) **Executive Order 2018-2** – 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. 20-170: (3/7/18) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Sami Saati, Assistant Public Defender, at the Office of the Public Defender, to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-171: (3/7/18) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-47, S1, D1, (“To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to allow adult gaming machines to be operated within certain areas zoned mixed commercial.”). Became **Saipan Local Law 20-21** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-172: (3/7/18) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. L. B. NO. 20-55, S1, (To appropriate \$1,402,810.12 specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56; and for other purposes.). Became **Rota Local Law 20-8 item vetoed** [*Deadline 5/6/18*]

GOV. COMM. 20-173: (3/8/18) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-69, HS1, SD1, (“To amend 2 CMC §§ 1631, 1634, 1636, 1637, and 1644 to authorize the Division of Fish and Wildlife to regulate marine sports and activities within the waters of conservation areas and sanctuaries, and to impose and collect conservation areas management fees by regulation and for other purposes.”). Became **Public Law 20-44** [*For info*]

The Chair recognized Representative Alice S. Igitol.

Representative Alice S. Igitol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Malago ha bai gaogao dánkolo na si Yu’us Ma’ase ni iyo-ku colleague ni in ha preba este lökkue iyo-ku House Bill 20-69, HS1, SD1 yan lökkue dánkolo na si Yu’us Ma’ase para i Governor ni ha preba este na bill and this bill becomes Public Law 20-44. Si Yu’us Ma’ase.*

The Chair directed the members to item VII, Senate Communications and recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-146 to 20-154 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-146: (2/27/18) Appointing its Members to the Conference Committee on **H. B. NO. 20-102, HD1, SS1**, entitled, “To repeal and re-enact 4 CMC §1508 (Reservation of License Revenue); and for other purposes.”

SEN. COMM. 20-147: (3/1/18) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-24 entitled, “Conveying heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the late Honorable Jose Santos Rios and to memorialize his outstanding contributions and public service to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 22, 2018. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-148: (3/1/18) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-25 entitled, “Celebrating February 28, 2018 as CNMI Women’s proclamation signing and to commemorate and honor all women in the Commonwealth for their remarkable achievements and contributions.”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 22, 2018. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-149: (3/9/18) Returning H. B. No. 20-42 (To amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture Producers and Fishing to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on March 8, 2018. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 20-150: (3/9/18) Returning 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.), which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on March 8, 2018. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-151: (3/9/18) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. No. 20-5, entitled, “A Senate Joint Resolution approving the Northern Mariana Islands Proposed Rules for *In Forma Pauperis* of the Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 8, 2018. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-152: (3/9/18) Returning H. B. NO. 20-141, entitled, “To give the Department of Finance the authority to pay the obligated 25% retiree death benefit payments due to the survivors of CNMI deceased retirees.”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on March 8, 20178, in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-141, SD1**. [*For action on Senate amendments*]

SEN. COMM. 20-153: (3/12/18) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-26 entitled, “To recognize and congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College graduate Maria Louise Gabriela Marinas Atrero, on passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 8, 2018. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-154: (3/12/18) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-27 entitled, “To mourn the loss of the late Bishop Emeritus Tomas Aguon Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on his untimely passing, to express a sincere condolences to his bereaved family and to pay tribute for his profound contributions and dedication to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 8, 2018. [*For info*]

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-146 to 20-154 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to place Senate Communications 20-151 reference to Senate Joint Resolution 20-5 on the Resolution Calendar for action.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to place Senate Communications 20-151 reference to Senate Joint Resolution 20-5 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 so they may place Senate Communications 20-152 reference to House Bill 20-141, Senate Draft 1 on the Bill Calendar for action.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 so they may place Senate Communications 20-152 reference to House Bill 20-141 Senate Draft 1 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item VIII, House Communications and recognize the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 20-98: (3/1/18) From Representative Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Sunday, March 4, 2018 to Friday, March 9, 2018 and request to be excused from all scheduled meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-99: (2/22/18) From the Speaker informing the Senate President of the change of composition of the Chairperson of the House Conference Committee on **H. B. NO. 20-102**,

HD1, SS1, entitled, “To repeal and re-enact 4 CMC §1508 (Reservation of License Revenue); and for other purposes.”, appointing Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero to serve as Chair.

HSE. COMM. 20-100: (3/9/18) From Representative Vinny Vinson F. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Saturday, March 10, 2018 to Friday, March 16, 2018 and request to be excused from any and all official functions that occur during his absence. [*For info*]

There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committee and recognize the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-108: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-152, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to authorize and empower the Governor to request that the Secretary of the Interior transfer administration of the American Memorial Park to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs recommends the House pass H. B. No. 20-152 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-108 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XV, Resolution Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-20

To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2018 proclaimed as CNMI Women's Month and March 8th as International Women's Day.

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

The motion was seconded.

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

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to adopt the following Senate Joint Resolution:

S. J. R. No. 20-5

A Senate Joint Resolution approving the Northern Mariana Islands Proposed Rules for *In Forma Pauperis* of the Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. [SEN. COMM. 20-151]

The motion was seconded.

The Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 20-5 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)

Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinny Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 18 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Joint Resolution 20-5, “A Senate Joint Resolution approving the Northern Mariana Islands Proposed Rules for *In Forma Pauperis* of the Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands” hereby carries. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-21

To honor †Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for his unwavering dedication and relentless services to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our sincere condolences to his bereaved family on his untimely passing.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-21 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-22

To honor and commend the late Frances Fibar Rebuonog for her unwavering dedication and extensive length of service to the Commonwealth in the field of law enforcement and to extend our heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family on her untimely passing.

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

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Motion again was seconded. Discussion? Recognize Representative Joe Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's fitting at this point that the recommendations by Representative Larry Guerrero regarding the technical amendment be discussed and I have no objections to that and we treat it as a technical amendment for the Clerk to correct. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Can we know of that technical for clarification to reflect? Representative Larry.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The correct spelling for – it's "Faibar" instead of "Fibar".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: This needs to be correct across the entire resolution in all pages. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Colleague, can I ask you again? Instead of "b" "v" or "v" "b"? is that correct? Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, since I'm the author I'd like to make the correction and the correction should be "Faibar". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Vice Speaker. Consider it technical. Recognize Representative Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know I took the opportunity to go into the Saipan Tribune obituary page and the spelling is "Fibar" that's on the Saipan Tribune unless the Saipan Tribune is mistaken Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Vice did I see you raise your hand?

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, regardless of – I think we can – if I may we can consider all the corrections technical and we can once again go back to the family – I, myself will go back to the family and ask for a correct spelling. So if we can consider that technical?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-22 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-23

To recognize and commend the Chamorro Hands in Education Links Unity (CHE'LU) Organization for their continuous contributions to the community in their efforts to preserve and promote the Chamorro culture and language.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Alice S. Igitol)

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-23 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XVI, Bill Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to pass the following on First and Final Reading:

H. B. No. 20-152

A Bill for an Act to authorize and empower the Governor to request that the Secretary of the Interior transfer administration of the American Memorial Park to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. [**S. C. R. NO. 20-108**]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to for the passage of House Bill 20-152 on First and Final Reading 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinny Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	absent (<i>during voting</i>)

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With 17 members voting in the affirmative, House Bill 20-152 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader Pro Tem made a motion to pass the following on First and Final Reading:

H. B. NO. 20-141, SD1

To give the Department of Finance the authority to pay the obligated 25% retiree death benefit payments due to the survivors of CNMI deceased retirees. [SEN. COMM. 20-152]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Recognize Representative Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we’re acting on a amended – the Senate amended a version. Throughout the legislation it speaks of the retiree death payments due to the survivors. The Senate made a staunch amendment and that now it includes all living retirees as well. So, I guess the question is whether the obligation that the government has to pay both the spouses of the deceased retirees and the living retirees whether the obligations can be met. I don’t know what the number of living retirees is at probably three to four-thousand. So it somehow takes away the limit of just for the spouses of the deceased retirees and what does this mean in terms of financial numbers that now the government is obligated to pay and whether it has the funds. I have no problems accepting the living retirees, they’re just as well old. My concern is whether the funds will be available to cover the additional number of living retirees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Dela Cruz. Let me just recognize the author or the mover of the legislation. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the amendment added by the Senate was Section 3, which is the retroactive application. If we read the retroactive application it’s still consistent with the intent of the bill. The intent of the bill was to guarantee the payment of 25% portion of the death benefit. Right now for the retirees that have passed away and the retirees that will pass away – their beneficiary is receiving 75% of the death benefit from the settlement fund, however the 25% portion is not a function of the settlement fund and this bill would obligate the CNMI government through the Secretary of Finance who also serves as the administrator of the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund to pay the 25%. I am a little bit confused by the inquiry of colleague Chairman Dela Cruz about living retirees because these benefits don’t get paid to living retirees. They get paid to the beneficiary of every retiree that passes away. In terms of funding, in crafting this bill initially, I was consulting with the Secretary of Finance and there are still funds for now – the Northern Marianas Islands Retirement Fund because there are still a handful of DB members in that program. So, there is still funding in there supporting the old Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and it will be through that source

of funding that these death benefits would be paid up. So, I hope I answered your concern Chairman Dela Cruz. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Angel. Thank you for that clarification. Further discussion? Ready? Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to for the passage of House Bill 20-141, Senate Draft 1 on First and Final Reading 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinny Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	absent (<i>during voting</i>)

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With all 17 members voting in the affirmative, House Bill 20-141, SD1 hereby passes the House. Thank you, members. I guess that took care of our Bill Calendar.

The Chair directed the members to item XVIII, Announcement and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On announcement, I would like to invite all the members and families, staff to our Santa Soledad Fiesta this coming Sunday. Lunch will be served around 11:00 or 11:30. If you want to attend the mass it's at 10:00, if you want to attend the novena it's 15 minutes prior to the mass. Also, I want to thank each one of you who had contributed, donated any kind of monetary – I really do appreciate on behalf of myself

and my colleague Representative Aguon. Let's have a wonderful day this coming Sunday Santa Soledad. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Chairman Edwin?

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Mr. Speaker, this is in regards to the resolution for the late bishop. Have we presented it or is there a date on when we're going to present the resolution?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Let me recognize the mover. Recognize Representative John Paul.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps we're in announcement, but to answer Representative Aldan, the resolution for Bishop Emeritus will be presented to the family on a later date. It wasn't part of the program on the funeral date, but we were told as well as the Senate that we will present it in a later date. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you for that information. Representative Itibus

Representative Jose I. Itibus: Announcement. Monday, March 19 is a fiesta for San Jose *lokkue*. It's going to be at 4:00 p.m. if you guys are free, please come and join our fiesta at San Jose Church, Oleai. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you for that information and invitation. Further? If none, let me recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to adjourn subject to your call.

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

The House adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 20-60: To amend Article 9, Section 902(c) of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, by granting the Saipan Zoning Board with the authority to exempt temporary residential structures of the parking requirements. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 27, 2018.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 20-57: To require all future developments within the Third Senatorial District to have the necessary infrastructure prior to request for any rezoning of an area; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinnie F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on February 16, 2018.

H. L. B. NO. 20-58: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, 10 CMC §3511, by amending the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheet 19 of 29. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, and Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero) on February 16, 2018.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on February 27, 2018:

H. B. NO. 20-156: To establish the level of funding for the Legislature and provide the Legislature with control of the expenditure of funds appropriated for its operations. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 27, 2018; subsequently referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-2/27/18] H. B. NO. 20-157: To establish a retirement plan for Commonwealth Government employees. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, and Janet U. Maratita) on February 27, 2018; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[ADDED-2/27/18] H. B. NO. 20-158: To add a new Article 5 to Chapter 5, Division 8 of Title 1 of the Commonwealth Code to establish the “Pregnancy Related Medical Leave and the Parental Leave Act; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representative Janet U. Maratita) on February 27, 2018; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[ADDED-2/27/18] H. L. B. NO. 20-60: To amend Article 9, Section 902(c) of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, by granting the Saipan Zoning Board with the authority to exempt temporary residential structures of the parking requirements. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 27, 2018.

[ADDED-2/27/18] C. RES. NO. 20-16: Conveying heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the Late Honorable Jose Santos Rios and to pay tribute to his outstanding contributions and dedication of public service for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan 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) on February 27, 2018; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None