



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, First Regular Session

Monday, January 9, 2017

Master of Ceremony Cameron S. Nicholas: Hafa adai, tirow, good morning, and welcome to the House of Representatives. We will now begin the House of Representatives' installation ceremony of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Before I introduce the members-elect I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the Honorable Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Alejandro C. Castro, Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court and Father Jesse Reyes to the dais. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to present to you the Representatives-Elect of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Representing Election District 1 Representative-Elect Janet Ulloa Maratita, representing Election District 3 Representative-Elect Edmund Sablan Villagomez, representing Election District 4 Representative-Elect Alice Santos Igitol, representing Election District 1 Representative-Elect Edwin Kenneth Propst, representing Election District 6 from the Island of Tinian and Aguiguan Representative-Elect Edwin Palacios Aldan, representing Election District 5 Representative-Elect Lorenzo Iglecias Deleon Guerrero, representing Election District 2 Representative-Elect Rafael Sablan Demapan, representing Election District 3 Representative-Elect Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao, representing Election District 7 from the Island of Rota Representative-Elect Glenn Lizama Maratita, representing Election District 4 Representative-Elect Vinson Flores Sablan, representing Election District 5 Representative-Elect Francisco Concepcion Aguon, representing Election District 3 Representative-Elect Donald Cabrera Barcinas, representing Election District 1 Representative-Elect Gregorio Muña Sablan, Jr., representing Election District 3 Representative-Elect Francisco Santos Dela Cruz, representing Election District 3 Representative-Elect Jose Ilo Itibus, representing Election District 3 Representative-Elect Ivan Alafanso Blanco, representing Election District 1 Representative-Elect Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero, representing Election District 2 Representative-Elect John Paul Palacios Sablan, representing Election District 1 Floor Leader Pro-Tem Representative-Elect Angel Aldan Demapan, representing Election District 1 Speaker Pro-Tem Representative-Elect Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero. Please be seated. Along with our honorable and distinguished guests, present with us today, Mrs. Diann T. Torres, First Lady of the CNMI; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan; the Honorable Efraim M. Atalig, Mayor of the Municipality of Rota; the Honorable Jerome K. Aldan, Mayor of the Northern Islands; the Honorable Benjamin J. F. Cruz, Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Kwarto Na Liheslaturan Guahan*; the Honorable Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Senator, *I Mina'trentai Kwarto Na Liheslaturan Guahan*; the Honorable James V. Espaldon, Senator, *I Mina'trentai Kwarto Na Liheslaturan Guahan*; the Honorable June U. Blas, Mayor of the Municipality of Barrigada, Guam; the Honorable Johnson Elimo, Governor of Chuuk; the Honorable Mario S. Gulibert, House Floor Leader, Palau National Congress; the Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Heather L. Kennedy, Magistrate Judge District Court of the CNMI; the Honorable John A. Manglona, Associate Justice, CNMI Supreme Court; the Honorable Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, Associate Judge, CNMI Superior Court; the Honorable

Luis J. DLG Castro, Councilman, Saipan Municipal Council; the Honorable Diego L. Kaipat, Councilman, Saipan Municipal Council; the Honorable Ivan Mereb Jr., Councilman, 15th Rota Municipal Council; the Honorable Kary J. Ramos, Councilman, 15th Rota Municipal Council; the Honorable Herman T. Guerrero, Chairman, CNMI State Board of Education; the Honorable Mary Lou S. Ada, Member, CNMI State Board of Education; the Honorable Janice A. Tenorio, Member, CNMI State Board of Education; Ms. Eileen Kintol, Palau Consulate of Saipan and the Honorable Edward Manibusan, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Accompanying the Governor, we have Department Secretaries and Directors. Families, friends, and supporters of our members-elect, I welcome all of you to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature, House of Representatives. Please all rise. I now call upon the Marianas High School JROTC Dolphin Battalion Color Guard for the posting of the Colors, and I also call upon Mr. Gus Kaipat to lead us in the singing of the United States National Anthem and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Hymn.

(National Anthem & Commonwealth Hymns were sung)

Master of Ceremony Cameron S. Nicholas: Please remain standing as I call upon Father Jesse Reyes for the Invocation.

(Father Jesse Reyes gave the Invocation)

Master of Ceremony Cameron S. Nicholas: Thank you, Father Jesse. Please be seated. It is with great honor and privilege that I call on Speaker Pro Tem, Representative-Elect Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero to officially call the House of Representatives' Organizational Session of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Speaker Pro Tem, please.

CALL TO ORDER

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, First Regular Session on the Ninth day of January the year Two Thousand and Seventeen at 10:23 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Nicholas. As such, I also wish to welcome all of our guests from here and from afar, ladies and gentlemen and thank you to Father Jesse for your prayers and also would like to welcome the Honorable Chief Justice Castro who will be administering the Oath of Office to the members. Again, *hafa adai*, welcome *tirowami*. At this time, I am proud to call this Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, House of Representatives Organizational Session to order. At this time, I will now recognize our House Clerk to call the roll.

CALL OF THE ROLL BY ELECTION PRECINCTS

The Clerk called the roll in numerical order by election precincts:

Election District 1

Representative-Elect Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero	Present
Representative-Elect Angel Aldan Demapan	Present
Representative-Elect Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero	Present
Representative-Elect Janet Ulloa Maratita	Present

Representative-Elect Edwin Kenneth Propst	Present
Representative-Elect Gregorio Muña Sablan, Jr.	Present
Election District 2	
Representative-Elect Rafael Sablan Demapan	Present
Representative-Elect John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Election District 3	
Representative-Elect Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative-Elect Donald Cabrera Barcinas	Present
Representative-Elect Ivan Alafonso Blanco	Present
Representative-Elect Francisco Santos Dela Cruz	Present
Representative-Elect Jose Ilo Itibus	Present
Representative-Elect Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Election District 4	
Representative-Elect Alice Santos Igitol	Present
Representative-Elect Vinson Edward Flores Sablan	Present
Election District 5	
Representative-Elect Francisco Concepcion Aguon	Present
Representative-Elect Lorenzo Iglecias Deleon Guerrero	Present
Election District 6	
Representative-Elect Edwin Palacios Aldan	Present
Election District 7	
Representative-Elect Glenn Lizama Maratita	Present

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, all 20 Representatives-Elect are present.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Let the record reflect that all 20 Representatives-Elect are present and a quorum is hereby constituted. Before we go to the next item, the swearing-in of members, let me just take this moment to also extend our congratulations to those that were sworn in this morning the Municipal Councils and the CNMI State Board of Education. Congratulations.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let us now go to our next Order of Business and that is the swearing-in of Representatives-Elect. I ask my fellow Representatives-Elect I ask each one of you to rise for our swearing in as members of this House of Representatives and ask the Honorable Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro to administer the Oath of Office. Please rise.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

The following was repeated by all the Representatives-Elect:

“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the applicable provisions of the Constitution, laws and treaties of the

United States of America, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a Representative of the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to the best of my ability, so help me God.”

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro: Congratulations.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Members, you may be seated. Thank you, Chief Justice for the swearing-in of the members of this House. The next Order of Business is the Introduction and Adoption of the House Rules. The Chair now recognizes Floor Leader Pro Tem Representative Angel Aldan Demapan.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE HOUSE RULES

Floor Leader Pro Tem Angel A. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. At this time, I am honored to introduce **House Resolution Number 20-1, “A House Resolution to adopt the Rules for the House of Representatives and to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review the rules; and for other purposes.”** Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, I move for its adoption.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader Pro Tem. A motion has been offered for the adoption of our House Rules and it has been seconded. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready.”

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-1 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time, we will now move on to the election of the Office of the Speaker. Is there any nomination for the Office of Speaker? The Chair recognizes Representative John Paul Sablan.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. At this time, it is with great honor and privilege that I nominate my colleague from the precinct election Precinct 2, Representative Rafael Sablan Demapan.

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

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. A nomination has been placed on the floor by Representative John Paul Sablan for Speaker, Representative Rafael Sablan Demapan and it has been seconded. Are there any other nominations? The Chair recognizes Representative Gregorio Sablan.

Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Motion has been offered for the election of Representative Rafael S. Demapan for the Office of Speaker by acclamation it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to elect Representative Rafael Sablan Demapan to the Office of the Speaker was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero: Congratulations. Sergeant-at-Arms could you please escort our Speaker to the dais.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase. Mentras hu pripara yo’ ya-hu lakkue sumangan dídide na maseha motmot i taotao pa’go na ogga’an ya ginen giya halom na korasón-hu hu gof agradesi este sa intestiguyi este i seremonias i reorganization of the legislature. Gaige ha lakkue the other Ralph, two Ralph is better than one. Thank you, Governor. Hunggan hafa adai yan tirow, yan buenas dias para todos hamyo. Hu chu’chule lakkue este na potdet para bai hu onra i manga’chong-hu pot todú i setbisiu yan i minalago’ para bai in representa i taotao Marianas guini gi bente na leyeslatura ya hu diseha na ta fan ma cho’cho’ gi profisinat parehu ha gi personat na karera gi hulo i respetu cooperation yan i minaolek and of course with love. So thank you so much for the vote of confidence in continuing my role as Speaker in this Twentieth Legislature. I am humbled and honored to serve you and our dear people as Speaker of the House. So with that let us now move on to the Election of Vice Speaker.*

Representative Alice S. Igitol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Representative Alice Igitol.

ELECTION OF VICE-SPEAKER

Representative Alice S. Igitol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege that I nominate Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita to the Office of the Vice Speaker for the Twentieth Legislature.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. There was a nomination for the election of the Vice Speaker. Recognize Representative Lee Pan Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Angel A. Demapan: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Angel A. Demapan: I believe we need to second the nomination by Representative Igitol.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: That is correct.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you for that point of clarification. Do I hear any second for the nomination of the Vice Speaker?

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: There is a nomination and was seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again let me ask Representative Guerrero to restate your motion.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Representative Guerrero. Is there an objection to that motion?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So without any objection the motion for the acclamation for the Vice Speaker Janet Maratita is hereby carried. Congratulations Representative Maratita for the Vice Speakership. Moving along we will go down to our next Order of Business and this is the Election of the Floor Leader. Recognize Representative Blanco.

ELECTION OF THE FLOOR LEADER

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege that I nominate Representative Glenn Lizama Maratita to the Office of the Floor Leader for the Twentieth House of Representatives.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Blanco. Your motion has been seconded. Recognize Representative Frank Aguon.

Representative Francisco C. Aguon: Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Aguon. Do I hear any objection to that motion?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So with that the motion for the Floor Leader is carried to be by acclamation. Thank you, Representative Maratita. Can I ask the Sergeant to escort the Floor Leader to his proper seat. *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Sergeant.

NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE SENATE

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Moving along to our next business and this is the notification to the Governor and Senate. I would like to appoint Representative Frank Aguon and Representative Edwin Aldan to inform the Senate and Representative Ivan Blanco and Representative Greg Sablan to inform the Governor that the House of Representatives is duly organized and ready to conduct business, but before that let me ask the members before we go on recess, I would like to ask the members that we immediately come up to the dais and have a group photo and after that representatives assigned will go to their respective duties in informing the Senate of the organization. So with that short recess.

The House recessed at 10:40 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Back from our recess. Prior to our recess we were on the item on Notification of the Governor and the Senate. Just to put more clarity on what had transpired without any objection, I would like to go back to the Election of the Vice Speaker. Is there any objection?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: This is also for the Floor Leader. So without any objection, I would like to go back to the item on electing a Vice Speaker. Do I hear a nomination for the Vice Speaker? Recognize Representative Alice Igitol.

ELECTION OF VICE-SPEAKER

Representative Alice S. Igitol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege that I nominate Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita to the Office of the Vice Speaker for the Twentieth Legislature.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Igitol. Do I hear any second?

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The motion has been seconded. Recognize Representative Lee Pan Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation. Thank you.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Guerrero. Discussion on that motion? Recognize Representative Edmund.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And maybe for the benefit of the public, can you explain why we are going back to these items and re-electing the officers? Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you for that point of clarification. The reason why I decided to do this because at the beginning of the nomination for the Vice Speaker and the Floor Leader, I just noticed that it was not really clear although I am certain that we are in line with what had transpired, but for the sake of clarity I wanted to make sure that I pose the question is there any “ayes” and “nay” for that nomination. So with that I hope I clarify myself. Since we are under the motion of electing a Vice-Speaker is there any objection to that?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

There was no further discussion and the motion to elect Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita to the Office of the Vice Speaker was carried by voice vote. One member voiced nay.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: It appears that the “ayes” have it therefore, Representative Janet Maratita is the Vice Speaker. Now moving along and again to put more clarity on what transpired. Do I see any nomination for the Floor Leader? Recognize Representative Ivan Blanco.

ELECTION OF THE FLOOR LEADER

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege that I nominate Representative Glenn Lizama Maratita to the Office of the Floor Leader of the Twentieth Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives. Thank you.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Blanco. Again, your nomination has been seconded, discussion on that nomination? Recognize Representative Frank Aguon.

Representative Francisco C. Aguon: Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to elect Representative Glenn Lizama Maratita to the Office of the Floor Leader was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again, Representative Glenn Maratita is hereby the new Floor Leader. That took care of the clarification. Going back to our next item, which is the notification to the Senate and to the Governor. Now I would like to recognize Representative Frank Aguon.

NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE SENATE

Representative Francisco C. Aguon: Thank you Mr. Speaker and members, Representative Edwin Aldan and I notified the Senate that the House is duly organized and ready to conduct business. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Aguon. Mind if I ask did we notify the Senate?

Representative Francisco C. Aguon: Yes, we did.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Aguon. Recognize Representative Edwin Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Yes, we did. At the same token Mr. Speaker the Senate Pro Tem is aware of the notification just to have the members understand that the Senate had just started their session.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Aldan. We will deal with that as we continue to move on. Now let me recognize Representative Ivan Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and members, Representative Greg Sablan and I have notified the Honorable Governor Torres that this body is duly organized and ready to conduct business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Blanco. Again, members the notification to the Governor as we all know the Governor was just here with us so yes indeed the Governor has been officially notified of our reorganization. Moving along which is the statement from the Speaker on behalf of the members.

STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So with that let me go ahead and say a few words. As Speaker of the House, I was given the privilege to be the voice today to reorganize and acknowledge on behalf of the members, the dignitaries here including our Governor Ralph Torres and Lieutenant Governor Victor Hocog, also with us is Guam's Speaker BJ Cruz, members of Guam *Liheslaturan*, Executive and Judicial Branches of government and most especially the most hardworking staffs of government and staff of the Legislative Bureau and legislature. I recognize our business community, our faith based community, and our GOP officials and our respective

election campaign committee members, families and friends from here and who traveled a distance to be here with us. Thank you for all your support and welcome to the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. In the days leading to this special day, I reflected on what today's inauguration event meant to me and to each of us. With 20 House of Representative members in this 20th Legislature with a 15 body Republican super majority and 5 body minority bloc, I have quite a role and shoes to fill once again as Speaker of the House. We can say that today marks about 40 years since we first established our Commonwealth Legislature and though it was not very long ago when I was 40 years old myself and still in my 40s, perhaps I would like to think that like a 40 years old man or woman and I am proud to acknowledge the strength of a woman; in fact we have two women serving this body, our Legislature today also has reached a point where it is not as young but yet not as old either. Like a person in his or her 40s, it is wiser, mature and with many life experiences have gained a sense of identity and may have also experienced many changes in life where even clothes do not fit or look right for our age anymore, but yet we still feel young, strong, active and also still searching for answers to better reach our purpose in this world and mark in life. This milestone for our Commonwealth is somewhat like that of a person's mid-life, mid-life crisis some will say and where perhaps we are at a crossroads in our political and government journey and so our work in the next two-years in one that I will be marked with much attention, intention and care. And like shepherds as Bishop Ryan stressed in his homily at our Red Mass on Saturday let us chart the course together with purpose and with an understanding and wise heart. Our dear Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas has certainly been through so much in its journey, may it be adjusting and adapting to the U.S.-Commonwealth political relationship and way of life to embracing the tourism industry, building of our first economy and welcoming of different people and cultures into our doors in our early years to crawling out of the collapse of our garment industry and the global economic crash to now walking out of our economic slump and now realizing for the first time in many hard years an economic revival that perhaps feels like it is moving faster than we can keep up with. My colleagues and people of this Commonwealth, we are at our prime. My colleagues and people of our dear Commonwealth let us commit to each other today to bind our heads and hearts together, let us commit to use and share our talents, knowledge and experience with each other to secure a prosperous and thriving Commonwealth and as I shared at my 19th Legislature Sine Die speech as I reflected on Pope Francis' New Year's message last Sunday at the Vatican before a crowd as big as the population of the CNMI, he said, "The year will be good in the measure that each one of us with the help of God seeks to do good day after day," he told the crowd. So with that my colleagues and people of our dear Commonwealth let us commit to use the still so vibrant 40 years old energy, wisdom and drive in this 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to make our mark and to do good for ourselves and our families. Let us commit to do good for our people and great Commonwealth today and for generations to come. Let us seek out the possibilities and the potential in all of us and our great Commonwealth and as reflected at the Red Mass on Saturday, we are shepherds of our people and the good Lord up above. Let us commit to seek good. In closing and in the name of seeking out good, I commit to lead as your Speaker with tender loving care, but one that will be bold, pointed and one where we will chart a course forward together where we are not just waiting for our future. We are going to make our future where we are not waiting for things to happen, we will make things happen. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay*, God bless us all. Gee, I reflected a lot on what the Pope and our Bishop have said on his speech. Bishop Ryan commented at the Red Mas on Saturday that former Speaker Joe Guerrero sounded like a deacon after acknowledgement address. I think Bishop Ryan will say I sound like a priest in my Inaugural message here. So former Speaker Joe do not worry we are in

this together. We are indeed the real shepherds. So I thought I would share that with all of you. So moving along, I do understand that the Senate is still ongoing with their ceremonial so with that we will go ahead and go down to the announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: This is the announcement of the House Committees and committee Chairs by this body. So under the announcement, I would like to inform the members and respective members that Representative Angel Aldan Demapan will be chairing the Committee on Ways and Means; Representative Alice Santos Igitol will be heading the Committee on Natural Resources; Representative Jose Ilo Itibus will be chairing the Committee on Health; Representative Edwin Palacios Aldan will head the Committee on Education; Representative Francisco Concepcion Aguon will head the Committee on Social and Human Services; Representative Ivan Alafonso Blanco will head the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations; Representative Gregorio Muña Sablan, Jr. will head the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs; Representative Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero will head the Committee on Commerce & Tourism; Representative Francisco Santos Dela Cruz will head the Committee on Public Utilities and Communications; Representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas will head the Committee on Transportation; and lastly Representative Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero will head the Committee on Gaming. Members and to the Chairs to the forthcoming committee members as Speaker of the House central to my leadership is to continue steering the course with you towards strategic, meaningful and sound policies in order to meet the needs of our economic growth and addressing faced by our government the business sector and especially our people; and one where we all share a relationship based on respect, cooperation and understanding. The work and responsibility of the House of Representatives is even more monumental today. There is so much at stake to ensure that the economic, governmental and social progress of our Commonwealth remains on a positive path with that I urge each committee to work hand in hand and very closely with whole of government with the private sector and the community to learn about our greatest and most pressing issues facing us today in our future and most importantly as well to ensure that we are actually measuring our performance and progress ahead. We can no longer afford to continue business as usual practice without measuring where we are today as a government and Commonwealth and where we need to be in terms of progress and success in truly improving the quality of life of our people. Let us deliver on the promises that our people put us into office for and I also urge and call on our people, the whole of government and the business and NGO communities to actively participate on our legislative works and to work collectively together to ensure and chart a brighter course forward for our Commonwealth. Members, I also – earlier we have discussed about informing the Senate officially, I ask your continued patients, I ask that we go on a short recess to officially inform the Senate since Senate is already starting on their ceremonial. So a short recess to notify the Senate.

The House recessed at 11:17 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. I appreciate your patience. During our recess we have asked Representative Frank Aguon and Edwin Aldan to notify the Senate. Now recognize Representative Frank Aguon.

Representative Francisco C. Aguon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Representative Edwin Aldan and I have notified the Senate that the House is duly organized and ready to conduct business. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Aguon. Senate has been officially notified of the House reorganizational on today's session. So with that we will go ahead and go down to our item on the agenda. I now recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I offer the motion, I would just like to take a brief moment to once again thank everybody on behalf of the CNMI House of Representative the 20th. Governor Torres, Lieutenant Governor Hocog, Chief Justice Castro, Father Jesse Reyes, our dignitaries, our guest that are present today and importantly our family and friends that are here making the time to join us and witness our inaugural ceremony. Again thank you. So with that Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer 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 11:51 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I now turn it over to the Master of Ceremony.

Master of Ceremony Cameron S. Nicholas: Thank you, Speaker Demapan. Please all rise. At this time, I ask Father Jesse to deliver the Benediction.

BENEDICTION

(Father Jesse Reyes gave the Benediction)

Master of Ceremony Cameron S. Nicholas: Thank you, Father Jesse. Ladies and Gentlemen and honorable guests, this concludes the Inaugural Ceremony of the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives and the Director of the Legislative Bureau, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow* and thank you for joining us to witness this memorable and historical event. The members of the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and the Legislative Bureau invite you to join us for lunch on the legislature's lawn immediately adjacent to our location. At this time, I welcome members to take family photos on the dais according to the lineup.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

Attachment: Speaker Rafael S. Demapan's Speech

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE