



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2017

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

3<sup>rd</sup> Day, Second Regular Session

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

*The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Third Day, Second Regular Session on Wednesday, August 30, 2017, at 10:21 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

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

*A moment of silence was observed.*

### ROLL CALL

*The Clerk called the roll and seventeen members were present; Representatives Donald C. Barcinas, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero and Alice S. Igitol were absent and excused.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d).*

### RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

#### Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be pre-filed with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed in sufficient time to appear on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 72-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with for Special Emergency Sessions and Sessions called by the Governor in accordance with Rule III.

*The motion was seconded.*

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

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

Representative Francisco C. Aguon

yes

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
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	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 17 members voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) carries. We will go down to our Order of Business, Public Comments. Pursuant to the Open Government Act and the Official Rules of the House of Representatives, public notice and agenda was posted 72 hours in advance. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting pertaining to any items that are on today’s agenda, otherwise may submit their comments in writing to the Speaker of the House on or before the meeting date. So you may proceed to the podium for your comment. However, the public is also given five-minutes to present their comments.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three individuals made comments pertaining to the following:

S. C. R. NO. 20-62: Reporting on H. Res. No. 20-2, entitled: “To respectfully request the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands to preserve and designate 30,000 square meters of feasible public land on the island of Saipan for the future site of the Indigenous Cultural Center.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House adopt H. Res. No. 20-2 in its current form.*

H. B. NO. 20-71, HS1: A Bill for an Act to make the Department of Lands and Natural Resources responsible for collecting the Managaha Fee and removing the Department of Public Lands as recipient of the Managaha Fees; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-47]

S. B. NO. 20-41, SD1: A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes. *See* [SEN. COMM. 20-55]

SEN. COMM. 20-67: (8/24/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-99, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §2308 to clarify that the casino gross revenue tax funds are separate from the general fund; and for other purpose,” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on August 24, 2017, in the form of H. B. NO. 20-99, SS1, to read: “*To repeal and reenact 4 CMC § 2307; repeal and reenact 4 CMC §2308; to earmark the casino Gross Revenue Tax to supplement the payment of the 25 percent of all the retirees’ pensions and to include NMC, NMTI as recipients of the funds generated from the Gross Revenue Tax; and for other purposes.*” [For action on Senate amendments]

Mr. Crispin M. Ogo, Program Manager for the Indigenous Affairs Office

Ms. Bobby Cepeda, Attorney General's Office  
Mr. David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Before we move forward, let me take the time and apology to our former Representative Crispin Ogo again thank you. So with that we'll go ahead and go down to item III, Adoption of Journals.

### **ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

*The Clerk announced that there are no journals for adoption.*

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We will go down to item IV, Introduction of Bills.

#### ***House Bills:***

*The Chair officially introduced the following House Bill on behalf of Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero:*

#### **H. B. NO. 20-113**

To establish a criminal provision for pedestrians crossing a road, highway, or crosswalk while using a mobile electronic device; and for other purposes.

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

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-113 to the Committee on Public Utilities and Communications 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. 20-114**

To establish provisions that would require new and existing business establishments to provide for proper parking lot lighting; and for other purposes.

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

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-114 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.*

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

#### **H. B. NO. 20-115**

To repeal and reenact 6 CMC §§ 9201-9219 by changing the funding sources of the Criminal Justice Information System; and for other purposes.

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

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-115 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.*

*Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and requested that the bill be placed on the Bill Calendar for action:*

**H. B. NO. 20-116**

To appropriate the amount of \$7,129,041.76 to pay the balance of the annual payments due to the Settlement Fund for FY 2014 and FY 2015.

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

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Representative Angel Demapan. Let me ask the Floor Leader for the placement on House Bill 20-116. Before that let me first recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a few questions. First, where is the funding source? And two, what is the urgency?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. Let me ask the mover to respond. Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to our Minority Leader, the funding source is going to be casino BGRT there is additional identification that was sent over this morning and has been numbered as Department and Agency Communication 20-6 and Governor’s Communication 20-71. The urgency is there was a letter that was sent by the trustee ad litem to the Administration that if they don’t receive these fund this month, the trustee ad litem would have to hold pensions to the retirees. So we want to prevent that from happening. That is what gave rise to House Bill 20-116.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: State your privilege Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a copy of that letter if we can be afforded, from the trustee ad litem. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with the Minority Leader, I have no questions that the percentage calculations because we’ve read that over the last couple months and it was forthcoming. My only question is we’re going to be appropriating funds that are from the casino BGRT and we have yet to change our expenditures for 2017. How is that going to affect the appropriations? Because right now, I know there’s a sitting legislation

right now in the Governor's desk of \$1.4 Million Dollars is going to be paying for the frozen steps that are as yet to be signed. I wonder if the reasons for the Governor not signing it as of present time or since it's gone to his desk is because of the lack of concurrent resolutions for the expenditures that we have increase expenditures for fiscal year 2017. Maybe Mr. Speaker if we can get that information, I have no problems with what the intent of the bill is I am just worried of it sitting idle in the Governor's desk again because of our concurrent resolutions not being adjusted for fiscal year 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. I believe the Governor is still reviewing that proposed legislation and I think he's going to make a decision sooner. I believe this is not and maybe the Counsel can come in and clarify whether it requires a concurrent resolution or this is another source. Recognized.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask that because back in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature under Governor's Communication 19-232, which is the same language that Governor's Communication 20-71 has. The 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature acted on a supplemental appropriation to add the additional resources that the Governor had submitted to the legislature that's the only reason why I ask, but in regards to the ad litem I have no question that we do owe roughly about \$7 sum Million Dollars. My question is we haven't increased our expenditures for fiscal year 2017 and would that be the cost of the problem because we did multiple appropriations in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature that was not acted on because of the lack of submission from the Administration on the resources available and the lack of the concurrent resolution to change our expenditure for 2017. We are expending additional funding unless the Governor is using his reprogramming authority, I have no question about that, but our Chairman of Ways and Means had reflected that the money is coming from casino BGRT, therefore I am just questioning the authority to expound money that we have yet increased our concurrent resolution. That's all Mr. Speaker and if the Counsel says we're good then I have no issues, but in our last two sessions ago our Counsel said that we may have to change our concurrent resolution should the language be submitted in this manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. Counsel, can you respond to that?

Legal Counsel John Cool: What we did in this case is similar of what we did before, but not withstanding clause that refers to the section of what deal with the concurrent resolution.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. So with that let me now recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 20-116 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 and to place House Bill 20-116 on the Bill Calendar for action was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

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

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

**H. B. NO. 20-117**

To appropriate Five Hundred Forty-Three Thousand and Two Hundred Twenty Three US Dollars (\$543,223.00) of the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account collected for the Second Senatorial District that has been identified by the Secretary of Finance as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.

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

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-117 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Francisco C. Aguon for the next introduction.*

*Representative Francisco C. Aguon officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 20-118**

To generate funding for the repair and maintenance of CNMI roads and highways by increasing fees for registration and licenses and establishing a Temporary Operator's License category; and for other purposes.

**REP. FRANCISCO C. AGUON** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, and Donald C. Barcinas*)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-118 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations 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. 20-119**

To establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Landlord and Tenant Rental Act of 2017; and for other purposes.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-119 to the Committee on Natural Resources 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. 20-120**

To provide for the payment of the salary increases suspended by the Financial Austerity Measures.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, Representatives Ivan A. Blanco, and Angel A. Demapan)

*The Chair referred House Bill 20-120 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.*

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

**H. B. NO. 20-121**

To amend 6 CMC Section 2301(a)(9) to allow individuals to import used tires for personal use.

**REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Jose I. Itibus, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Vinson F. Sablan)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. So as discussed earlier, we are going to go ahead and proceed over to the Bill Calendar and entertain House Bill 20-116. Let me recognize the Floor Leader.

## **BILL CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.*

**RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

**Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and amendments shall be in order. At the conclusion of a debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule. [*Note: Rule IX, Section 9, amended by H. RES. 20-4*]

(b) The First Reading of a bill without amendment shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

(c) If a bill passes First Reading with amendment, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(d) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

**Section 10. Second Reading of Bills**

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that no further amendments shall be in order. [*Note: Rule IX, Section 10, amended by H. RES. 20-4*]

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The Chair recognize the Floor Leader.*

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

**H. B. NO. 20-116**

A Bill for an Act to appropriate the amount of \$7,129,041.76 to pay the balance of the annual payments due to the Settlement Fund for FY 2014 and FY 2015.

*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 for the passage of House Bill 20-116 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	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
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	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes



Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 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 20-116 hereby passes the House. Members we will go into recess and during the recess the Clerk would transmit House Bill 20-116. Addition to that we are going to do a presentation on commemorative resolution. Short recess.

*The House recessed at 10:52 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 11:19 a.m.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Again, prior to our recess we just acted on House Bill 20-116. Thank you, members, for your support on that legislation. Now going back to Introduction of Bills.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I guess we’re all done with that. Down to item b, House Local Bill. Let me recognize the Vice Speaker.

### ***House Local Bills:***

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

**H. L. B. NO. 20-39**

To amend Saipan Local Law 19-4 to restrict adult gambling machine businesses to certain areas; and for other purposes.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*)

***House Legislative Initiatives: None***

*The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco.*

## **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

***House Resolutions: None***

***House Joint Resolutions: None******House Commemorative Resolutions:***

*Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and requested that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:*

**C. RES. NO. 20-9**

To commemorate our cultural uniqueness by dedicating the month of September to celebrate the cultural legacy of our Chamorro and Carolinian cultures within our great Commonwealth.

**REP. IVAN A. BLANCO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, 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., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

***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 Governor’s Communication:*

GOV. COMM. 20-62: (8/21/17) **Executive Order 2017-08** – 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. 20-63: (8/19/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. NO. 20-12, SD1, (“To amend 2 CMC §§ 4308 and 4345(e), to authorize the Department of Public Lands to waive requirement that the homesteader must construct a home on the homestead upon a showing that the construction permit cannot be obtained because of the lack of power, water, or waste water infrastructure; and for other purposes.”). Became **Public Law 20-5** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-64: (8/19/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-92, (“To amend section 302 (f) (9), to authorize reprogramming to fund the Early Head Start and Head Start centers; and for other purposes.”). Became **Public Law 20-6** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-65: (8/19/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-45, HD1, (“To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau

and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.”). Became **Public Law 20-7** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-66: (8/21/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. NO. 20-08, SD1, (“To enable the CNMI to participate in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education’s Professional Student Exchange Program; and for other purposes.”). Became **Public Law 20-8** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-67: (8/19/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-26, D1, (“To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 in the amount of Thirty Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$30,749.00 USD); and for other purposes.”). Became **Rota Local Law 20-3** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-68: (8/19/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-11, D1, (“To appropriate up to \$88,469.75 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the First Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.”). Became **Rota Local Law 20-4** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-69: (8/22/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-28, D1, (“To appropriate the amount of Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$69,918.00) from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.”). Became **Rota Local Law 20-5** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-70: (8/19/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-34, D1, (“To appropriate Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law 18-56; and for other purposes.”). Became **Tinian Local Law 20-3** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-71: (Received 8/30/17) Fund certification from collections of the Saipan Casino Operator’s Business Gross Revenue Tax for appropriations, \$8,664,418.57.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Any comment or discussion on Messages from the Governor? Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to extend my appreciation to our good Honorable Governor Ralph Torres for signing House Bill 20-45 into Public Law 20-7. I yield for now Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Any other member? Before we move on let me make sure that we place Commemorative Resolution 20-9 on today’s resolution calendar for action. Going down to item VII, Senate Communication. Let me now recognize the Floor Leader.

## SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

*The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-62 to 20-67 so they may become property of the House.*

SEN. COMM. 20-62: (8/18/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-108, HD1, (To appropriate the amount of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00) to pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen – as authorized by Public Law 19-75.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on August 17, 2017. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 20-63: (8/17/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-22, entitled, To amend 1 CMC §§ 8459(a) and 8460(a) to require employers to contribute 4 percent of an employee's compensation if an employee contributes at least 4 percent to the employee's Defined Contribution Plan individual account; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 17, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-64: (8/17/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-35, SD3, entitled, To amend 1 CMC § 2806(c) to increase the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus an extension up to 15 years for a total 55 years; to authorize certain existing public land leases to be amended to extend the existing lease term up to 55 years; to amend 1 CMC § 2807 to authorize DPL to negotiate a new public land lease with certain existing public land lessees under new terms and consideration without publishing an RFP; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 17, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-65: (8/17/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-58, entitled, To amend 3 CMC §2836 to remove the payment requirement by CHCC to the Commonwealth government; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 17, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-66: (8/17/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-59, entitled, To amend 3 CMC §2824, to establish a claims and clinical data warehouse at CHCC and to improve accountability for how health insurance premiums are spent by requiring health insurance insurers and health care providers to submit reports on claims and clinical data to the insurance commissioner; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 17, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-67: (8/24/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-99, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC §2308 to clarify that the casino gross revenue tax funds are separate from the general fund; and for other purpose," which was passed by the Senate with amendments on August 24, 2017, in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-99, SS1**, to read: "*To repeal and reenact 4 CMC § 2307; repeal and reenact 4 CMC §2308; to earmark the casino Gross Revenue Tax to supplement the payment of the 25 percent of all the retirees' pensions and to include NMC, NMTI as recipients of the funds generated from the Gross Revenue Tax; and for other purposes.*" [***For action on Senate amendments***]

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-62 to 20-67 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

**Speaker Rafael S. Demapan:** All Senate Communication is now property of the House. Can I ask members to reflect on Senate Communication 20-67 that Senate Communication will be placed on today's Bill Calendar, but let me ask the Floor Leader for the motion.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 20-99, SS1 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 and to place House Bill 20-99, SS1 on the Bill Calendar for action was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The Chair directed the members to item VIII, House Communications.*

## **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

HSE. COMM. 20-63: (8/21/17) From Representative Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Wednesday, August 23, 2017 and returning Wednesday, August 23, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-64: (8/23/17) From the Speaker informing all Members that he will be out of the Commonwealth from August 24, 2017 and August 25, 2017 and designates Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita as Acting Speaker. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-65: (8/24/17) From Representative Angel A. Demapan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning Friday, August 25, 2017 and returning Tuesday, August 29, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

*There was no discussion, the Chair directed the members to item XVI, Bill Calendar.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

None

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 20-6: (8/25/17 received 8/30/17) From the Secretary of Finance submitting certification of funding availability in the amount of \$8,664,418.57 for appropriation from the Saipan Casino Business Gross Revenue Tax. [*For info*]

## MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

**S. C. R. NO. 20-56:** Reporting on H. B. No. 20-13, entitled: “To designate and establish Susupe Lake and its surrounding wetland as “Susupe Lake Wildlife Park” for the purpose of and in accordance with this Act.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-13 in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 20-57:** Reporting on H. B. No. 20-67, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC § 1402 for the purpose of the conservation and protection of the precious resource of sweet potato “Kamuti”; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-67 in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 20-58:** Reporting on H. B. No. 20-69, entitled: “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.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-69, HSI.*

**S. C. R. NO. 20-59:** Reporting on H. B. No. 20-65, entitled: “To establish laws to regulate bioprospecting activities within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to ensure prior, informed consent and equitable sharing of benefits.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-65 in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 20-60:** Reporting on H. B. No. 20-73, entitled: “To amend Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 1 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting new sections to restrict the rezoning of public lands until the completion of the comprehensive land use plans.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-73 in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 20-61:** Reporting on H. B. No. 20-81, entitled: “To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 14 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting new sections to restrict future public land leases until the completion of the comprehensive land use plans.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-81 in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 20-62:** Reporting on H. Res. No. 20-2, entitled: “To respectfully request the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands to preserve and designate 30,000 square

meters of feasible public land on the island of Saipan for the future site of the Indigenous Cultural Center.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House adopt H. Res. No. 20-2 in its current form.*

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## BILL CALENDAR

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

### **H. B. NO. 20-99, SS1**

A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact 4 CMC § 2307; repeal and reenact 4 CMC §2308; to earmark the casino Gross Revenue Tax to supplement the payment of the 25 percent of all the retirees’ pensions and to include NMC, NMTI as recipients of the funds generated from the Gross Revenue Tax; and for other purposes. [*See SEN. COMM. 20-67*]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Let me recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to offer some overview of the Senate Substitute version of House Bill 20-99 as the members are aware we passed House Bill 20-99 for purposes of setting the account separate and a part of the general fund. Now returning from the Senate, we have some amendments being offered and they are simply in addition to keeping the account separate and apart from the general fund it’s earmarking funds needed for the payment of retirees pensions and bonus for all three senatorial districts. It’s going to earmark a total of \$22 Million Dollars from the casino BGR. On the bill also makes an amendment by restructuring the disposition of the casino license fee, which will now be \$2 Million Dollars each for the Second Senatorial District and the First Senatorial District. There will be \$11 Million Dollars to the Third Senatorial District of which \$1.5 Million Dollars will be continuously appropriated to fund the SHEFA Scholarship Program and that leaves \$9.5 Million Dollars remaining for the appropriation by the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation. There’s also an amendment here, a provision to reserve \$7.5 Million from the casino BGRT in fiscal year 2017 and 2018 for a combined total of \$15 Million Dollars to be used in lieu of the fifth year payment that was paid in advanced by the licensee to the government, therefore alleviating concerns that next year we anticipate not having a \$15 Million Dollar license fee. We believe that this provision as offered by the Senate will help us realize the \$15 Million Dollars to continue the appropriations that are happening thus far. In light of this Mr. Speaker as Chairman of the Committee and as the mover of this legislation, I would like to ask the members support for the

substitute version that has been returned to us by the Senate in the best interest of our three municipalities and more importantly in the best interest of our retirees who are really the driving factor behind the passage of Public Law 18-56. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman. Recognize Representative BJ Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Chairman of Ways of Means for his explanation on the changes made by the Senate and House Bill 20-99, but I also – in regards to the House – if we also on calendar we have House Bill 20-28 that essentially does everything that the changes – everything of the changes that were made under 20-99 except for the fact that the \$15 Million Dollars that comes from the casino fees is directly – will be directly appropriated for the retirees 25% pension. I understand that they add the additional \$15 to \$22 Million Dollars to make inclusive bonuses, but also under 20-28 under the BGRT there's a section that adds retirement bonuses for bi-annual bonuses annually for our CNMI retirees. Under 20-28, which is on calendar also includes a section that I believe, Mr. Speaker you're the current author of a House Bill that's in committee right now that's reserving a certain amount of funds for the – for emergency purposes under the BGRT which is also included at 20-28 and under 20-28 also took into consideration the mortality rate and the fifth year calculations for the retirees – I mean the fees of \$15 Million Dollars. Every fifth year, the fees will be revisited and shall be recalculated to reflect the changes of the price index on the island of Saipan. So far we've seen the growth of the price index in the last couple years. So, therefore with the fifth year coming around we should – the actual increase of fees would be beyond the \$15 Million Dollars of the subsequent fees. As of the fifth year, the lottery commission just acted on amendment V that guaranteed that payment of \$20 Million Dollars for the next fiscal year for the retirees 25% because of the continuous changes on the agreement between the lottery commission and the investors the IPI investors. So, Mr. Speaker I know the Mayor of Saipan spoke during public comment in support of Senate Communication 20-67 on the changes of House Bill 20-99, but so the mayor knows that under 20-27 it's also inclusive that the monies will be distributed to the senatorial districts \$9.5 Million Dollars, \$2 Million Dollars to the First and Second Senatorial Districts, I mean sorry, \$11 Million Dollars to the Third Senatorial, \$2 each for the First and Second Senatorial District. So with the changes on House Bill 20-99, I stand by our good Chairman of Ways and Means. I support it wholeheartedly the intent of 20-99 for the mere fact of separating the accounts and therefore with the changes of the Senate and House Bill 20-28 being on calendar for action, I cannot support the changes made to House Bill 20-99 as made by the Senate because of the fact that it changes the funds of the \$15 Million Dollars that goes directly to the retirees and putting it under the BGRT and I say that because the \$15 Million is a set amount of money. The BGRT can fluctuate annually and that's just my concern. I know that the Senate did their own research and have taken the last couple years of BGR collection, but we're right now in the honeymoon stages and the growth is rampant right now, but should the growth be stagnant in the future the only thing guaranteed is the annual fees. That's it Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairman of Ways and Means for his explanation and I respect every single members' decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. Any further discussion? Ready? Clerk for the roll call.



*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-99, Senate Substitute 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	no
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
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	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	no
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	no
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 13 members voted “yes” and 4 members voted “no.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With 13 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Communication 20-67 referencing House Bill 20-99, SS1 hereby passes the House. Thank you, members for your support. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.*

## **RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and amendments shall be in order. At the conclusion of a debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule. [*Note: Rule IX, Section 9, amended by H. RES. 20-4*]

(b) The First Reading of a bill without amendment shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

(c) If a bill passes First Reading with amendment, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(d) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

**Section 10. Second Reading of Bills**

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that no further amendments shall be in order. [*Note: Rule IX, Section 10, amended by H. RES. 20-4*]

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

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

**S. B. NO. 20-41, SD1**

A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes. [*See SEN. COMM. 20-55*]

*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 for the passage of Senate Bill 20-41, 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	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
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	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent ( <i>excused</i> )
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With all 17 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Bill 20-41, SD1 passes the House. Thank you, members. Floor is that the last bill to be entertained?

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: That's correct Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: That's correct. Chairman Edwin you want to –

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Mr. Speaker, did we act on the resolution 20-9?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: No we are going to go back to the commemorative resolution and after that we are going to proceed down to – and when we get down after the Bill Calendar there will some couple of announcement from the Miscellaneous and the Announcement. Now that we are going to go back to the Resolution Calendar.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, so clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader, can we go back to the Resolution Calendar and act on 20-9.

*No action taken on the following legislations:*

**H. B. No. 20-96**

To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and the functioning of the Public School System. [See S. C. R. 20-54]

**S. B. No. 20-03, SS1, HD1**

To amend 1 CMC §§ 2261(b) and 2262(a), to limit the public high school student representative to the Board of Education to one year and rotated appointment by public school; and for other purposes. [See S. C. R. 20-55]

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

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

**S. B. NO. 20-7, SD1**

A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC §4435(f) and to repeal 2 CMC §4435(h); and for other purposes. [See SEN. COMM. 20-16]

## RESOLUTION CALENDAR

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Commemorative Resolution:*

**C. RES. NO. 20-9**

A House Commemorative Resolution to commemorate our cultural uniqueness by dedicating the month of September to celebrate the cultural legacy of our Chamorro and Carolinian cultures within our great Commonwealth.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion? Recognize Chairman JP Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, just a clarification because I'm not too sure if the commemorative resolution have met the insertion of the agenda. Can we adopt this resolution even though it didn't meet the 72 hours? John?

Legal Counsel John Cool: I believe we have an exception in our rules with commemorative resolution.

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

*The House recessed at 11:42 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 11:43 a.m.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back from our recess. Prior to our recess, there was a concern raised by JP Sablan. After further discussion and review on the concern. Legal Counsel stated that we could pass, however it could only be done under a commemorative resolution. Ready?

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-9 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The Chair directed the members to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Representative Vinson Edward F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our silent prayer before the session, we all gave our prayers our people residing in Texas that were devastated by hurricane Harvey. Just for the record, I want to read a message that was sent by one of our community members who reside there. I am on social media, just for those that cannot access or do not have this message. Shouldn't take too long, but "Dear people of the CNMI, Guam, friends and families across the United States, we humbly ask for your continued prayers for the people of Houston and surrounding areas that were greatly affected by the aftermath of hurricane Harvey. The flooding is catastrophic and devastating, thousands upon thousands have lost everything and many homes under water. While most of our people are out of harms way, there are a few that we know that have lost their homes and belongings. Some of our islanders that are able to assist are out there on the roads with their trucks helping doing what they can to help those in need trapped by flooding. Operating rescue missions are providing food and shelter to others that were in danger. Keep them in your prayers and offer God's protection, we appreciate those of you that were able to make contact. You ask what you can do to help out, the stores have limited supplies as deliveries have seized due to flooding and inaccessibility they have personally seen lines of people waiting at the grocery just to try to get what they can, but everything is limited supply. We know some of us have to last until help is on the way and stores restock, but there are still many without anything. We want to avoid all this and perhaps save the trip for those in dire need. We are still hoping aide can come soon. If you would like to help, I know that a lot of perishable goods such as canned goods, mosquito coils and maybe some island goods. I know that a lot of people have not been able to go to work this entire week and probably next week as well. It will

be very difficult for these next several weeks to buy supplies, gas, etc. and still provide food for the table. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.” This is a message by Jenny Aguon and on behalf of many others our families and friends that are in Houston. With that Mr. Speaker, when the CNMI was devastated by typhoon Soudelor in 2015 these very members of our community that reside in Texas assembled, gathered and supported us. They put together drives and they gave what they can and send to our families that were devastated by typhoon Soudelor. It’s my wish – it should be our wish that this body assembles in harmony with the Senate and of course the assistance with the Legislative Bureau some kind of drive for them. Maybe some drop-off box in front if we can all support from the legislature. There are other organizations out there in groups that are also assembling and planning on shipping goods off and it would be nice for us as an entire legislature from our offices of course the Senate and the Legislative Bureau to do our part in helping our good people in Texas. So with that said, to our family and friends that are watching that reside in the state of Texas, we want to say we are praying for you and you’ll continue to have our prayers and we’ll support you all in any way we can. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Vinny. First of all, we will continue to pray for them. I wanted to ask do we have contacts for any drive from this end so that we will make sure that we ensure that our effort here support will reach to their end. So I hope that you can furnish that contact to us. Any other member wanted to say anything under Miscellaneous Business. Recognize Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to bring the attention of this body for the past two days in the recent news there have been disturbing news about the stakeholders with airline industry, specifically with CBP, CPA and VAA and I think one airline that wants to arrive or that’s done in CNMI in a particular time. Mr. Speaker and members this should be a big concern for us and I would like to state that we need to seek a resolution to this ongoing and lingering issue. I urge that we – that our federal government work closely with our local government to find solutions. This has been ongoing, I am not sure when we’re going to find a solution to it. I know we’ve tried our best with the machines that expedite passport processing and whatnot. A solution would benefit our economy as per the Public Law 110-229, which stipulated that any action by the federal government is to be made that ensures the benefit of our economy not it’s destruction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Blanco. Moving down to item XVIII, Announcement. Chairman.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: My Indigenous Office and Carolinian Office they left, but they left an invitation to all members and I guess to the LB staff, invitation for the proclamation signing tomorrow at Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2 pm at the Carolinian Utt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Now the Chair would like to do a couple of announcement. As we all know our 2017 Annual Labor Day is set for this Friday. The place will be at the Fishing Base for the Legislature our space is number 6. Also members are asked to donate at least \$50.00 each member. I ask that you check the Bureau Director Mr. Sablan. Also, next week we are going to have a session. The session will be on Rota tentatively scheduled for

Thursday so I thought I'd make that announcement now so that you can prepare on your – whatever documents that needs to be – any other member wanted to say? Chairman Joe Itibus you wanted to – I see you hand raised up, you wanted to say something?

Representative Jose I. Itibus: No Mr. Speaker, thank you. I forgot what I was going to mention.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, members. So with that let me ask the Floor Leader that we – Floor Leader.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Speaker. I move that we adjourn subject to your call.

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

*The House adjourned at 11:53 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario  
House Journal Clerk

### **APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS**

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

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. NO. 20-37: To establish and mandate the use of a centralized reburial location for the treatment of human remains. Introduced by REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan) on August 18, 2017.

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:** NONE

-----  
*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on  
August 18, 2017:*

H. B. NO. 20-109: To establish the Northern Marianas Cultural Center, a governmental Corporation, which shall be under the management and control of the Resident Representative for Indigenous Affairs, who is, and shall be responsible for the planning, development, establishment, operation, management and control of the Northern Marianas Cultural Center pursuant to this Act. Introduced by REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Angel A. Demapan, Jose

I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Vinson F. Sablan) on August 18, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-110: To clarify and strengthen the role and responsibilities of the Office of the Public Auditor. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on August 18, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added-8/18/17] H. B. NO. 20-111: To amend 6 CMC § 3304 to make it a crime to alter any document bearing the court seal of a copy or the court seal. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on August 18, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added-8/18/17] H. B. NO. 20-112: To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1 Sections 2101 (c) and 2112 to also exempt right hand drive vehicles of .50 ton or higher that will be primarily used for agricultural purposes; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Donald C. Barcinas, Angel A. Demapan, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero) on August 18, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. L. B. NO. 20-37: To establish and mandate the use of a centralized reburial location for the treatment of human remains. Introduced by REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan) on August 18, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-38: To appropriate Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on August 18, 2017.

-----  
*House information on deadlines for override: None*