



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

7th Day, Second Regular Session

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Seventh Day, Second Regular Session on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 10:28 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 Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero and John Paul P. Sablan 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 is hereby carried. Going down to our Order of Business, item II, Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment you may proceed to the podium. Appears to be none. We will go ahead and go down to item III, Adoption of Journals. Let me now recognize the Floor Leader.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 18, 2017

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a short comment regarding the journals being provided to the members. A lot of times in the past we raise issues about how the journals are delayed and I think it’s important at this point that we commend the staff that’s handling the transcription of the journals, because we’re seeing it come out in a very timely fashion. So, I just want the record to reflect that we’re very appreciative of this action by the staff. Thank you very much.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Demapan. So noted. Let me now recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I echo Representative Angel Demapan and I too commend the staff of the LB. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that any error here or any correction be treated as a technical error so that the LB staff can just do the correction necessary. Thank you.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Duly noted and no objection to that.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 18, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that our journal lady here is Mrs. Venetia Rosario. Thank you again for your effort.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

Third Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 30, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Third Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 30, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no any vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

Fourth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – September 5, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Fourth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – September 5, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no any vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – September 11, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – September 11, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no any vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

Sixth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – September 15, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Sixth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – September 15, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no any vote.

The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Jose I. Itibus for the first introduction.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Jose I. Itibus officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. No. 20-124

To authorize and establish expedited partner therapy for certain sexually transmitted infections.

REP. JOSE I. ITIBUS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Deleon Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-124 to the Committee on Health 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. 20-125: To generate funding for the repair and maintenance of CNMI roads and highways by increasing fees for registration of rental vehicles; and for other purposes.

REP. FRANCISCO C. AGUON of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-125 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Chair officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-126: Requiring certain financial institutions to post transaction fees for each automated teller machine transaction; restricting transaction fees for automated teller machines; and authorizing a study by the Secretary of Commerce to study the impact of such fees on financial institutions and consumers.

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

The Chair referred House Bill 20-126 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan.

House Local Bills:

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

H. L. B. NO. 20-40

To appropriate up to One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$144,629.00) from the Second Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund; and for other purposes.

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

H. L. B. NO. 20-41

To appropriate \$9,336.00 specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 as amended; and for other purposes.

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

H. L. B. NO. 20-42

To appropriate \$116,000.00 from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

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

Representative Alice S. Igitol officially introduced the following House Local Bill and request that the members support the bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-43

To re-appropriate Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Thirty-Nine cents (\$18,865.39) allotted under Saipan Local Law 18-17, specifically under BUS Unit 4961P; and for other purposes.

REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself, and Representative Janet U. Maratita*)

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Resolutions and request that both resolutions be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 20-14

To honor the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association for their selfless dedication, generous donations, and outstanding services that they continuously provide to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and our communities.

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

H. RES. NO. 20-15

To honor Mrs. Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan for receiving the prestigious American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) 2017 Membership Award and to respectively commemorate her long-term length of service as a public servant, especially in the field of law enforcement.

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

With no objection on the floor; House Resolutions 20-14 and 20-15 were introduced by the Committee of the Whole and placed on the Resolution Calendar for action on the next scheduled session.

The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

C. RES. NO. 20-10

To commend the Kagman Community Health Center for earning national recognition by receiving the Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, 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)

With no objection on the floor; House Commemorative Resolution 20-10 was introduced by the Committee of the Whole and placed on the Resolution Calendar for action.

The Chair recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

C. RES. NO. 20-11

To express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the Late Honorable Ricardo Songao Atalig for his longstanding public service to the beloved citizens of Rota and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

With no objection on the floor; House Commemorative Resolution 20-11 was introduced by the Committee of the Whole and placed on the Resolution Calendar for action.

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

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

C. RES. NO. 20-12

To honor and extend our sincere appreciation to the numerous contributions Mr. Charles “Chip” Guard has made on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

With no objection on the floor; House Commemorative Resolution 20-12 was introduced by the Committee of the Whole and placed on the Resolution Calendar for action.

The Chair recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

C. RES. NO. 20-13

To recognize Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence F. Camacho for his conscientious accomplishments as a civilian professional and pay tribute to his unwavering commitment as an esteemed commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: You still have the floor.

Representative Vinson Edward F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, Lieutenant Colonel will be leaving on the 29th so I’ve asked the Speaker if we can schedule a presentation of the commemorative resolution sometime next week. So, I will be giving that date out this week or the end of this week so that we can all be here. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Vinny. Because it is a commemorative resolution, we can refer that to the Resolution Calendar and act on that resolution today so that we can meet the time schedule for his departure. So that resolution will be placed on today’s Resolution Calendar. Any other member? Going down to item VI, Messages from the Governor. Clerk.

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 20-72: (8/30/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-17, D1, (“To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30; and for other purposes.”). Became **Tinian Local Law 20-4** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-73: (8/30/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. L. B. NO. 20-2, D1, (“To establish “I Tano’-Mami” as the official anthem for the Municipality of Rota; and for other purposes.”). Became **Rota Local Law 20-6** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-74: (9/7/17) 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., pursuant to House action recalling it on September 5, 2017.

GOV. COMM. 20-75: (9/7/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator, at the Zoning Board to receive an annual salary of \$65,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-76: (9/12/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Heather P. Barcinas, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-77: (9/12/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-116, SD2, (“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.”). Became **Public Law 20-9** [*For info*] GOV. COMM. 20-78: (9/14/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-36, S1, (“To appropriate the sum of One Million Dollars from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Third Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56, to assist various entities and various projects within Precincts I, II, III, IV and V.”). Became **Saipan Local Law 20-10** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-79: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Charles E. Brasington, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-80: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Martin P. De Los Angeles, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-81: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Jonathan R. Glass, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-82: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Joseph M. Hallahan, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-83: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Chester M. Hinds, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$62,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-84: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Robert C. Lee, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$66,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-85: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Matthew J. Pugh, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-86: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Colby K. Stewart, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$55,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-87: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Jonathan L. Wilberscheid, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$58,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-88: (9/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Hessel E. Yntema IV, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$56,000. [*For info*]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. Any comments? None. Let me ask the members, relative to Governor's Communication 20-74, this is returning House Bill 20-108, HD1 and that is to appropriate "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., pursuant to House action recalling it on September 5, 2017." This communication will be placed on today's Bill Calendar for reconsideration and passage with amended form. Further comment? Ready? Going down to item VII, Senate Communication. Let me recognize the Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-69 to 20-73 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-69: (9/8/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-75, HD1 (To establish the Drug Court Revolving Fund and to authorize the Commonwealth Superior Court's Drug Court to impose fees on Drug Court participants; and for other purposes.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on September 8, 2017. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

[READ 9/11/17] SEN. COMM. 20-70: (9/8/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-105, HD2, entitled, "To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2018; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate with amendments on September 8, 2017, in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-105, HD2, SD3**. [For action on Senate amendments] [House rejected Senate amendments and moved to conference on 9/11/17]

SEN. COMM. 20-71: (9/12/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-12, entitled, "To recognize and congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College Graduates, Joy Waldo and Joshua Tanghal, on passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.", which was adopted by the Senate on September 8, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-72: (9/12/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-3, entitled, "To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Tony A. de Brum and to honor his memory whose worthy endeavors contributed to the quality and character of a true dignitary for his country, the

Republic of the Marshall Islands.”, which was adopted by the Senate on September 8, 2017. [*For info*]

[ADDED-9/20/17] SEN. COMM. 20-73: (9/16/7) Informing the House that the Senate in its Third Special Session, Second Regular Session, on September 16, 2017, adopted CCR No. 20-1 and passed H. B. 20-105, HD2, SD3, CCS1, entitled To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2018; and for other purposes. [*For info*]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion to accept all Senate Communications and become property of the House has been seconded. Discussion? Recognize Representative Donald Barcinas.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to – I don't have a copy of Senate Communication 20-73. Is it 20-73 or is it up to 72?

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: 73, if I may Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So clarified?

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Further comment? Ready?

There was no further discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-69 to 20-73 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Going down to item VIII, House Communications. We have only two House Communications.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

No action or discussion on this part of the agenda.

HSE. COMM. 20-68: (9/8/17) From the Speaker informing all Members that he will be out of the Commonwealth on April 8, 2017 and designates Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita as Acting Speaker. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-69: (09/07/17) From Representative Aguon informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning Friday, September 15, 2017 and will be returning on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [*For info*]

The Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Floor Leader.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

S. C. R. NO. 20-63: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-8, HS1, SD1, entitled: “To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Public Utilities and Communications recommends that the full membership of the House accept the amendments made by the Senate in the form of H. B. No. 20-8, HS1, SD1.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-63 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Relative to Standing Committee Report 20-64, let me just inform the members that Standing Committee Report will be recommitted back to the respective Chairs. Floor Leader.

S. C. R. NO. 20-64: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-51, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC §40203 to extend the duration for tenancy upon termination of agreement before vacating the living premises.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends the House pass H. B. No. 20-51 in its current form.*

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

S. C. R. NO. 20-65: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-95, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to establish the Office of Probation Supervision and to clarify the powers and responsibilities of the office and its divisions; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends the House pass H. B. No. 20-95 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-65 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

S. C. R. NO. 20-66: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-104, entitled: “A Bill for an Act requiring mandatory sentences for third strike offenders in cases of serious and violent felonies.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends the House pass **H. B. No. 20-104** in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-66 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

S. C. R. NO. 20-67: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-58, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to establish a Loss Recovery Division within the Department of Finance; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 20-58, HD1**.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-67 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

S. C. R. NO. 20-68: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-70, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to clarify sections 20139 and 20140 relating to the CNMI Veterans Cemetery.” *Your Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs recommends the House pass **H. B. No. 20-70** in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-68 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

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

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt House Resolution 20-2.

H. RES. NO. 20-2

A House Resolution 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.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-10.

C. RES. NO. 20-10

To commend the Kagman Community Health Center for earning national recognition by receiving the Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-11.

C. RES. NO. 20-11

To express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the Late Honorable Ricardo Songao Atalig for his longstanding public service to the beloved citizens of Rota and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-11 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-12.

C. RES. NO. 20-12

To honor and extend our sincere appreciation to the numerous contributions Mr. Charles “Chip” Guard has made on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-12 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-13.

C. RES. NO. 20-13

To recognize Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence F. Camacho for his conscientious accomplishments as a civilian professional and pay tribute to his unwavering commitment as an esteemed commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-13 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

No action taken for the following resolutions:

H. RES. NO. 20-14

To honor the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association for their selfless dedication, generous donations, and outstanding services that they continuously provide to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and our communities.

H. RES. NO. 20-15

To honor Mrs. Ursula Lifofoi-Aldan for receiving the prestigious American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) 2017 Membership Award and to respectively commemorate her long-term length of service as a public servant, especially in the field of law enforcement.

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

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to reconsider House action on House Bill 20-108, House Draft 1.

H. B. NO. 20-108, HD1

A Bill for an Act 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.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Recognize Chairman Angel. Again, members the motion is to reconsider our action. Discussion? Ready?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to reconsider House action on House Bill 20-108, House Draft 1 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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. All 17 members voting in the affirmative and for the reconsideration of House Bill 20-108, HD1 hereby passes. Let me again recognize the Floor Leader for the passage.

The Floor Leader made a motion to pass House Bill 20-108, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. NO. 20-108, HD1

A Bill for an Act 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.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion on House Bill 20-108, HD1 is “A Bill for an Act 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.” has been seconded. Discussion? Recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to fulfill the purpose of our action to reconsider. I am offering at this time a floor amendment that would substitute the bill to become House Bill 20-108, HD1, House Substitute 1. I believe copies have been distributed to the members. So, the substitute version essentially does two things. One, we increase the information in the findings to include communication that was received from the Office of Personnel Management, Civil Service Commission. This communication was transmitted to the legislature a few days after the House passed the original version. So in this communication that came late, OPM made reference to the addition of seven more employees and that was resulted in an impact of \$17,545.00. So, we made reference to that as Senate Department Message No. 20-37 in the findings and we also update the total amount for appropriation to \$1,417,545.00 that's to make whole for the \$17,545.00 difference. On Section 2 of the substitute bill, we also cure a deficiency by adding language that says the \$1,417,545.00 is from the Saipan casino licensee's gross revenue tax as identified in House Governor's Communications 20-52 and 20-54. The inclusion of these amendments Mr. Speaker and members, should satisfy the legal concerns that have been raised by the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor in terms of how the original form was language. So we hope with this amendments we're able to push this bill through and the Governor is able to sign it into law so that these employees who have been waiting for a very long time can finally be made whole with the obligations that the Government owes them pursuant to Public Law 19-75. In that regard Mr. Speaker, I offer this amendment.

Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 2017

Second Regular Session, 2017

H. B. 20-108, HD1, HS1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To appropriate the amount of one million four hundred seventeen thousand five hundred forty-five dollars (\$1,417,545.00) to pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen in Step 12.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature has been informed by the Governor’s Office in House Gov. Comm. 20-52 and 20-54, that the amount of more than One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) from the Saipan casino licensee’s gross revenue tax is available to pay the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment, due pursuant to 1 CMC §8213(g), to active and inactive employees, whose wages were frozen at Step 12. Senate Dept. MSG No. 20-37 from the Office of Personnel Management advises that the actual amount necessary to compensate the employees who were frozen in Step 12 is \$1,417,545. This appropriation is in addition to payment authorized for the same purpose by Public Law 19-75. In addition, the Governor advised the Legislature that “The Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in collaboration with the Department of Finance, has provided me with an update on the eligible employees, as well as the associated amounts that include Medicare, FICA, and retirement benefits.” Accordingly, we hereby appropriate said funds to make these funds available as soon as possible to employees who have waited patiently.

Section 2. Appropriation. Notwithstanding 4 CMC §2308 and 1 CMC §7201(d), the amount of One Million Four Hundred and Seventeen Thousand and Forty-Five Dollars (\$1,417,545.00) from the Saipan casino licensee’s gross revenue tax as identified in House Gov. Comm. 20-52 and 20-54 is appropriated to pay the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees, whose wages were frozen at Step 12 pursuant to 1 CMC §8213(g). The expenditure authority shall be the Secretary of Finance.

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 8/3/17

Date: 8/3/17

Introduced by:

/s/ Rep. Angel A. Demapan
/s/ Rep. Edwin P. Aldan
/s/ Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
/s/ Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero
/s/ Rep. Alice S. Igitol
/s/ Rep. Glenn L. Maratita
/s/ Rep. Janet U. Maratita
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr.
 House Legal Counsel

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Representative Angel Demapan. Discussion on that floor amendment? Recognize Lee Pan Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the author just for clarification since we’re making an amendment to include additional \$17,000. Do we have an assurance from OPM that this finalized – the number of current employee, nonworking employee, retirees?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Let me recognize Representative Demapan for the response to that.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleague Lee Pan. I wish that I could say yes, but the day before the House passed the original version, I asked the same question to OPM and was given the assurance that that was the final listing. Unfortunately,

days after we passed the bill another final listing became available. I'm hoping that this is the real final listing, but again OPM and civil service have to deal with a magnitude of personnel files and so when we get new inquiries to our respective offices whether they're on the list, we don't have that information to provide so we refer them down to OPM and sometimes they find out their not eligible. Sometimes they find out their eligible. So, I am hoping that there's no further additions beyond these seven employees. If there are it would require us having to go through the whole appropriation process again.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: So noted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman Lee Pan. Further discussion on the floor amendment?

Several members voiced "ready".

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Angel A. Demapan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Let me – for the final – let me again recognize to reinstate the final motion. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion for the passage of House Bill 20-108, House Draft 1, House Substitute 1 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. NO. 20-108, HD1, HS1

“To appropriate the amount of one million four hundred seventeen thousand five hundred forty-five dollars (\$1,417,545.00) to pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen in Step 12.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on the motion? Recognize Representative Frank Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have recalled this particular bill from the Administration to make corrections with the additional funds as well as the provision as to where these funds came from. During our last session, one of the board members of PSS made comments and he came here and he chastised us, he belittled us. According to him, we are playing games. We are playing games because we are not following through with initiative 18-12. HLI 18-12 in the constitution provides for 25% of all revenues that is to be appropriated. House Bill 20-108 as amended is just one form of appropriation. This fund was identified by the Administration and it's our job and duty to appropriate. \$7.2 Million Dollars that went to prior year settlement payments to the settlement funds. The \$16 Million Dollars that we appropriated for judgement payments. In some ways, I do agree with Mr. Guerrero. We need to be giving PSS their 25% and if that means taking 25% from any identified sources prior to appropriating then that's what the constitution calls for. I ask our good Chairman of Ways and Means to expedite these payments to PSS. We are seeing an increase in government

resources most especially the casino revenue tax. Let us not wait and have these funds overwhelm us while at the same time not putting in what is constitutionally mandated through 18-12. It is imperative that we need to work together and as these funds are identified, we must immediately set aside these 25% before taking care of other obligations of these government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Frank Dela Cruz. Also, let me just say a few words based on the product of the conferee. I think we gave the PSS an additional \$250,000 that was because of the communications from PSS and the conferee team. Yes, we all agree that we will continue to fund PSS in fact we gave PSS over \$36 Million Dollars on this annual budget, but to my understanding I think we are going to be seeing an identification from the Governor for further appropriation and from there we will make sure that PSS is considered on that source. Further discussion? Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a copy of the latest update. Maybe Ways and Means Chair can provide us a copy of the seven additional members for compensation? The listing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Are you referring to additional? For those \$1.4? Okay, we'll furnish you guys a copy. Further discussion? Ready? Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-108, House Draft 1, House 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 20-108, HD1 and as amended hereby passes the House. Members as agreed earlier we are going to tackle only on that bill and the rest of the bill will be entertained on the next session. Going down to item XVII, Miscellaneous? Recognize Representative Propst.

*No action taken for the following legislations:***H. B. NO. 20-71, HSI**

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]

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.

H. B. NO. 20-13

A Bill for an Act 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. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-56]

H. B. NO. 20-73

A Bill for an Act 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. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-60]

H. B. NO. 20-81

A Bill for an Act 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. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-61]

H. B. No. 20-8, HSI, SD1

A Bill for an Act to restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-63]

H. B. No. 20-95

A Bill for an Act to establish the Office of Probation Supervision and to clarify the powers and responsibilities of the office and its divisions; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-65]

H. B. No. 20-104

A Bill for an Act requiring mandatory sentences for third strike offenders in cases of serious and violent felonies. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-66]

H. B. No. 20-58, HD1

A Bill for an Act to establish a Loss Recovery Division within the Department of Finance; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-67]

H. B. No. 20-70

A Bill for an Act to clarify sections 20139 and 20140 relating to the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-68]

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to touch up on something really briefly. Yesterday, I received a phone call from Guam Senator Fernando Esteves, he is the Chairman for the Committee on Ethics and Standards. As you are aware, I filed an ethics complaint on May 16, 2017 against Guam Senator James Espaldon for the role he played in the fraudulent GPS emergency purchase of a ten-megawatt generator with CUC. Mr. Speaker for the viewing public and for my colleagues, I just want to go over a resolution, rather quickly on their findings. On Resolution 239-04, the Committee on Ethics and Standards found that he did in fact received gratuities from Robert and Amelia Toelkes, they paid for his meals, airfare and other travel expenses and at least one trip to Korea and several trips to Saipan during his tenure and that he engaged in these actions at least in part for his own personal gain by receiving something of value. We also found conflicts of interest with his Senate staff member Phil Roberto who happen to be the Vice President of GPSM as well as the step-son of CUC Board Chairwoman Adelina Roberto as well as other conflicts of interest with Robert and Amelia Toelkes and CUC. Furthermore, they found that Senator Espaldon in fact knew or should have known that GPSM and Robert and Amelia Toelkes sought to use his influence as a Senator in order to influence CUC. He failed to consider the public’s perception of his actions that his

actions reflect poorly on his office and his colleagues and that he failed to conduct his life both public and private so as to bring honor and respect to his office. The committee recommends Senator Espaldon be censured for his violation, removed of leadership positions and require that he and his staff receive 16 hours of refresher, ethics in government program within 30 days of the adoption of the resolution that his office funds and that they pay for it. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the reason why I am bringing this up is because I wanted to remind the viewing public that there is a process involved in everything we do whether we are the Guam Legislature or the Commonwealth Legislature. Sometimes, we want things to move so quickly and expeditiously, but the fact is as public servants and public officials the process takes time, but with this process it took them almost four-months. I think I am satisfied and I think my colleagues here in the House and the Senate would be satisfied, but I would be remised if I failed to thank Chairman Frank Dela Cruz of PUC and his colleagues and also Senator Sixto Igisomar and his Public Utilities Committee also for their work, their investigations and their findings of which is some of the information that I based on my ethics complaint. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to thank you for that. This is not over. This continues as many people are thinking it's a closed door, but I continue to ask that the Attorney General Ed Manibusan continue to investigate and look into this deal because it's not clearly over and we do know that it continues. We also hope that the FBI and the US Attorney continues to look into this. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to recognize the good work of my colleagues in both the House and Senate for their due diligence for the work that they put forth. Thank you for the opportunity to let me share this with you Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Propst. Further? Anymore? Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to offer some information in regards to the statements made by the Board of Education member in our previous session and the statements from our colleague Dela Cruz this morning. As you know, from two communications from the Governor in one communication 20-52, the Governor identified \$28,067,951.00 and in communication 20-71 he identified an additional \$8,664,418.00 and that brings a total identification so far for a casino BGRT in the 20th Legislature a total of \$36,732,369.60. if we are to give PSS their entitlement of 25% from this amount, we owe PSS \$9,183,092.40. We have taken note of this amount and we have scheduled that this will be appropriated once we took care of the critical appropriations that we did that had deadlines, for example. What became Public Law 20-4 was a settlement agreement through the court regarding the Mangabao Estate and other outstanding judgements in which the Office of the Attorney General and then Acting Governor Arnold Palacios negotiated this with the court that we would provide an appropriation in the total amount of \$2.7 Million Dollars. So, we did that knowing and we made these statements when we acted on this bill that we understand PSS is owed 25% of these funds, but because of the immediate deadline that was before us by the court, we agreed to appropriate this amount to take care of this land compensation judgement and that we will take care of PSS entitlement and subsequent legislation. After that we received another critical deadline information from the Administration through the settlement fund stating that the audit reports had come out for 2014 and 2015 stating that the settlement fund was owed \$7.1 Million Dollars from the general fund due to an increase in revenues and those two respective years. So, because we had a deadline of August 28, I believe in that particular communication this body had to act swiftly again. Governor sent that communication over with \$8.6 Million Dollars and asked

the body to act swiftly to meet this obligation to ensure that retirees pensions were not compromised for the month of September. So that became Public Law 20-9 providing \$7.1 Million Dollars. What we have before us today is an additional \$1.4 Million Dollars in House Bill 20-108 and that's to make whole with those employees who were left behind in Public Law 19-75. One of the reasons why the House and the Senate agreed to prioritize this appropriation is because there was an issue of equity about having 300 employees receive their compensation and 300 others waiting behind because of a miscalculation of adjustments from OPM. So, we felt that we needed to assist the central government in making whole with these individuals, but in every appropriation that we passed the Committee on Ways and Means took note that in every appropriation 25% was due to PSS pursuant to the constitutional mandate. At this point in time, the funding level remains at \$9.1 Million Dollars. We're expecting an additional \$22 Million Dollars based on communications with the Administration and if that additional \$22 Million Dollars has officially been quantified and identified over to the legislature that would bring the total identified revenues to \$50 Million Dollars of which \$15 Million Dollars will be due to PSS. Having anticipate this amount, I met with the Board Chair Marylou Ada, Board Member Janice Tenorio and officials from the Commissioner's Office Mr. Thornburg, Associate Commissioner Jackie Quitugua and Mr. Ed Tenorio. In our meeting, we were well aware, we discussed this impending \$15 Million Dollar supplemental appropriations to PSS in the event that the remaining \$22 Million Dollars is identified. It was our understanding with PSS that for FY 17 their funding level is enough to bring them to September 30 and that they needed this \$15 Million Dollars to be appropriated in their FY 18 beginning October 1st. It is in that understanding that the committee is prepared to make such appropriation to fund their FY 18 operations because FY 18 includes \$1.9 Million Dollars in salary increases to the teachers and counseling staff. So we've made arrangements with PSS that we've item – in fact we've worked with PSS and they've itemized how they're going to spend the entire \$15 Million Dollars and based on that itemized list is how the bill will be appropriated. It won't just be a \$15 Million Dollar lump-sum blank check to PSS. This body will provide a clear outline on how much is allotted for what particular purpose and that purpose that were outlined and provided by PSS themselves. So, I wanted to assure the members and the public that we are doing due diligence to PSS, we are in constant communication. In fact, the board is in a meeting at this moment discussing issues similar to this and I hope that the Board Chair will relay the information that we discussed in our meeting. So, I will make another follow-up to our Secretary of Finance on the pending identification of remaining funds collected. I know that the last time I spoke to the Secretary of Finance they were in the process of reconciling their reports on what was collected versus the reports being submitted to the Commonwealth Casino Commission. So, we hoped that in due time, I will be able to get that information. Just so that everyone knows that in this point in time just basing ourselves on the \$36 Million Dollars identified revenues, we note that \$9.1 Million Dollars is due to PSS, but we believe that the remaining \$22 at least \$22 Million Dollars is identified, PSS will end up with a total appropriation of \$15 Million Dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman Angel. Thank you so much for that clarification. Further discussion? Ready? Recognize.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I would like to also co-mingle with the resolution presentation. Once we've decided when the resolution presentation for Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence Camacho. I believe Representative Vinny will be coordinating the dates –

would it be available to be presented by the Colonel. I also wanted to ask that we co-mingle commemorative resolution 20-10 on the same day even if it's not in the session environment. I thought I'd add that. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. As soon as you set your date, let my office know so that we can coordinate and inform members to present on that presentation. Going down to item XVIII, Announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Okay, we will be having a session in October in Rota. I thought I'd mention that to the members. Appears to be none. Floor Leader for the Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Speaker. Make sure you bring your coolers. At this time, 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 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on September 11, 2017: None

House information on deadlines for override: None