



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

11th Day, Second Regular Session

Monday, December 4, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Eleventh Day, Second Regular Session on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 2:10 p.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 sixteen members were present; Representatives Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita and John Paul P. Sablan were absent and excused.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8.

RULE V. DECORUM AND DEBATE.

Section 8. Dress Code.

All members and officers appearing on the Floor of the House shall be suitably attired. Members shall wear business shirt and tie, and on Fridays may wear formal island wear.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 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.

The Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section (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	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend rules is hereby adopted. Thank you, members. Moving down to our Order of Business item II, Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the items on our Order of Business you may proceed to the podium. I also ask that you state your name for the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Ms. Emma Perez
Mr. Alex Sablan
Mr. Tim Thornburgh

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills: None

House Local Bills: None

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 20-128: (11/17/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Barbara P. Cepeda, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$75,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-129: (11/22/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-42, D3, (“To appropriate from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.”). Became **Tinian Local Law 20-8** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-130: (11/28/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, Capital Improvement Program Office, to receive an annual salary of \$100,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-131: (9/21/17 received 12/1/17) **Executive Order 2017-11** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency as a result of the resignation of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Board of Directors and the incomplete process of replacing those board members.

GOV. COMM. 20-132: (11/29/17) Certification of Fund Availability from the CNMI Department of Finance from the collection of the Saipan Casino Operator's Business Goss Revenue Tax from Imperial Pacific Internactional (CNMI).

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. I will have a very short recess so that copies will be made available to the members. Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:24 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:31 p.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Prior to our recess, we were on item VI, Governor's Communication. We will go ahead and hold off to this communication and move on to item VII, Senate Communications. Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-109 to 20-111 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-109: (11/29/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-15 entitled, "To recognize and congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College Graduate, Matthew Quiambao, on passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.", which was adopted by the Senate on November 21, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-110: (11/29/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-16 entitled, "To recognize Mrs. Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan for her long-term length of service as a public servant, and to bestow distinguish honor for receiving the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Membership Award for 2017.", which was adopted by the Senate on November 21, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-111: (11/29/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-17 entitled, "To commemorate and memorialize the life and memory of the late Henry Iglesias Sablan for his tremendous contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands through his services to the CNMI Department of Education/Public School System and to express a heartfelt condolence to his bereaved family on their loss.", which was adopted by the Senate on November 21, 2017. [*For info*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-109 to 20-111 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

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

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 20-76: (11/30/17) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Monday, December 4, 2017 until December 8, 2017 and request to be excused from all scheduled meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-77: (11/20/17) From Representative Janet U. Maratita informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning December 4, 2017 to December 8, 2017 and request to be excused from all scheduled meetings and session during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-78: (11/29/17) From Angel A. Demapan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning November 29, 2017 to December 7, 2017 and request to be excused from all scheduled meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-79: (12/04/17) From Representative Ivan A. Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning December 5, 2017 to December 9, 2017 and request to be excused from all scheduled meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

There was no discussion, the Chair directed the members to item XV, Resolution Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

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

H. J. R. NO. 20-7

A House Joint Resolution to support the efforts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and private sector in seeking legislative relief through amendments to U.S. Public Law 110-229 in order to continue the upward growth of the Commonwealth's economy.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Any objection if we could consider this as a technical and allow under page 5 under the “whereas” be “further resolved” right after “the United States of America” and allow the majority leader Mitch McCullen to be included on that certified – be given a certified copy of this resolution?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Further discussion? Ready? Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 20-7 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Again, with all 16 members voting in the affirmative, House Joint Resolution 20-7 is hereby adopted. Members as mentioned earlier that is the only item on today’s Order of Business. So we do have a short recess until the copies is done and then we will go back to item VI, which is the Messages from the Governor.

The House recessed at 2:36 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:42 p.m.

No action taken for the following legislation:

H. RES. NO. 20-17

A House Resolution to encourage the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres to render his support, along with the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, for the re-nomination of the Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of Guam and to recognize her for her distinguished career.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, members. Back to our preliminary session. Prior to our recess we were on item XV and we just got through adopting the House Joint Resolution. Before we go back to the Governor’s Communication let us go ahead and proceed down to item XVI, under the Bill Calendar and I am going to recognize the Floor Leader to recommit House Bill 20-139 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to recommit the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-139

A Bill for an Act to amend Title 1, Division 2, Section 2807 to grant the Department of Public Land Secretary the authority to negotiate public land leases pursuant to his/her fiduciary, constitutional and statutory duties.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to recommit House Bill 20-139 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I believe everyone has a copy on the certification of funds by the Governor. Further comment on that? Recognize Chairman Deleon Guerrero.

GOV. COMM. 20-132: (11/29/17) Certification of Fund Availability from the CNMI Department of Finance from the collection of the Saipan Casino Operator's Business Goss Revenue Tax from Imperial Pacific Internactional (CNMI).

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: My copy says it's Governor's Communication 20-13 – I believe that should be 132?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk? That is correct.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: That's all.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: You may proceed.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did hear PSS relay their concerns regarding this communication. I understand the Speaker will be referring this communication to the Committee on Ways and Means for further review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. So, with that let me go ahead and refer this communication 20-132 to the Committee on Ways and Means. I ask the members to work with the Chairman on the expeditious action on this communication. Further discussion? Recognize Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Mr. Speaker and members just for clarification. Did I hear directly from PSS that they want to hold off on this \$2 Million Dollars? Is that what I heard?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: That's correct and I hope that when we refer this to the committee I hope that they will communicate with the respective committee which is the Ways and Means. I am also taking a note that I have the Chair to communicate with PSS on the proposed certification of funds for PSS. Further discussion? Ready? Okay, so that took care of item VI.

The Chair directed the members to item XVIII, Announcements.

BILL CALENDAR

No action taken for the following legislations:

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]

H. B. No. 20-113, HD1

A Bill for an Act to establish a criminal provision for pedestrians crossing a road, highway, or crosswalk while using a mobile electronic device; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-78]

H. B. No. 20-35, HD1

A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact 1 CMC §§ 8245-8248 to increase compensation for appointed officials and increase the salary ceiling; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-83]

H. B. No. 20-36, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC § 8357, to reestablish the special annuity for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-84]

H. B. No. 20-19

A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC §3156 (b) by requiring a hotel or resort attached to a golf course to have a minimum of eighteen (18) holes in order to be eligible to conduct electronic gaming activities as defined in 6 CMC §3156(a)(6). *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-92]

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Members we might be having another session before Christmas. So, I hope you planned your schedule accordingly to address the pending legislation before the House. So, I thought I'd mention that and then after that we will take a break for Christmas until the New Year. Further discussion or comments? None. Also, the bureau and Jessica are still working on the hosting the *man amko* which is sometime in December 21st so keep that in mind and in addition to that we will be having a Christmas gettogether sometime this month. So, I thought I'd mention that for all of use. So, with that Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. 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 2:47 p.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:

H. L. B. NO. 20-45: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, 10 CMC §3511, by amending the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheet 20 of 29. Introduced by REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Jose I. Itibus, and John Paul P. Sablan) on November 21, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-47: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to allow adult gaming machines to be operated in any zoning district where gaming machines are allowed. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, and Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.) on November 21, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-48: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheets 17, 23, and 27 of 29 to rezone certain districts to “Mixed Commercial”. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, and Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.) on November 21, 2017.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on November 29, 2017:

[Added-11/29/17] H. B. NO. 20-143: To amend 1 CMC § 8265 (c) Public Employment definition of “Immediate Family Member”. Introduced by REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonthan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Angel A. Demapan, Janet U. Maratita, and John Paul P. Sablan) on November 29, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added-11/29/17] H. B. NO. 20-144: To amend Title 1, General Provisions, Chapter 4, Article 3 by adding a new §439 naming the Rota Fire Station 8 the “Robert O. Hocog Fire Station”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on November 29, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added-11/29/17] H. J. R. NO. 20-7: To support the efforts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and private sector in seeking legislative relief through amendments to U.S. Public Law 110-229 in order to continue the upward growth of the Commonwealth’s economy. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on November 29, 2017.

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 20-123: (11/2/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 20-63, HS1, (To require test firing of all firearms as a prerequisite for registration of a firearm.). [**Deadline: 1/1/18**]

GOV. COMM. 20-127: (11/22/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 20-8, HS1, SD1, (To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes.). [**Deadline: 1/21/18**]