

THE SENATE • TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS



Senate
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION – 2018

SJ 20-32

 First Day

 Thursday, April 12, 2018

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on April 9, 2018 that the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at www.cnmileg.gov.mp.

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, First Special Session, on April 12, 2018, at 10:05 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll, all nine members are "present."

President Palacios: With nine members present we've establish a quorum to conduct today's session. Please have the record reflect that Senator Hofschneider is hereby excused for today's session. We move on to agenda Item B, Public Comment.

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, before we proceed to Public Comments, I would like to move to suspend all Pertinent Rules so that we can amend our Agenda to include one communication from the Governor, so move.

President Palacios: Motion is being offered to suspend the Rules so that we could place Governor's Message No. 20-271 on today's Order of Business, do I hear a second?

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been seconded, discussion on the suspension motion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With eight members voting “yes” the suspension motion is hereby passes. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, I now move to include Governor’s Message No. 20-271 under Governor’s Messages.

President Palacios: Do I hear a second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is to place Governor's Message No. 20-271 in the Order of Business and it has been seconded, discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Can I have a copy?

President Palacios: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:20 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:21 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are under discussion on the placement of Governor’s Message No. 20-271, are there any further discussion? Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. During our recess, I recommend if the Floor Leader can at least put a short title with respect to Governors Message No. 20-271 so that members are aware as to what this communication is about. Thank you.

President Palacios: What we would do is, perhaps the clerk can make copies of the front page. It's basically the transmittal letter from the Governor relative to the proposed 2019 Budget, it is the official transmittal portion. My understanding is that the Legislative Bureau is reproducing the whole package for every member. It is by three volumes so your packages will be forthcoming, but I think we would just put this as part of the calendar the transmittal letter from the Governor. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. No further, ready.

President Palacios: Any further discussion? Ready? Clerk, do we call a roll on this one? Okay. Those in favor of the placement motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Governor's Message No. 20-271 is hereby placed on today's Order of Business. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: No further, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Moving down to agenda Item B, Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Palacios: The floor is now open to entertain any member of the public who are present here this morning to give comments on any of the agenda items appearing in today's Order of Business. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the member of the public. Just a brief housekeeping please, state your name and perhaps even the organization that you are representing and the specific item that you wish to speak of. Thank you.

Ms. Agnes McPheters: Good morning to all the members of the Senate and thank you for giving us this opportunity to make some comments and my specific would be Standing Committee Reports Nos. 20-81 and 20-82. These are two community members that have been nominated to be members of the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT). I will start off with Ms. Pangelinan. Ms. Pangelinan, I know Ms. Pangelinan without saying how many years because it will show my age. But I know, Ms. Pangelinan, as the first's Director of Finance for the CNMI and she had done so much for that department when they were just trying to become a new Commonwealth, that I think the form and all the process that she started is still being carried by the CNMI government. So professionally, she is so professional in what she does and she is not an individual that is content to hear, she hears and then act for what she heard. She's a very responsible individual. She also was a Senator, and being a Senator you know, you represent the people and the interests of the people. She was a very good Senator as the Chair of Ways and Means, when she was here. As a friend, she's also a very generous person, a straight forth person and a person that doesn't hide the truth and what is not the truth, and to be in this position you need that type of personality. So, I fully support your nomination, Mr. President and the Committee and I hope that you do not hesitate in approving her because it is good for our island, for our community to put the best individual in this type of position not only accredited

individual, but a very knowledgeable individual of what she is going to be getting into. She had been serving this board for the past four years, if I'm not mistaken, and it will be who of this board to re-appoint her again. Thank you, for giving the opportunity to speak on behalf of Ms. Pangelinan. She has much more than what I have pointed out. I would like also to support Mr. Martin B. Ada, not only he's my nephew, but he also has served the community of the CNMI as a member of the Legislature and to be a member of the Legislature, as you know very well, you are here to represent the interest of the community, and he had done that well. He also served the community in many different positions in the government. He is very knowledgeable and I know him as a responsible individual. I will not be here today to support them if I know that these two are not the right individuals for you to support. So, I ask you, I ask you not to hesitate in supporting them, but give your full support to these two individuals. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any other members of the public present here this morning wishing to express or make comments? As for the record, Mr. Guerrero, please state your name.

Mr. Pedro Guerrero: Good morning, Mr. President and honorable members of the Senate. This morning when I was walking in somebody told me to throw away my cane, so there it is. Anyway, just to make you feel good. Mr. President and honorable members of the Senate, I am here on behalf of the other Trustees who have given full support in the re-nomination of Trustee Pangelinan and Trustee Ada. They served well when they were with us all the way to the end of their term. I'm happy and I would like to give my thank you to the Governor for re-appointing them to serve once again as a Trustee of MPLT. I cannot continue to say further because the former President of the Northern Marianas College, Ms. McPheters, have said all that I have to also say and I don't want to repeat it. Nonetheless, as I looked around, I know that even if I am not here the vote is there for them. And for that, Mr. President and members of the Senate, I thank you very much. On other matters that is very close to me that's to qualify our people in the workplace. I understand just this morning that the bill that will turn Northern Marianas Trades Institute, first of all, the House and the Senate would not have acted on the said bill if they don't strongly believe in their heart that such is an important matter that must be put together in the interest of our people to be able to qualify them in the workplace with whatever type of work; from accounting, to carpentry, to masonry, to painters, to electrician, to whatever. And, as you know, we are faced with such a problem because we don't have enough workforces to address the needs of our business community and our people. Although, I have not read the communication, but I understand that the House and the Senate passed the bill and it went to the Governor for some reasons the Governor vetoed it. I belief that such and institute can be best serve, can serve the community well. If given the opportunity and the advantage to expand its program and I believe that being a public corporation, they can enhance the program much much better. Meaning, that they may not in the future continue to come and knock on your door for additional funding giving that opportunity for the institute, I think it will serve them better because they'll be independent, they're going to work hard, they can work with the federal partnership, private partnership. So, I ask to not fail them in that endeavor, I ask that you provide the same support when you review the said bill before you and passed the said bill and send it over to the Governor. So, I ask that you consider that and it hurts me to say this, but I think to override that bill is warranted. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Guerrero for those comments. Are there any other members of the public that wish to speak this morning? You're back.

Ms. Agnes McPheters: This time I am wearing another hat. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity. My name is Agnes Mangloña McPheters, CEO of NMTI. You may have seen last night that I said, I do not support the override because the Governor said that he's going to be introducing another legislation. But as I thought about it, it will take another three years before it will materialize like the current bill that is in your hands to consider the vetoing of the Governor. That bill took three years for both Houses to unanimously support. We are in the most critical time. We do not know whether the U.S. Congress will pass the current legislation that is in front of them introduced by our Representative Sablan and also Senator Murkoski. And, even if that goes through it only extended for another ten years. That particular legislation, which was authored by our Senator Justo S. Quitugua and was unanimously voted in the Senate because they saw the importance of an institution that will train our people so that we could be able to provide our own workers here in the CNMI. It's been long overdue for this to happen and every individual that we train and we place in the private sector, we hold that money that leaks out to their country, to their country of origin. So, it has an economic effect and to say that there is no money allocated for that, I feel that this Senate will not pass that legislation if they do not see that there is potential funding for it. An example, we are giving eight hundred thousand for this university organization that says they will accept our students give our students from the CNMI local tuition, I doubt it. If you see who are the board members of that organization, just take for example CNMI members of that organization, none of them are part of the institution of NMC. How could they change policy of an institution if they are not fully connected to such institution? Go to Guam, the same way, not even the board member or the president of the college or some member of that organization, so they cannot. Really, I would like to see that that money that is being wasted and I consider that being wasted be really looked into. I prefer to see that money going to NMTI to go directly for the training of our people or NMC to start establishing the secondary degree for our teachers that they could teach in our high school. I am sure that the Governor doesn't really meant that there is no money, but because it has not been identified, but I am sure the Senate and the House are capable enough to find it. NMTI had also been included in the BGRT from the casino that is an identification of funds. So, I do not understand why it was vetoed. It is the only similar institution here that will open doors for the CNMI to be able to train its people in that area although there are laws that mandates the college and the public school system, but it has not been done because of the philosophy of how education should be done. This institution is doing a job for the people of the CNMI and we are at risk if this is not treated properly. Our people are at risk and the people that are recipient of this are those in many instances will be landed in jail or other places if we don't provide that skill. So, I ask you, Mr. Chair, to really reconsider. Mr. President, to add with your conscious, to act and see what is important to our people. I am begging you as a CEO of NMTI not for me, but for those people who needed a job and to go and get that job with the skill so that they would not be denied to be hired by the private sector. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. Please, Mr. Rabauliman, you know the procedures and the process.

Mr. Frank Rabauliman: Good morning, Mr. President and members. My name is Frank Rabauliman and I am with NMTI. Let me just put some perspective maybe put some data on why the issue that our CEO is talking about it is critical at this point. Three years ago, the enrollment we had was in the hundreds, today, we're serving close to six hundred students and it is expanding exponentially. So, the need to keep this moving is critical not only because we want to provide opportunities to our local

students or youths, but more important because of what Washington, DC is putting pressure on us. So, there are a lot of businesses out there that are knocking on our doors trying to see if they can jump on the bandwagon to train not only their people, but also see how they can hire students that we graduate. I've worked at the Public School System and I've worked at MMC, and I'll tell you that NMTI looks at training and placing of students. They take students in, we train them according to the industry need and then we put them out there. I stand toe-to-toe with any institution here and for that matter, any other institutions that get this CW funding to compare how many placement of the students that you trained go out there in the workforce? And, I will say this much, NMTI has a lot of numbers with regards to placement of students. The need to get these students out there in the workforce is critical and it is in high demand as you all know. The CW issue of the desire of our local students, of our locals are U.S. citizens wanting to pursue trades, is at a no time high. So, it is important that we have all these things align. We have students that wanted to go into these trades and we have students wanted to pursue these occupations, but we need to align them with programs that are well funded. And, this particular bill, the recently vetoed bill SB 20-21, was one that I felt that could provide the overarching support to all these issues that we're trying to do as far as placing training and placing students in the workforce. So, I ask this body to really look into the matter and see how you can support these students who are really with the desire to get out there and get a job? It's there, I can see. I have been a Counselor and I know that these kids really really want to get into these hard trades. So, I ask and I implore this body to reconsider, I'm not asking that it do a veto, but I know that there was discussion to may be strengthen the legislation, but somehow, I ask that the body act expeditious. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. It was an enlighten recommendations. Any other? Please step forward.

Ms. Magdalena S. George: *Buenas dias para todos hamyo. Siñot, Presidente Arnold I. Palacios, Floor Leader, Senator Cruz yan para kada uno giya hamyo ni man gaige hamyo prisenti para in fatinas i disisión para pago na ogg'an. Gaige yo pago guini pot para baihu na'i supottasion si Ms. Maria Frica Pangelinan yan si Mr. Martin Ada para i MPLT. Todos hit ha tumungo na beyond i qualification este dos na indibiyuat. Esta ma aprueba i che'cho' niha ya maolek para ta kontinua talo maas ta na'i siha chansa talo ya umana expand talo maas i programa siha ni hafa ma cho'cho'gue. It is really the sacrifices, the work and all the challenges ni ma face kada dia guihi na puesto. Ta na'i siha un dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase para todo cho'cho' ni'niha para todos hit guini gi Maraianas, gi Commonwealth. Also, malago yo' baihu na'i hamyo kada uno na Senadot, sa hasan yo' ni gaigi guini, para baihu na'i hamyo un dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase pot todo i sakrifisio, todo i bidan mi'miyo kada dia. Siña ti todo biahe gagaigi i minauleg gi newspaper sa that is the way life is, right. But I know and I trust, gaigi inangoku gi kada uno giya hamyo guini na puesto. Pues, un dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase ginen guaho yan familia-ku ya puedi ha mohon kana ta li'e mona maas mauleg yan maas bonito na Commonwealth. Sa, benefisio para todos hit espesiatmente para todo i toatoa-ta piot eyu ma mensiona ma gof nisisita ayudo gi kominidat-ta. Gaige enao todo gi sientin kada uno giya hita piotd eyu i man i'ilihi, eyu man man'bobota, man hoben man amko, man gaigi inangokon mami giya hamyo. In trust yan in tayuyu'yuti lokkue hamyo sa todo i disision in fatitinas guini kada dia afekta hit uno yan otro. So, we have to put our hearts our minds, i che'cho'cho-ta kada dia, together, put away all the differences yan man gaigi hit guini na kuato ya ta polu i manaulek para i taotao-ta guini giya Marianas. Enao ha un dangkulu*

an si Yu'us ma'ase hamyo kada uno. Ya todo lakkue, hu tungo ha na guaha konfiansaku na para in supposta lakkue este dos na MPLT re-appointment. Si Yu'us ma'ase yan buenas dias.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any other members, public? There being none. I wish to extend my members appreciation for those who have stepped up to give some testimonies this morning. We proceed to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of Journal. Floor Leader?

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have two appear in our agenda. At this time, I move for the adoption of Senate 20- 28 from the Third Day, Third Regular Session, so move.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of the Senate Journal 20-28, do I hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, "Aye. Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Senate Journal 20-29 from the Seconds Special, Third Regular Session, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of Senate Journal 20-29 it has been seconded, discussion? No discussion. Ready? Those in favor of that motion offered please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Let us take a very brief recess here about a minute recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:48 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:51 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. If there is no objection, I would like to suggest that we go immediately to agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees so we can deliberate and dispose of two Standing Committee Reports relative to the re-appointments to the MPLT Boards. With that, we are on agenda Item M. I recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Under the Reports of Standing Committees, we do have four Standing Committee Reports appearing on our agenda. However, we will be acting on the committee reports from the Committee on EAGI on the re-appointment of the two nominees from the Governor. At this time, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-81 from the Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations reporting on the re-appointment of Ms. Maria Frisca T. Pangelinan to serve another term on the Marianas Public Lands Trust (MPLT) to represent women on the island of Saipan, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-81 relative to the re-appointment of Ms. Maria Frisca T. Pangelinan to MPLT Board of Trustees, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I don't mean to come in in front of our Chairman from EAGI committee, but was wondering of a question considering we have two reports 20-81 and 20-82, would there be an opportunity to get into a committee as a whole, Mr. President? Do we go one by one by request or do we set that? And now, if possible, because I understand some of us were not there during the EAGI committee hearing and we just have some questions or clarifications.

President Palacios: Well, I am not sure we would go into committee as a whole and redo basically an extension of the public hearing. The committee had conducted a public hearing and I was hoping that all the members of that committee -- are you a member of that committee?

Senator Igisomar: Yes, Mr. President. And in your Senate Communication, Senator Sixto Igisomar was off-island last week during the committee hearing. As you like me to ask the questions to our EAGI committee Chairman.

President Palacios: Would it be more appropriate or reasonable that I ask if we could perhaps just put your queries to the nominees officially so that we could give it to them today or rather than extend the public hearing for them, is it okay? Is that reasonable?

Senator Igisomar: So, Mr. President, would you like me to ask my questions now with the EAGI committee Chairman or would you like for us to go on a recess and I'll have a conversation the members or?

President Palacios: Which ever you wish. Would you like to go off record or go on recess?

Senator Igisomar: Yes, maybe off record, Mr. Chairman. We can go on recess, Mr. President, and we can just ask them generally off the record.

President Palacios: Is there any objection to that?

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: Ok. We will hold off on further discussion. I am going to give you five minutes.

The Senate recessed at 10:55 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are under discussion of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-81, the Chair now recognizes Senator Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Before I present the full report, Mr. President, the issue that I always mention during public hearing nominees that are appointed by the Governor to work closely with this body, the confirming body because after we confirm we have no authority over the individuals that we had confirmed. So, I ask the Administrator of MPLT if you are here, please take note of those that are requested by individuals from my committee take it very seriously and members of my committee. If your requests are not furnished as you expected, please let me know so I can perhaps call that entity for a meeting to discuss over the issue that you requested. Again, I ask for your understanding on the matter. Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I would like to or rather the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to percent Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-81 and is the re-appointment of Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the re-appointment of Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands (as amended by the Constitution Amendment No. 33), Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan was re-nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres on February 27, 2018 to serve as a member of Marianas Public Land Trust. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the re-appointment of Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust. Your Committee concludes that the re-appointment of Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan meets all

the necessary requirement pursuant to Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands (as amended by the Constitution Amendment No. 33). Furthermore, Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask the full body to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-81. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank, Mr. Chairman. Further discussion? There's no further discussion on the adoption motion. Clerk, please call the roll. Before we do that, again, just a reminder that if we pass this Standing Committee Report, it automatically confirmed the confirmation of the nominee or the appointee. Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With all eight members present voting "yes" the Senate has confirmed Ms. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan to the MPLT Board of Trustees. We move on to the other nominee and then we will take a short recess. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-82 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada to serve another term on the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) Board of Trustees to represent the island of Saipan, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-82 relative to the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada to serve the MPLT Board of Trustees, has been seconded, discussion? Chairman Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-82 and it's the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to

Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands (as amended by the Constitution Amendment No. 33), Mr. Martin B. Ada was re-nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres on February 27, 2018 to serve as a member of Marianas Public Land Trust. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Mr. Martin B. Ada's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Mr. Martin B. Ada's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Mr. Martin B. Ada possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust. Your Committee concludes that the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada meets all the necessary requirement pursuant to Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands (as amended by the Constitution Amendment No. 33). Furthermore, Mr. Martin B. Ada has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-82. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Any further discussion on the adoption motion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all eight members voting “yes” the re-appointment of Mr. Martin B. Ada to serve at the Marianas Public Land Trust Board of Trustees is hereby adopted and confirmed. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:17 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:34 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We went ahead and went to agenda Item M, to adopt those two committee reports, without objection, we will now go back to our agenda as it appears and we are under agenda Item D, Messages from the Governor.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governors Messages Nos. 20-265 to **20-271**.

President Palacios: There are seven communications from the Governor, are there any comments on any of these communications? I would like to advise the members that the full budget package is being reproduce for every member. As we all know, I believe it's consists of three volumes so the LB staff would be providing that to every member of the Senate in the very immediate future. Any other? We go down to agenda Item E, Communications from the Judiciary.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

The Clerk voiced Judiciary Communication No. 20-17.

President Palacios: Thank you. I believe that report was provided to every member of the Senate. I've had the opportunity to sat down in couple of meetings with Judiciary counsel together briefing on the issue at hand regarding the facility of the judiciary building. It does and it need a significant amount of funding to address this situation. We will be providing every member copies of the reports as they become available. Agenda Item F, Communications from the Heads of Executive Department.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

The Clerk voiced Department Messages Nos. 20-79 and 20-80.

President Palacios: Any comments on those two communications? Senator Igisomar, please take note of 20-79. Any other comments? Agenda Item G, Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 20-194 to 20-199.

President Palacios: Any comments on those communications? There being no other comments. We move to Item H, Communications from the Senate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-172 and 20-179.

President Palacios: Any comments on this? There being no comment. We move to agenda Item I, there is no communication under agenda Item I, Communications from the Washington Delegate. Agenda Item J, Unfinished Business.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: At the request of our two good Senators from Rota, a motion to withdraw Governor's Communication No. 20-251 and remove it from the Unfinished Business Calendar.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Thank you. Is there any objection?

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: No objection. Clerk, please take note of that. Any other, Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Yes, Mr. President. Appearing also on Unfinished Business Governor's Message No. 20-260, it is a vetoed message on Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, SD1, on the legislation, "To establish a Northern Marianas Technical Institute" sponsored by Senator Justo S. Quitugua. I understand full well the Governor's letter his explanation on why he vetoed it and I totally agree with him. If NMTI is not in existent today or the last few years, it totally, make sense that he vetoes it and create a task force to assess the trade school's current future organizational financial structure and I could see his reasoning. However, Mr. President, NMTI has been in existence for several years now. We heard the CEO this morning and her opinion of the legislation, we've heard other people who testified this morning. We have heard other people over the last few months coming forward to this Legislature talking about the need for trade school and the need for training our workers and even in the findings of the legislation itself talks about the issues we face with CW and how Senator Murkowski and Congressman Kilili are doing everything they can to help us with our CW and worker needs in the CNMI. Six, seven months ago, Mr. President, on the deliberation of the budget, I spoke at this chamber on the need for a vocational school and I quote just a short section of my speech then, "we all know that the demand for skill labor in various required expertise for available jobs in the CNMI will continue to out paste the labor pool in the years ahead. We are now hearing more often talks about career and technical education as a way to reform our schools. Once considered by some as good for underachievers vocational education is completely different now because it offers many

opportunities today. The goal now, is to ensure that the high school student graduates with a career. Students not only obtain work basic experience they learned the soft skills, such as team work, communication and organization for employee ability. The students can choose from various vocational programs including Health Care, Social Assistance, Automotive Technology, Construction, Bookkeeping, Hotel/Restaurant Management, Computer Support, Sport and Entertainment, Engineering Technology and Agriculture among many others.” I stated about the need for vocational education six months ago during our deliberate on the budget because I was trying to explain why we should comply with the 25% constitutionally impose on the budget for PSS. I was trying to say that if we believe there’s so much money going to PSS than we should channel some of these money towards vocational education. So, as far as our concern or any members concern with regards to the budget for NMTI, I think that shouldn't be an issue because we can pass a law today, and say, PSS shall work with NMTI and pay a tuition to NMTI. I hear that about two hundred students at NMTI who are at the high school level, if we charge them a fee, I am sure that that could easily translate to half a million to a million every year that could subsidize this and maybe even more. At the same time, PSS money can be channel for even the post-secondary because that could be a program under PSS. And, I understand the bills intension was to create three divisions which are: the high school division, the post-secondary and the apprenticeship. So, apprenticeship could also be funded by funding from PSS and the difference between establishing this presently with NMTI, it’s presently running, the vehicle is presently running and its kind of like switching the driver and it shouldn’t really worry us about the funding. That's also one of the concerns that the Governor had and he is very correct that and I quote in his vetoed message the Governor is saying, “I strongly encourage the active involvement and investment of the Public School System in this call as we explore forward looking for plan for NMTI.” So, that's correct we should get PSS to work with them. At the same time, scholarships can be use in fact with using money from CNMI Scholarship to pay for these students. So, there you go the scholarship funding can be used to pay for these NMTI students. This will just change them to a public corporation from a nonprofit to a public corporation. I believe if we look at this, we are not being against the Governor if we override this, it’s like we are trying to show that this thing running already should have been done since yesterday. This vocational trade institute run as a public corporation should have been there, we are late already. You look at all our labor needs and I don’t want to go into that we all know the situation. This also doesn't look too good in eyes of the U.S. Congress who is trying to help us. So, Mr. President, I don’t know if we have the votes to override this, but I know that if we don't do this now and we go through the legislative process as was mentioned, it's going to take again have a year to a year and further delay. But I think, if we override it now and the House can do the same thing it becomes a law tomorrow and we can than begin this long overdue process of putting a focus on the man power needs in the CNMI. So, Mr. President, whether we act today or next week or if we don’t have the votes so we don’t have the votes. So, I move for the override of Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, SD1, I so move.

President Palacios: Do I hear a second?

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is being seconded. Before further discussion, let me take a short recess. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:48 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:56 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are discussing the motion by Senator Mangloña relative to Governor's Message No. 20-260, Senator Mangloña you still have the floor.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the members understanding, my motion was seconded to override and after further discussion and after the President's assurance that you get with the Speaker so that the House and the Senate can form a joint conference committee type arrangement so that the conference committee will come up with a legislation to do just the intent of Senate Bill No. 20-21 within thirty days or no later than the end of May, otherwise, it is agreed by the members that we would go to a vote on the override issue as this is still within the time frame for doing an override and that it will remain on the Unfinished Business. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President, pot i enao na understanding.*

President Palacios: Thank you.

Senator Mangloña: And, I hereby withdrawal my motion for an override.

President Palacios: Do I hear a second?

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: So, that is off the table. Any other discussion on Unfinished Business? Senator Quitugua?

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, the override time frame is sixty days and if that Special Committee between the Senate and the House is appointed that Committee must submit its work at least no later than May 16. May 14, is the deadline for the sixty days so if it is at the end of May then it's late. So, that is my recommendation.

President Palacios: We're on record so understood.

Senator Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: We move to agenda Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. Floor Leader?

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND INITIATIVES

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. There is one pre-filed Senate Resolution and I'll give the floor to the author to officially introduce the resolution.

President Palacios: Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, this resolution is by request, Senate Resolution No. 20-29 and has been pre-filed, "To commend the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) and the Graduates School USA for the numerous training opportunities that they provide to the government employees of the CNMI through the Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiative's (PITI-VTI) Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP)." And, Mr. President, if no objection from the members, I request that this be introduced as a Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: There being no objection. Clerk, please take note. Any other pre-filed bills? We move on to agenda Item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I have one.

President Palacios: Please proceed.

Floor Leader Borja: To officially introduce today on behalf of the author who is absent this morning which he is absent this morning, Senator Hofschneider, Senate Bill No. 20-99 To amend 2 CMC § 4303 to clarify that a spouse for purposes of homesteading is a person to whom a person is legally married pursuant to Commonwealth marriage laws; and for other purposes." Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. This is to officially introduce Senate Bill No. 20-100, this is, "To amend 2 CMC § 4623 to exempt a debtor from the one reinstatement requirement and allow the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation to negotiate an affordable payment scheme to allow the debtor to save their property and family home; and for other purposes." Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other unnumbered bills? I have one non pre-filed Senate Bill No. 20-98, "To amend Title 4, Division 2, Chapter 3 of the Commonwealth Code to add a new Article 3, Financial Instruments in Casino Gaming; to repeal and reenact 6 CMC § 1704; and for other purposes." Are there any other bills, initiatives? There being none.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Palacios: Floor Leader, on these two other Standing Committee Reports should we just leave them on the calendar?

Floor Leader Borja: The recommendation is to leave it on the calendar for the next session.

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: There is no objection, we leave these two Standing Committee Reports Nos. 20-79 and 20-80 on the calendar and we will take it up on the next session. Reports of Special and Conference Committees, Floor Leader?

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Conference Committee Report No. 20-02, reporting on House Bill No. 20-102, HD1, SS1, “To repeal and re-enact 4 CMC § 1508 (Reservations of License Revenue); and for other purpose,’ so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Conference Committee Report No. 20-02 reporting on House Bill No. 20-102, HD1, SS1, recommending passage in the form of Conference Committee Substitute 1, discussion on that motion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: *Mr. President, mato china kulan piniti yo’, Mr. President, mato china pinitihu nu este ya ti hu hongí na ma susedi este pago na tiempo. Dispensao, Mr. President, lao baihu esalao nu este kumo pa pasa pago gi Senate. Isao este na cho’cho para taotao Luta, Mr. President, isao. Thirteen million guini para hu ma pati. Dispensa yo’ sa kumentos taigi’gini lao isau este lao siña baihu alok sinaki. Thirteen million este, Mr. President, ya’ este na salape ti’ kumeke ilekña na, debi ha ta apasi i debi para Saipan pat Tinian, tododo i thirteen million debidi para ta apasi. Siña mohon ta apasi maseha lamita ya in fan apati ni hafa manma didibi hamyo lao lamit taotao Luta man ma sasapit, Mr. President, man ma sasapit ya taya hu gagagao hamyo guini half a million ha para tourism promotion Luta ni para ta ayuda taotao mami. Lami lao, Mr. President, dispensa yo’ lao member guini si Vice President lao gaigi este anai ma diskuti guini guhao guini gaigi na representative ginen Luta ya hu gagagao maseha dididi-ha na fan mañagi-ham. Lanya, thirteen million in chule’-ha tododo ya’ baihu sangani hamyo na Luta, guaha thirty-five na employees, I Legislature CNMI employee enao debidi uma apasi enao. I CNMI government, manman didibi ham lakkue lao sombras enao pot ilek miyu na pot i PL 7-31 este. Lao, baihu sangani hamyo i PL 7-31 manma sapit talo taotao mami Luta sa fuera di man atrasao kana sinko años dispues ni manma apasi dibin i retroactive manman atarasao mana’i i impliao sa taya salapi mami man namasi-ham. Pues finally, sa guaha talo salapi hami talo para bai in fan mamadesi dos biahi? Dispensa lai, Mr.*

President, lao this is unfair, this is unfair. Who says that we have to pay thirteen million to Tinian now when we could just say, pay half of that and let Rota come in and be assisted also with its tourism promotions so we have activities, economic activities on Rota. This is unfair and this is something that we are going to have stand up and defend our people, Mr. President, this totally unfair. We had a good discussion three hours on this legislation in the committee and we all agreed at least let Rota try half a million so we can stimulate our tourism industry there you took everything away. You took everything away and the thirteen million you say, pay us for PL 7-31 funding back in 1991 and the obligation and that we are hit twice here because our employees from Rota. First of all, they got their PL 7-31 years after Saipan and Tinian got theirs and this is a CNNMI obligation manual, this is a Commonwealth government obligation. And, just because Tinian has local funding, Saipan has local funding, they pay their CNMI employees years ahead, years ahead of the Rota employees because we don't have funding from casino or gaming and then now that we have money thirteen million you are going to say, let's just pay back Saipan and Tinian for the thirteen million and Rota is not going to even get half a million that we're asking for tourism promotion. Who says that this thirteen million is for paying obligation and debts today. We could just pay half of your debt next year I'll pay you the other half and give half so Rota ca also get back on its feet. If you've been to Rota, last year you are going to see that the people are suffering so all we are asking is a mere, half a million of the thirteen million so we can have at least something our people. **Enao ha lai, Mr. President.** I am voting no for this and I don't believe that this Senate body, this Senate body will allow such a crazy bill.

Senator Paul A. Mangloña stepped-out at 12:08 p.m.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Quitugua, you are the Chair to this Conference Committee.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase.* Thank you, Mr. President. There was an understanding, the Vice President was there, because Rota was not readily prepared to turn the half a million dollars into reimbursement. So, there was an understanding that rather than delaying the bill that Rota will come up later on with their reimbursement listing that they are to be reimbursed as a result of using their local funds for Commonwealth obligations. That was the understanding during the Conference Committee Meeting. So now, it is Rota who has to come up with their listing of reimbursements and including Tinian and Saipan. The House will be provided so that they can come up with the bill to address the reimbursements for whatever reimbursements are waiting for each of the senatorial districts.

President Palacios: Thank you. Let me just kind a give some clarity to this. These are reimbursements relative to the retroactive pay, am I correct? Right. So, I am aware in fact, that the Third Senatorial District, Saipan and the Second Senator District used its local funds to pay for a general obligation of the government. That is my understanding, am I clear on that Chair?

Senator Quitugua: Yes, Mr. President. The committee came up with an understanding that Rota must identify their reimbursements that their local funds are used to pay up for the obligation of the general fund. And also, Tinian if they have additional that they feel that they used their local funds to pay up for the obligations of the general fund including the Third Senatorial District. So, they must all come up with their listings and just like House Bill No. 20-102, HD1.

President Palacios: But this is specifically for reimbursement for local funds used to pay for the retract which is a central government obligation.

Senator Quitugua: Yes, that is why the committee agreed that we will just let go the bill the way it was. Even Saipan, we removed all the items listed on the Senate amendments so that we can address the other reimbursements on another separate bill because this is a different bill. The House felt that since this is a different reimbursement bill that other reimbursements from the respective Senatorial Districts be addressed on a separate bill. So, that is why we came to an agreement to address those additional reimbursements separately from this house bill.

President Palacios: Thank you. Recognize, Senator Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the statement that was raised earlier was an insult also for the people of Tinian. We did support half a million dollars on our discussion during committee meeting and we even passed in the Senate. This is a product of the conference committee and am glad that Senator Quitugua explain as to why Rota is not included in this reimbursements of funds. Tinian cannot be blame or Saipan cannot be blame of what happened. Because we did pass half a million dollars for Rota. So, we cannot be blamed for whatever transpired in the conference committee. That is why there is a conference committee to have an understanding as to how they are going to come about with a final product. It is an insult for Tinian to hear that it is only Tinian and Saipan. It has to be very clear as to what happen and it has to be explain as to what transpire in the conference committee. So, that is all, Mr. President. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: May I yield to our Vice President.

President Palacios: Senator Mesngon, recognized.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. Malago yo' baihu express dididi lakkue. Hunggan, I heard Senator Mangloña's into this *sa guiya tumutohon ani uyu*. Well, definitely, I didn't support to remove the half a million-dollars request for Rota itself. But, since that PL 7-31 was the issue about know Tinian and Saipan *ni tima apapasi, ya' Luta esta ma apasi* and it has been obligated to reimburse Tinian and Saipan. *Ma' pega eyu na eyu na debi na para tana suha i* half a million. **Lao**, however, I told them *na ti baihu* agree *nu este yanggen taya para Luta* which is what Senator Quitugua as a Chair at the time. He agreed *na ya hafa siña Luta para ta pegayi?* Well, we come up with a listing *ayu ilekña*, what is the municipality as obligated *lokkue guaha i yota* obligation that we still have and aware of not paying some of the government debts. So, I got those listing provided *para uma* entertain *lokkue pot este i yota* reimbursements to pay all *ya ta fan* fee debt *gi iyota* government obligation *yan hafa siha na* issue about medical referral. Because I brought that issue up. *Ti yahu na para tafan malingo-ha lakkue nu eyi* half a million-dollars because we need to get something about it. I sense the feeling of Senator Mangloña, *pues parehu-ha yan guahu lakkue na Tinian, hafa eyu ilelekña si Senator Hofschneider na*, it surely, yes, it is PL 7-31 issue. **Lao**, I know Senator Mangloña's issue is at the thirteen million at least *dididi para hu guaha Luta, hunggan dinanchi enao*. So, I urge that the committee will understand *kao siña hu guaha lakkue para Luta* in return. The committee decided

na parahu guaha iyoña reimbursement *Luta* which I agreed *yangen hu na'i ni lista na guaha lokkue dibiña Luta*. So, *Luta guaha dibiña* I transmitted down to the House to entertain for that obligation *lokkue para Luta* which is, if I am not mistaken, yes, it is conference committee agreed *na debi hu guaha Luta* not necessarily not to have anything. So, I understand Senator Mangloña's frustration *nu eyu, inasoña buenti na taya para ta chuli'* yes, we are going to have something. Even myself, I don't agree *na para hu taya Luta* which *hu sangani ha gi* conference committee, if there is nothing for Rota so I am not supporting until this issue in in the conference committee bill. *Lao*, however with the committee's consensus *na para hu guaha enague na* understanding *na para Luta lokkue hu gaigi-ha na guaha enague na* initiative *para huma na'i* which is I recommend *sa ilekni'niha na debi* whatever obligation Rota has that will be *i gina gagao gi eyu na klasin retro na para ta chuli'* which is, I highly recommend *na guaha siha dibiña i municipality ya eyu gui i rason na* all the listing of our municipality will be paid. *Para tafan ma na'i* for that reimbursement for us to pay and I hope that the members of the delegation *tihu malom yo' guihi para* eyu, they don't accept *magahet na para ta fan mana'i lao hu sangini-ha siha na* I am not going to accept this unless I have portion also of Rota. Maybe not the half a million-dollars what Senator Mangloña injected into the Senate side which I totally agree. I agree to have the half a million-dollars. However, the conference committee on both sides on the House, really to tell the truth, they don't accept if Rota is going to be there, but we accept as the Senate side to have something for Rota which is, *malago yo'* to put on the record *na, hunggan, guaha para ta chuli'*. I just want to be clear. Senator Santos, I know Senator Quitugua's frustration and I hope that we can explain it, *na guaha para ta chuli' ya para ta apasi dibi-ta. Sa, hu sangani siha lokkue na tisiña man hagong Luta yangen gagaigi-ha enao siha na dibi* and I know that Mayor gave us some obligation that we need to pay and is been throwing out to the delegation so that's the issue that I bought *na pues yangin enao na* reimbursement *apasi dibin-mami tati Luta siha nu eyu hagas i Gobietno lokkue manma didibi parehu yan este Gobietno-ta guini ni hafa i yota siha na* areas *an i* CNMI government obligated to pay back. So, it is the same issue that I put out so let us pay back *i hafa ya tafan para manman dibi. Taya dibi-ta Luta* from this interest *para ta fan mañuli'*. So, the committee agreed to have that language to put that. So, I hope and I need to probably explain that to Senator Mangloña and I hope to know not necessarily *na taya* half a million-dollars not in a form *na tai'gue i* half a million-dollars *lao gaige eyu na* obligation *na para ta apasi para tafan man mañuli' i yota* reimbursement to pay *i yota* obligation *lokkue tatte i hafa i municipality dibiña ya hu hogung lokkue Luta nu enao*. I understand Senator Mangloña wants tourism which is I like also I want tourism promotion. *Lao, hu hahasso lokkue na este na* conference committee is an obligated to pay the reimbursement of PL 7-31 which we don't have something and Senator Mangloña reallyinsist of the promotion which I agree. *Lao, anai mato gi* committee they had this discussion, but I managed that we are going to have something out of it *na dibi-ta. Pues yanggen guaha* reimbursement how can we have a reimbursement? The reimbursement, *chule'i ya ta apasi dibin mami lokkue Luta*. And there they come up to have a solution that, yes, they agree to pay. *Yanggen* hafa, it takes five-million-dollars *para ta apasi tododo dibi-ta* than the five-million dollars to be appropriate for Rota *ya' enague na kumonfotmi yo'* not necessarily *na tayaya para biahu agree-ha ya' para human suha* half a million-dollars of that. So, I hope Senator Mangloña would understand. Yes, we are going to have something about *i yota* appropriation *na para ta chule'i tati enao. Malago yo'* to put in record *na malago yo' lokkue na huma appasi dibiña i hafa hagagas ha Luta ha didibi* which is *enao na* understanding from the committee. Yes, that's why I agree, *para biahu* agree *estague na* conference committee *ya' malago yo' lokkue huma tungo na uma ayuda Luta sa malago yo' uma ayuda Luta. Hu tungo ha Tinian na* he feels *na megahit debi hu guaha Luta i yoña* and I

know on the Senate side agreed, *man malago para uma na'i Luta* which I accept that. *Lao*, when it comes to the conference committee that is a different story *anai mato gi san papa, lao* I manage to have something *na maila ya' bai'in na'i lakkue debi ha bai'in fañuli' para Luta* which that is where I agree *pues apasi dibin mami gi munisipal ya' bai in fan hagong dididi ya siña salapi mami gi* regular appropriations *siña hafa maas na aktibidat yan hafa na* infrastructure *siña bai'in choggue*. So, that's where I have come to an agreement on that. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Thank you for that explanation because I was looking at the report details. We certainly have to take the time to explain the disposition. Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. Let me try to get a glimpse or may be a clear picture as to House Bill No. 20-102, HD1, SS1, and so it is my understanding that the reimbursement of this fund is relative only to retroactive payments of Public Law 7-31 and these are payments being provided or payments that the local delegations of Tinian and Saipan had spent their local funds to fill this CNMI government obligation, is that correct?

President Palacios: Yes, that is correct.

Senator Santos: And, it is also my standing that the conference committee has that mutual understanding that the First Senatorial District will be reimbursed ones these reimbursements are identified if in fact the First Senatorial used their local funds to reimburse Public Law 7-31 recipients as government obligations, is that correct?

President Palacios: Yes, it is correct.

Senator Santos: And, it is also my understanding that all these reimbursements are only for Public Law 7-31 and not any other reimbursements used by local funding to fill government obligation or will the First Senatorial District be reimbursed when they use their local funds to fulfill other government obligations? Which one? Senator Quitugua, you are the Chairman of the Senate Conference Committee.

Senator Quitugua: Mr. President, obligations of the general fund that was the discussion. And, if you look at the Conference Committee Report on page 4, on the very top continuing paragraph where the word "However" starting on the last sentence, "However the Conferees have agreed that when funds become available, financial assistance will be afforded to the First Senatorial District to reimburse local funds expended to fulfill obligations of the Commonwealth government," so that is the agreement. Mr. President, if at that moment when the conferees were deliberating, if First Senatorial District has readily available the reimbursements listing, we would have accommodated right there the five hundred thousand dollars, but since it was not readily available that is why the committee agreed that the First Senatorial District must come up with their listing at a later date and submit it to the House to be included on any reimbursements that the House will come up with and the House assured us that they will be coming up with another bill. So, I encourage the First Senatorial District Delegation to prepare their listings.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos, does that answers your question?

Senator Santos: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Quitugua, for that. Because I was following the committee report with respect to that provision and so unfortunately, the First Senatorial District was not prepared at the time. But then, nevertheless, the First Senatorial District are going to immediately get together in order for us to identify those local funds that were expended to fulfill the government obligations. So, any subsequent appropriation that are going to be introduced at the House, I appeal to the House to consider those reimbursements that the First Senatorial District used their local funds to satisfy these local obligations. At the same time, also that they adhere to what is written in this committee report and if necessary we may go out to the general public of Rota to explain House Bill No. 20-102, I too, feel the sentiments expressed by Senator Mangloña, but then as I tend to get a clear picture of the purpose and the real intent of this legislation. I hope that Senator Paul Mangloña understands since the beginning that this particular legislation is concentrated only to retroactive Public Law 7-31. If any senatorial districts use its local fund to fulfill that obligation, the First Senatorial District, and I have to admit, never used its local funds to retroactive PL 7-31. Every time we need to retroactive PL 7-31 for our First Senatorial District recipients we take it out from the general appropriation. So, with that Mr. President, I have nothing further. I thank you also for clarifying this and I am ready to adopt this committee report.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Igisomar than the Floor Leader, I would like to ask that we get to the point.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I will get to the point. I believe I have about three, four items here to ask, but I believe I will be concise. There's a section here in the report, Senator Quitugua, *ilelekña gi* the last page, right before the signature line which is page 2, the last sentence of page 2, it states "The conferees are cognizant that through the general appropriations the Commonwealth government has fully paid its obligations under Public Law 7-31 to the people of the First Senatorial District which is Rota." So, Senator Quitugua, in this statement is it saying that Rota has been paid all the PL 7-31?

Senator Quitugua: The answer is "yes" and Senator Santos just mentioned and affirmed it that the obligations under PL 7-31 for the First Senatorial District was all paid out from the general fund.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you. And, I'm asking that question and Mr. President only because I was trying to find out the source and I've read the entire CMC's related to this particular section and of course it is relevant to PL 7-31. And, I'd like to just state that, just as much as Senator Mangloña is very upset that there's nothing going to Rota. I'd like to also reverse and say, I am very upset that Senatorial Districts 2 and 3 took this long to finally get the reimbursements. So, please if you already got your reimbursement through general funds, I think this is time, unfortunately, Senatorial Districts 2 and 3 had been waiting for long time and the funds are available. So, let us not get to hype and upset that Rota did not get any reimbursement for PL 7-31. It is done. *Lao, guaguaha balansia gi Saipan yan Tinian* and this is the opportunity. As far as for future, I believe our Chairman for the Conference Committee have stated with our Vice President, *na* if the reimbursements are quantified and identified we will pay it out accordingly. So, I just wanted to set that clarification that we've taken care of Rota in the past. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you for that re-clarification. I am going to recognize the Floor Leader and we move on to the vote.

Floor Leader Borja: Than you, Mr. President. *Yanggen magahet gi tutuhon maas lalalu yo' lao esta kulan sumuhan ñaihon. Lao, yahu ha na baihu pacha dididi hafa siha si Senator Mangloña ilekña na hungan dinanchi para hu taigih sinentiña. Maseha mano na senatorial district komu un feel lokkue na ti fair i pati simpre-ha dibi di una opan. Ya' eyu gue yo mu'stodba i ha akukusa este na body i pago prisenti na Senate yan kulan man manñaki-hit ha mensiona eyu na makat palabra i ma saki ya duda yo' kao taiguenao ta choggue. I otro, desdi anai humalom yo' guini gi Senate, este talo ni nuebu ni malom yo' sumaonao yo' lokkue man apreba, man ñapota para uma apasi Luta ya' debi na hu appreciative nu este na Senate sa finally ta apasi Luta i yonniha CNMI obligation. Ya' debi hufan magof sa finally ta apasi ya' estague na Senate muna epas todo enao na apas. Guaho biahu faisin gue, kuantos años ni gumaigne gi guini ha bira gue ya' para hu blame este na Senate pago ni gaigi yo. Kuantos años ni Prumisidente, ya hafa nai na ha sedi na taiguini na tiempo ni ti para un apasi taotao Luta, taiguini ha na tiempo ni para hufan mamadesi taotao Luta ni iyonih PL 7-31. Enague yahu baihu faisin gue. Tiempoña guini ya tiha mumuyi ya para umana empas enao chatdik ay pago parahu blame hit ni tiempo ni manma sapit taotao Luta pot i salapi niha PL 7-31. Debi mohon hu appreciative nu este na Senate sa finally ta apasi taotao Luta nu dibin-niha. Este ha, Mr. President. Thank you.*

President Palacios: *Si Yu'us ma'ase.* I will briefly recognize for a brief.

Senator Quitugua: My final comment, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Proceed, Senator Quitugua.

Senator Quitugua: The five hundred thousand dollars was argued by the House conferees because they were arguing that Rota is receiving from MVA for tourism promotion and the five hundred thousand dollars is for tourism promotion. So that is the argument that the House conferees pointed out. They are already receiving, why they want more for tourism promotion which we understand that probably they need more, but if you really look at it, this five hundred thousand dollars, if the conference committee from the House did not object to it, then I believe the winner here is Rota. Because they paid their retroactive pay from PL 7-31, and then they get additional five hundred thousand dollars for not spending anything. So, that's what the House is pointing at. However, the most important thing here, Mr. President, is that the conferees did not close the door on reimbursing the First Senatorial District of any obligations of the central government that they pay from their local funds. If they could only come up the listing of what is they should be reimbursed by covering the general funds from their local funds. And, I hope that again, the First Senatorial District Delegation sits down and come up with that and submitted to the House for consideration. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. I will give courteous to the Vice President.

Senator Mesngon: *Para biahu faisin ha in the event na para ta adopta estaggue, para baihu famaisen ha kao siña hafa baihu faisin ya baihu na clarify i members, especially si Senator Mangloña here, ya hu tungo ha na we want to adopt this this committee report right away, lao, kao*

siña un na'i ham ha tiempo dididi ya' bin fanmato yan i listan mami nu etague, Mr. Chairman, yan Mr. President, kumo siña yan' I want to make sure we are in line here, ya' munga gi finoña ya' hu sentiha hafa sinentinña i Floor Leader pot estagge. It has been long overdue ya i general fund uma apasi or i appropriation uma apasi gi kada i yota appropriation ta apasi i PL 7-31 for the longest time anai man halom hit guini na Legislature and I abide to that, yes. Lao, yanggen siña ta pega este gi calendar ya bai'in fan matto yan i listan mami ya' ta li'i kuantu este ginagao lao baihu famaisin ha pago yanggen man ready kumite esta nu este gue than I have no other avail to delay este yanggen it is really necessarily para ta adopta estagu. I want to satisfy lakkue i yoku delegation na "yes" guaha para Luta. If we come up with the list which the Chairman and I, yan tododdo gi conference committee ma agree na we have to come up. So, we are going to have to get back and get hafa siah dibin mami gi munisipalidad ya bai'in presenta. Pago yangin ti siña ma nahe ham nu enao sa para ta adopta este we are going to have to come up on the other day which is esta gaigi enao gi halom i conference committee report na pare bai'in na halom enague na request para i munisipalidad for reimbursement of payment i hafa dibiña i munisipalidad enao ha, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. It is a procedure role of a conference committee they would finalize and agree to it and submit it to both body of the Legislature it cannot be amended by either of the body it has to be either a go or no go. This is a conference committee and it is presented already through the body and inserted the commitment, so, am I correct on that?

Senator Quitugua: Yes, Mr. President. Once the Conferees signed-off on the conference committee report each house will either vote for it or turn it down. We cannot make any amendments on the bill, if we turned it down then the bill itself, House Bill No. 20-102, HD1, will die. So, I strongly recommend that the Vice President and the rest of the Rota Delegation prepare their reimbursements that justified paying the general government's obligation using their local funds. And at the same time, Mr. President, during the conference committee, it was not limited to the First Senatorial District, it was also mentioned in the conference committee that Tinian and the Third Senatorial District also if they have additional reimbursements that they feel it's an obligation of the general fund is prepared and provided the House members. Because we cannot introduce that kind of bill here in the Senate, it has to go to the House. My recommendation is that the Vice President, First Senatorial District, come up with the listings because the agreement is clear in writing that the First Senatorial District will be reimbursed once they present to the House their listing.

President Palacios: Thank you. Vice President, okay. Ready? Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 12:40 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We're discussing the motion for the adoption of Conference Committee Report No. 20-02, I think we have exhaustively talked about this issue and the member's time accorded to raise their concerns. I think we are ready to vote and the Chair will

certainly exercise his prerogative for the adoption of Conference Committee Report 20-02 relative to House Bill No. 20-102, HD1, SS1. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Absent
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	No
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	No
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, five members voting “yes” two “no” and two “absent.”

President Palacios: With five members voting “yes” two “no” and two “absent,” House Bill No. 20-102, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1, in the form of Conference Committee Substitute 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader, we are down to Resolution Calendar.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-29.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-29 has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are down to Bill Calendar. Floor Leader?

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe the consensus of all the members is to defer action on all the bills appearing on the Calendar until next session.

President Palacios: Thank you. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 12:50 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are going to live all the legislation's, the bills on the Bill Calendar until our next session. We move on to agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-275 to 20-285.

President Palacios: Are there any comments, statements on these communications? There being none. We move on to agenda Item R, Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Palacios: Ready? There being none. Do we have any Announcements?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Palacios: There being no announcements. The Chair now will entertain a motion for adjournment. Floor Leader?

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for adjournment subject to the call. Those in favor of that motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. The Senate hereby stands adjourned subject to the call.

The Senate adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk