
THE SENATE • TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**Senate
FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 2017**

SJ 20-03

2nd Day**Thursday, February 23, 2017**

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on February 17, 2017, 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 2nd Day, First Regular Session, on February 23, 2017, at 1:00 p.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.

President Palacios: Clerk, please call the roll.

The Senate Clerk called the roll, all nine (9) members were present

President Palacios: With all nine (9) members present, we've established a quorum to conduct today's session. We are on Agenda Item B, Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: The floor is now open for any member of the public present here today to make any comment or statement relative to any of the subjects appearing in today's Order of Business. Just let the record reflect that there is no Public Comment.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

President Palacios: We are on Agenda Item C. Clerk?

Clerk: Mr. President we have none.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governor's Messages Nos. 20-23 to 20-26.

President Palacios: Agenda Item D is Messages from the Governor. Any comments? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I was just making an eye contact with you, no comment on any of the messages.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Cruz recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. On Governor's Messages No. 20-24, just to advise the Governor's staffs that are in charge in the appointments of the Governor, to all the appointment letters that are submitted to the Senate to advise the nominee to submit all required documents by the Senate in order for the Committee on Executive Appointment to proceed and expedite the due process of a public hearing followed by the confirmation if the full Senate agrees to confirm that subject now. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. I believe there have been three nominations for various boards' commissions the legal counsel will be communicating with you regarding a formal communication to the Governor's office on this particular matter. This is a recurring issue that we need to call attention to the Governor's Office. Thank you. There being none on Agenda Items E and F. We are down to Agenda Item G, Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communication No. 2-01.

President Palacios: Thank you. Discussion on the communication? Senator Santos recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like the Senate to "Congratulate" Mr. Jose "Joe" C. Ayuyu, for earning the Guam Business Magazine Executive Business of the Year. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments on Agenda Item G? None. We are on Agenda Item H, Communications from the Senate. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communication Nos. 20-25 and 20-26.

President Palacios: Comments? None. We are down to Agenda Item I, there being none; Item J, none.

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: We are on Agenda Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have one pre-filed Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-03, introduced by our good Senator, Senator Paul A. Mangloña.

President Palacios: Senator Mangloña, would you like to introduce your bill?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-03 has been pre-filed and I would just like to formally introduce it in our session today, “to respectfully request the President of the United States, President Trump, to honor the Report on the 902 Consultations that came about as a result of the 902 Talks between the President’s Representative and our Governor.” Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Let me ask the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, to immediately take up this Joint Resolution as well as looking at the 902 Reports that has been formally submitted by the Governor and former OIA Deputy Secretary, Kia’aina that has been submitted to the White House to make sure that things are consistent. If there is no objection, hopefully we can put this Joint Resolution on our next session calendar. Senator Mangloña recognized.

Senator Mangloña: And I welcome if the Committee of the Whole can sponsor it even better outcome. Thank you.

President Palacios: If there is no objection from the members, Senator Mangloña is recommending that this Joint Resolution be sponsored by the Committee of the Whole.

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: Clerk, please take note of that.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, I took note of your message to the committee. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bill and Resolutions, the Chair recognized Senator Igisomar.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Just to inform the members I have pre-filed and would like to formally introduce, Senate Bills Nos. 20-22, 2-23, 20-24 and 20-25, and the Senate Bills respectively is recycled bills from the Nineteenth Legislature; on the DC Plan; Industrial Development Bond; the Immunity for Minors helping ABTC which is Alcohol, Beverages, Tobacco Control; and the Unmanned Drones. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Are there any other bills, resolutions to be introduced by any member? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President, as I mentioned in the last session a bill which I had introduced in the past was introduced last year and passed by both houses requiring that all contractors be licensed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, so today I formally introduced Senate Bill No. 20-26, copies are just being provided now to the members, I respectfully ask if the committee can consider this bill for placement on the next session as this is exactly the same as that one which was passed by the same body last year with the exception of incorporating the concerns by the Acting Governor, yourself, Mr. President when vetoing the bill, so that has been considered by our Legal Counsel Attorney Bermudes in this legislation. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other bills, resolutions or initiatives to be introduced on the floor. Senator Borja recognized.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I just like to request for a recess.

President Palacios: No objection, short recess.

The Senate recessed at 1:30 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Are there any other bills or resolutions to be introduced this afternoon? There being none. I have two legislations; one is Senate Resolution No. 20-02, “to express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the late Honorable Mayor Jerome K. Aldan on his untimely passing and to memorialize his unforgettable contributions to the CNMI and the Northern Islands as we mourn our Beloved Brother and Leader.” If there is no objection, I like to ask that this resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole. No objection. Clerk, please take note of that. And further, Floor Leader I ask that we place this on today’s Order of Business when we get to the Resolution Calendar.

Floor Leader Borja: I will do so.

President Palacios: Thank you. I would also like to introduce Senate Bill No. 20-27, “A Bill for an Act to improve the developer infrastructure tax program by amending 4 CMC §§ 1932, 1935, 1936(a), 1939(a) and 1941; and for other purposes.” And I ask members to co-sponsor this legislation. Thank you. We are done with Agenda Item L. We’re down to Agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees. Clerk?

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Clerk: We have none, Mr. President.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

President Palacios: Reports of Special/Conference Committees. Clerk?

Clerk: We have none, Mr. President.

President Palacios: We are down to Resolution Calendar, Agenda Item O.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to suspend pertinent Rules to amend our Agenda for today to include Senate Resolution No. 20-02 in today’s Resolution Calendar.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made to suspend pertinent Rules in order to place Senate Resolution No. 20-02 on today’s Resolution Calendar and the motion has been seconded. Discussion? There being none. Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion please say, “Aye”. Opposed say, “Nay”.

All members voiced “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I now move for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-01, “authorizing the Marianas Visitor’s Authority to set a new compensation and wage salary scale for its employees pursuant to 4 CMC § 2124(g).”

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made to adopt Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-01, it has been seconded, discussion? Recognize, Senator Santos.

Senator Santos: Just a question, I wanted to make sure whether or not this Senate Joint Resolution has been introduced as a whole, if it is then I yield, if not then I would kindly ask to be authors, I understand it was authored by Senator Hofschneider and Vice President, if it's not being introduced as a whole then if there's no objection by the author and co-author if this can be introduced as a whole. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider and Senator Mesngon, do you have any objection to having this introduce as a whole?

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: Clerk, please have it reflected that this Joint Resolution is introduced by the Committee of the Whole. I now recognize Senator Hofschneider to give us some points on the Joint Resolution.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I want to thank the members for co-sponsoring this as a Committee of the Whole. This Senate Joint Resolution was actually adopted in the Senate in the Nineteenth Legislature but it failed to muster enough action in the House. So like what Senator Igisomar is saying, it is a recycled resolution or bill that will make its way through the Legislature. It is a requirement, Mr. President and members, established by Public Law 11-15 and I'm referring to line 8, on page 1, it says, "WHEREAS, Public Law 11-15, the establishing law for the Marianas Visitor's Authority, grants the MVA the Authority to set its own compensation scales with the approval of the Legislature by joint resolution. As codified in 4 CMC §2124(g) which is stated as follows:" so you can read along. But basically this would enable MVA to make the necessary adjustment on their wage scale which currently it's not consistent with the Federal Minimum Wage and also to be in compliance with the recent passage of government agencies new salary scale. I appreciate the members support. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Quitugua recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, it would be really helpful for public record and for those community members and other leaders that would like to see the actual new salary schedule established by MVA together with this resolution. Yes, this resolution is authorizing MVA to adopt its own salary compensation schedule and at the same time the statute is saying that it must be approved by the Legislature by a joint resolution, so having the new salary schedule from MVA absent as an appendix to this resolution it will be not so clear to the public and probably to the House members who will be receiving this resolution also. If our good Senator has a copy of the new salary schedule. I recommend that it be attached to this resolution when it goes down to the House.

President Palacios: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:10 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Before we went on recess there's question on the availability of the schedule of the salary proposal for MVA on Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-01. I believe the copy of the proposed wage schedule has been provided to all the members. Senator Quitugua you still had the floor.

Senator Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this needs to be updated. The numbers probably will remain the same but the heading should be updated, because one, this is not a House Local Bill, it is a House Bill and it is now Public Law so that the record will reflect the most current information on the salary schedule.

President Palacios: Thank you. The Chair has taken the liberty to ensure that the Clerk stamp the attachment noting today's date and that would be pass to everybody. I would then ask the author of the Joint Resolution to please ensure that an updated copy of the schedule is provided by MVA to the Senate. Is that noted?

Senator Hofschneider: So noted.

President Palacios: Thank you. Is there any more discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-01 please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay".

All members voiced "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries this Joint Resolution is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-02, "to express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the late Honorable Mayor Jerome K. Aldan on his untimely passing and to memorialize his unforgettable contributions to the CNMI and the Northern Islands as we mourn our Beloved Brother and Leader." Thank you, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-02, it has been seconded. Discussion? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I would like to state that, I fully, of course signed this resolution and I truly, thank you, for taking the imitative to put this together at such a short time. I'm honored and hoping that of course we adopt this resolution for the CNMI has lost a great son, a great leader for the CNMI and most especially for the Northern Islands. We all know the

late “Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan”, he fought for the CNMI most especially against any form of militarization for the Northern Islands without a formal approved discussion with the Northern Islanders. I am much honored as well to have been a part of this resolution Mr. President, and thank you for really putting this together on our behalves. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 20-02, please say, “Aye”. Opposed say, “Nay”.

All members voiced “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries Senate Resolution No. 20-02 is hereby adopted. We are now down to Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President I move to suspend Rule 7, Section 10 on the eight days’ requirement for withdrawal of bills and resolutions in order to withdraw certain bills on today’s session.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made to suspend certain rules relative to our eight days’ rule on withdrawal of bills from committee, it has been seconded. Discussion? No discussion. Let me clarify, legal counsel do we take a roll call or just a voice vote? – Clerk, roll call.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” that motion is hereby approved. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to withdraw Senate Bill No. 20-16 from the Committee on REDP and place it on today's Bill Calendar for action.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made to withdraw from the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs and it has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay".

All members voiced "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Senate Bill No. 20-16 is hereby withdrawn from the Committee and placed on today's Calendar. I now recognize Senator Mesngon for withdrawal of two legislations in his Committee.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. Under Final Reading of Senate Bill Nos. 20-12 and 20-14, I move to withdraw from the Committee and place it on the calendar for today's action, so move Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made to withdraw Senate Bill Nos. 20-12 and 20-14 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, it's been seconded. Discussion on the motion, Senator Mesngon recognized.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. Senate Bill Nos. 20-12 and 20-14 actually these are recycled bills, just for member's information, we did have these on the Nineteenth Legislature but apparently we don't muster most on the House side and the author re-introduced it, but it is the same intent of bills we did passed these in the Nineteenth Legislature and just to inform the Committee they are the same bills, Senate Bill Nos. 20-12 and 20-14. With this, just to clarify that it is on the Calendar for today's action. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment? The Chair will make certain comments at the end of our session regarding withdrawals of legislation but the motion on the floor is for withdrawal of Senate Bill Nos. 20-12 and 20-14, it has been seconded we are voting on it. Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay".

All members voiced "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries Senate Bill Nos. 20-12 and 20-14 are hereby withdrawn from the Committee on JGL and it's placed on today's Calendar for action. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-16.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made to pass Senate Bill No. 20-16 on Final Reading it's been seconded, discussion on the motion? Recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I have an Amendment to Senate Bill No. 20-16 I hereby submit for adoption.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: There's a motion on the floor for the Amendment on Senate Bill No. 20-16, in the form of Senate Draft 1, submitted by Senator Hofschneider, and it's been seconded. Discussion? Does everybody have a copy of Senate Draft 1?

Senator Hofschneider: Everybody should have.

President Palacios: Discussion? Senator Hofschneider, could you provide members with the Amendments on the legislation?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. The Amendment that was made is in the form of Senate Draft 1, is underlined twice, and I want to ask the attention of the members to go to page 3 on line 20, it should read, "the Port of Saipan, Port of Tinian/Tinian Harbor excluding the Marina and Rota West Harbor excluding the Marina."

President Palacios: Are all the members clear on the amendment? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, and on page 4 line 17, "for purposes of permitting and construction by federal or local agencies as to activities, operations and facilities within the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, this definition shall specifically apply.", so move Mr. President.

President Palacios: Everybody's clear with the actual Amendments as proposed? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: I just want to ask the Chairman, for Rota can they just leave it the way it is "Rota West Harbor" I don't understand the need to say "excluding the Marina", that is part of CPA.

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: I can answer that. Yesterday when we had the REDP meeting some of the members raised concerns that the Rota Harbor is currently being administered or regulated by DPA excludes certain portion there that is the Marina where the small boats being dock, and that is being regulated by DLNR and that is clarified by the Executive Director of CPA during the call to clarify this particular issue. And perhaps, Vice President can clarify more on this matter since this is really your request.

President Palacios: Senator Mangloña I'm going to recognize Senator Mesngon. Go ahead recognize Senator Mesngon.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, Senator Mangloña, we called the Director of CPA to clarify the boundaries of Rota West Harbor the impression also that the West Harbor is consists of even the small marina that's how I intended. But apparently when we request the CPA Director the perimeter where their jurisdiction is the fencing part and it is not regulated under their jurisdiction the marina. I was actually questioning also and telling the Chairman that we have to take a look at that because it's been under the Department of Land and Natural Resources under Fisheries Program. It was clarified yesterday that they are not in that part of re-enforcing that part of the marina so we intended to put that line to clarify that it is not included in CPA's jurisdiction the marina it is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) in Rota. That is the reason why we kind a have that clarification yesterday. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Let me add just a little bit if you don't mind Senator Mangloña. When we build the marina and made the marina with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources through a memorandum agreement with the Commonwealth Ports Authority singed-off an agreement because the funding source which is port fish restoration to build that marina required certain conditions that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Rota Division of Fish and Wildlife would have certain control over that for a certain period of time. So that's probably the main reason why that had to be delineated because of the previous agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife service, perhaps that was the reason.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. I think that we can say the same thing with CUC power plant station that actually belongs to the Ports Authority. It is just a matter of allowing CUC in the future when they expand to eventually find another site but that's actually CPA's property. Likewise, the marina is actually CPA's property and we have a plan to improve the whole area and if it means taking over the marina I think the priority should be the commercial port site of the Ports Authority's function that needs to come as a priority and by doing this we might inadvertently be making a legal decision here to remove that away from CPA's jurisdiction. That is my concern, as well as, there is a need for CPA to somehow make that part of their operation because right now there are vessels that are bringing in cargos from Guam and Saipan and they continue to use that facility because that is the safest area and practical area to off-load. And if we say that we're excluding the marina here maybe Antonette can explain the legal effect of that, it would mean that now even small vessels coming in from Guam cannot go that part of the facility because now CPA will be saying we don't have any jurisdiction we want you to go somewhere else not the marina site. I don't want to tell our small boat owners that this is actually a controversial issue and if this is meant to help Tinian can we just stick to that part defining to assist Tinian and leave this the way it is since it's not broken and we'll come to that when we get there. I just don't want to inadvertently make a legal definition here that would hurt one way or the other the small boat owners or the design of our seaport if it needs a bigger space there to incorporate the plan. That is my real concern, Mr. President.

President Palacios: I note that, but if there is no objection could I just engage a little bit in the discussion because as a Presiding Office, I'm not supposed to. This is not a debate, but I think the intent and correct me if I'm wrong, Senator Hofschneider is to authorize the Ports Authority to define ports related activities that is the underlining purpose of your legislation, and certainly, a small boat marina within the ports jurisdiction naturally falls within that definition.

Senator Mangloña: It is just that, Mr. President the way it's written it's saying, "this include but are not limited to" once you specifically say "excluding the marina" you are actually removing the marina because the language prior to that is saying, "this includes but are not limited to" and then you're saying "excluding" so you are already making that determination.

President Palacios: Let us just take a short recess so the legal counsel can provide some guidance here. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:20 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:21 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back from our recess. Senator Hofschneider when we went on recess you offered an Amendment to Senate Bill No. 20-16 in the form of Senate Draft 1, and I believe during our recess we've discussed this extensively and we've come up with certain language to further amend, so you have the floor.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President, with that, I move to withdraw my motion to amend Senate Bill No. 20-16.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: And are you going to offer --

Senator Hofschneider: And I offer an Amendment to further amend Senate Bill No. 20-16, and ask the attention of the members to reflect on page 1 line 12, after the word, "updated" add the following: "to reflect the proper names of the ports of the CNMI. Moreover, the Legislature finds that the Rota West Harbor includes a marina that is currently managed by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) under a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the CPA and DLNR in order to receive federal funds and to maintain the marina at the Rota West Harbor. It is the intent of the Legislature that the MOA be honored by CPA until its expiration to ensure the funding and maintenance of the marina." Furthermore, Mr. President, I want to ask the members attention on page 4 under line 17 --

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider page 3 the amendments that you've offered on this previously do those remain intact or no?

Senator Hofschneider: No, that's been withdrawn, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Okay, we are on page 4.

Senator Hofschneider: So now I ask the members to refer to page 4 on line 17, should read, "For purposes of permitting and construction by federal or local agencies as to activities, operations and facilities within the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, this definition shall specifically apply.", and I so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made to amend Senate Bill No. 20-16 offered by Senator Hofschneider, has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll on the amendments.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President all nine (9) members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With nine members voting "yes" the Amendments offered by Senator Hofschneider are hereby adopted. We are back to the main motion for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-16 in the form of Senate Draft 1. Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Under discussion, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Under discussion.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to do a very short summary of the origin of this bill. Basically there's two parts to this bill, one is to grant authority to Commonwealth Ports Authority to further define what port related activities is, and to also further define the activities that can be allowed within the ports of the CNMI as indicated in Section 2. As many of us know, there has been a different sorts and interest in the CNMI over the last five to ten years where there are some developers that have invested substantial amount of money and to develop certain areas within the port within the CNMI and they ran into some questionable definition that perhaps may not have them progress forth with what needed documents to progress forth with their projects.

One of the significant aspect of this is the definition of port related as indicated in the bill, also industrial port use, port related operation that we wanted to include in this legislation to include ferry boat operation and anything that is attached to the ferry boat operation be it be amusement park, hotels, casino facility and etc., so these are just the examples that I'm pointing out Mr. President that this legislation is calling for. And again, the main subject to this legislation is to grant that set authority to the Commonwealth Ports Authority as well as defining the legitimate public purpose related to their agencies mandate. So with that, I am ready for the question, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any further comments? If there is no objection I just like to say a few comments and perhaps with giving the authority to port authority to redefine certain definitions of uses, what is port related activities would that be consistent with what the permitting agencies definition be and because it is my understanding that this whole issue arose from the CRM's definition of what is port related activities and that it can put a damper on the major siting permit for the project down in Tinian. I am just wondering, I understand that the Administrative for BECQ was present yesterday was that post to him and was it resolve? Go ahead Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Short answer, Mr. President is, yes. It suffices and it accomplishes the concerns.

President Palacios: Let me ask the Chairman because I remember it was the Chairman's show. So, Mr. Rabauliman would accept this authority that -- Chairman Borja, do you want to add to --?

Floor Leader Borja: Can you repeat the question Mr. President?

President Palacios: Because this legislation becomes necessary so that we can give authority to CPA to define or redefine what is port related activities that was precipitated by the regulatory agency CRM they were very reluctant. It is my understanding that they have formally set according to the definition what is port related activities they cannot move forward with the major citing permit of the project down in the port of Tinian. So my question is, was this legislation reviewed by CRM and would it suffice and can they now move forward with the major citing permit?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. During the Committee Meeting yesterday, the administrator was present and according to him this bill will resolve the concern. I guess this will allow the project to move forward if this become law. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. That was short. Ready, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-16, Senate Draft 1. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes

Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine voting “yes” for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-16, Senate Draft 1, now passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I now move for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-12 on Final Reading.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-12 and has been seconded, discussion? Senator Santos recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I like to yield to our good Chairman Igisomar then i can be recognized.

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I am highly favorable to this bill and I’m hoping if I may ask the author if, on his amendment Section 3 of the bill, Section 3, line 20 which is on page 3, an area was stricken out, one possible way whereby DPL can waive development on homestead is if a resident is able to discuss and explain, justify to DPL that they’ve at least spent ten thousand dollars on the property, that is stricken out on this amendment. And I am wondering if the author may allow that particular line to be return back in so as to give opportunity to the homesteaders to be able to aside from just receiving a decline permit from DPW that the original reasoning can also be used as a justification for them to receive their deed on their property. That is the question I’m asking and requesting our author if that is okay to leave that in there and if necessary if the council can look at that on page 3, lines 20 to 21 to see if we can return the stricken line back and just add the authors amendment if it’s okay with the author. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President and thank you Chairman Igisomar for your concern. Actually we’ve discussed this with the counsel in regards to that language. In the beginning I’ve asked if it is not necessary to put that in the bill because the history of the bill has come a long way and it is in the bill. The reason why I came up with this legislation is because the inaction of DPL when they have the raffle down in Tinian and I believe in 2009, and the homesteaders the first time youngsters that applied for homestead, they are excited to have their lot pull during that day. After that there is no action by DPL whether or not they can come in and develop their land but it took

them from 2009 to 2014 and when they decided to release the permit to enter to develop and follow all DPL requirements to build a structure for their home but then BECQ came in and say they cannot proceed with any structure as in sewer and water in that area because DPL does not require any of those Chamorro type restroom that has no water. Again, when you look at that the rising of commodities in each year giving those applicants hardship because every year materials keep rising and living homesteaders waiting for DPL to allow them to build a house but instead only allow them to just clean their lot without building a structure and the purpose of the homestead is to build a structure and start a family. This is pretty much the reason why all those reasons behind this bill is to help the homesteaders get their lot and waive the requirements because up till at this time they haven't rectify the matter to continue building their house. I think with the language to justify each individual a minimum of ten thousand dollars is not necessary to put in this amendment other than the history that I've just stated. Chairman Igisomar, I think those that I've mentioned is justify enough to turn out to pass this legislation if there is no objection from the members. I think it is the responsibility of DPL before they even decide to have individuals pull lot they have to have infrastructure emplace before having them pull a lot and I think we shouldn't burden the homesteaders to spend a minimum of ten thousand dollars. As of this time DPL Secretary is also imposing a regulation not to allow a power of attorney and some of our new generations have left the island either to go to school or join military and they have to have someone to carry on the responsibility otherwise if they don't comply with what is stated in the DPL permit their lot will be taken away by DPL. With that I ask for your understanding in supporting this bill and not to include that minimum ten thousand dollars. Thank you.

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. In that case, I guess I do understand now that that is a limitation and I'll agree with the stricken lines on 20 and 21. But if I may ask now to the author to make an amendment on line 22 towards the end, currently it says, "that the homesteader continues to maintain the assigned lot in conformance with the DPL requirements", right after that "requirements" to support an amendment to put a "," and put "or" instead of "and", "or upon the homesteader providing to the department that the building permit required under 2 CMC § 7131 is denied because the homestead area lacks water, power, or sewage system infrastructure." I am saying that because right now it does look like if we stick to this language, Chairman, everybody there must get a building code declination but if we put a "," and then put an "or" and remove the "and" it will give them two choices, that I continue to take care of this homestead or if I show you a building code declination it is mine. Is that okay Chairman?

President Palacios: Can you make that motion then?

Senator Igisomar: I like to make a motion, Mr. President and Floor Leader, on line 22, right after the word "requirements" we put a "," followed by "or" and then we strike out "and", and that is the motion.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion on the floor offered by Senator Igisomar and it's been seconded. Discussion on the motion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to adopt the amendment offered by Senator Igisomar, please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay".

All members voiced "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Any further discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: I just want to ask because in the findings they mentioned here open Finafa homestead, maybe Senator Santos included this amendment in a prior discussion but does not mean because they pull a lot in Finafa and the government has yet to put infrastructure emplace that then several years have passed that they can then get the lot immediately?

President Palacios: Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: I think with all those that are given opportunity to pull and like I said the action of DPL for providing them the lot and not having them build a dwelling because the absence of infrastructure. I think, like for example, Tinian in 2014, they're only asking to clean their lot but they're not allowed to build a dwelling because of the BECQ's concern I think that is similar to Rota homestead and be treated the same.

President Palacios: Senator Santos recognized.

Senator Santos: INAUDIBLE [MIC NOT ON]

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe on the question if I may on Senator Paul Mangloña, is answered above on Section 2, which gives time lines for our Public Lands that they must issue the deed of conveyance. First they must be allowed to enter so there is a process where you must be allowing first to enter and within three years of entry and you follow the regulations with respect to maintaining your homestead property that they have two years to give you the deed so there's about five years waiting time. Also I hope that the department, this subsection 4308 would answer the question of Senator Paul Mangloña. And if there's other reason why, which I believe why Senator Cruz came up with this bill is I am sure there are other issues within the DPL and I hope that they take care of them and just follow the laws and regulations and if they need enhancement they come check us if they need further enhancement. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Cruz for the last time.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, yes the DPL regulation once they issue the permit to enter it takes three years to comply with all the requirements and then after that they give you the deed of compliance and then after ten years you get the title. But with these cases it's already almost ten years and they're still cleaning their lot and not able to build a dwelling so this is pretty much why I came up with this legislation is to assist these homesteader and not for DPL to take back their

lot because they also impose a policy that power of attorney is not authorized anymore according to the legal advice of their counsel and I think that is very unfair for them to impose that because some of these youngsters left the island to either further their education or join the military. I think it is enough justification in this bill to allow DPL to waive those requirements and issue a deed of compliance because this homesteader's been cleaning their lot quite a while already so I guess DPL should be remindful next time not to start having applicants pull lot without the infrastructures emplace so this won't happen again. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any further question? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: My only concern, Mr. President is, I am supporting this bill but I think the core of the problem is DPL. I mentioned Finafa, they've put up a lot of money to survey the site actually did some few surveying but they never actually put in the roads and what have you in Finafa. It seems like once the homesteaders have picked a number they just drop the whole project and that this not the intent of the Legislature to give them false hopes. We are supposed to be given them a lot so they can build a safe and sanitary home so they can start a family and obviously, we are doing this because they have been negligent or have felt to work with the Legislature so they can identify funding to make this subdivision possible so they can build their home. If I were a homesteader and they were to give me a lot at Dugi what I'll do at Dugi if there is no road, no water or whatever, and I would rather also see that we call them in and say, what is the plan, so we can work tougher and put in the roads, water and power. I am just afraid that we might just be giving out lands away without the intent of really helping these young people build a home and then we might have a subdivision that have two houses here, one mile down another three, and another mile to the left another two houses scattered and then we are being obligated again to build a school, put a police substation, all of these and it just compounds our obligation. I'm going to support this but I wish we can have a day with DPL just to talk about homesteads and to follow up what are their plans so we can sit down maybe with MPLT this is the proper time to actually sit down with them and talk about infrastructure. *Ennao-ha*, thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Ready for the question? Before we do this let me comment just very shortly, we had a legislative initiative that will resolve that issue unfortunately that initiative was never pass in the House so was that initiative Senator Hofschneider – he's knotting yes – I would hope that to make a long term solution to this infrastructure issues and the vicious catch twenty-two cycle that are subjected to homesteaders that we move with that initiative and re-introduce it so we can see what we can do to move it forward. Let me recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, just quickly and again, it all boils back to Public Lands Homestead, in the Constitution it actually mandates them to administer or manage the public land lease plus homestead programs. What's interesting is that when they came up with the Rules and Regulations then, former Public Lands Corporation, they went all the way from allowing for homestead development survey, access road but they stop short at a minimum access of power and water and they went on to do a three year provision so if you want to make the program whole, you want to assist the program itself, the program recipients by making the needed at least the minimum infrastructure available and with all due respect to the ruling that was made then we never, probably

the judge that time that came up with that decision did not anticipate this program under the public lands to survive to this day for thirty, forty years and here we are today talking about all these lack of consistency in the fundamental policies of public land's responsibilities. That is the compelling reason why I went ahead and introduced the lengthy legislation the inclusion of power, water and sewer, I want to say sewer carefully there because it is also a substantial amount of money, but also putting in a provision in there that the Legislature shall appropriate everything in anything that has to do with homestead development and all it is, is to include power and water as part of the homestead development program so that is the intent of that particular legislation initiative. Furthermore, fast forward to today, the legislative findings of this and I want to point out the particular issue whereby the very agency again that supposed to be supporting from holding this program failed back in 2009 when it unilaterally just went out I don't know if it's for political reason and I remember the secretary back then, Secretary John Del Rosario, he was the one manage this. It was the Secretary of Public Lands when issued these permits out they just make everybody pick almost like three hundred some people, pick without actually having subdivide the plots. That is total negligent of what really is the intent of the homestead program. So in essence from the get go, it was a mistake they shouldn't have done, they shouldn't have given false hopes, but as policy makes and as the representatives of our people we shouldn't stop advocating on this homestead program we just have to make the agency do it right. That is why we are here, Mr. President and I am going to re-introduce that if need be, the legislative initiative and I ask everybody to chime in on it and maybe co-sponsor that so we can push it early, Mr. President so we can finally put to rest this issue.

President Palacios: Introduce a Legislative Initiative and put it to rest.

Senator Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

President Palacios: Senator Santos you will be the last comment.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. Actually this is not a comment I just like to offer a subsidiary motion, again, because we currently have two homesteads subdivisions on Rota that is Finafa and Dugi without any infrastructure and so for that reason, I would like to offer a subsidiary motion to amend on page 2, line 25, to read "in Finafa and Dugi Rota" I want Dugi also to be included here. Thank you, Mr. President, so move.

President Palacios: Senator Santos has offered an amendment do I hear a second to the motion?

Senator Cruz: Can you clarify that one more time?

President Palacios: Clarify.

Senator Santos: Yes, to amend on page 2, line 25, to read "homestead development in Finafa and Dugi Rota." Again, because Dugi --

Senator Mangloña: But Dugi is already mentioned Senator Santos on line 22.

President Palacios: Yes, it is. *Esta gaige-ha.*

Senator Santos: So it's consistent alright, I withdraw the motion. Thank you, Senator Mangloña.

President Palacios: Thank you. We're on the main motion, ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-12, as amended.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President all nine (9) members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With nine members voting "yes" Senate Bill No. 20-12 as amended hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-14, "to amend 6 CMC §2253, to limit the number of shooting gallery and shooting range; amend section 2256(a)(10), shooting gallery and shooting range operation time; and for other purposes."

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-14, it's been seconded. Discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. You know whenever voting for something like this where you're limiting it to one, I just want to make sure that I am comfortable that we're doing the right thing. Right now on Saipan for example, there's one shooting gallery license and so what we're saying is that that shooting gallery we're giving them a lifetime license, right? Because if they continue to renew every year and they're the only ones, how is it that one day we see the opportunity that since they have the monopoly on the shooting gallery that then we can maximize the benefit to the government. I don't want to be accused of – I mean this goes back to the poker industry, it reminds me of those days where they've been trying to open it up so that other people can have the opportunity to come into the business but it was shut down and they limited to so many licenses. I am saying, did the Committee look into that and say that, this license every five years have to be put on a competitive basis so that we just don't blindly now give the existing company a license forever

they keep renewing. Is there a language in here that says that every five years it should be done on a competitive basis?

President Palacios: Let me ask the author to explain, Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Since I'm the author again on this bill, this bill was passed in the Nineteenth Legislature and with the same legislators I understand your concern Senator Paul Mangloña, I believe this is not a matter of monopoly issue it is the matter of safety of the community. I believe the revenue on that shooting range versus the life of our people is priceless and there's a history also of the shooting range here in Kannat Tabla, as a result of that mismanage there's a fatality in that area so that is the reason why I came up with this legislation. There's a concern in the community that came to my attention that we shouldn't be allowing shooting range in the Commonwealth but because that is impossible to not have a shooting range here in the Commonwealth so I came up with an idea of limiting. Because I did ask the Commissioner of Public Safety whether they can be able to regulate and manage shooting range with their lack of resources and understaff they're not able to monitor if there will be a lot of shooting range here in the Commonwealth. I understand also the concern of the Attorney General in regards to the seconded amendment of the rights to be armed, but as I mentioned to some of the member so the house what's that got to do with the seconded amendment of the rights to be armed when it is not a form of firearm it is only an establishment. Because they came out with an opinion it might infringe or limited number insufficient shooting range to accommodate the people of Saipan with two shooting ranges but this is one Commonwealth. If you compare the State of California per capita and you compare how many shooting range I believe with two shooting ranges here in Saipan, there's more shooting range than in the State of California.

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President just a point of information, I think with all due respect to the Chairman, we're not debating the necessity of one I totally agree with one. The question I'm asking is, just like in the cockfighting license, we only have one cockfighting business but we have a time frame like you bid out the license so that it's competitive everyone gets a chance, and I understand the safety part and that is why we just limited to one. My concern is only that since we're giving one license only did the Committee incorporate a provision that every license shall be – I know the investment may not be insignificant it might be a lot, it might be ten years or what have you but my point only is, I agree with one but how do we give out the one, do we have a competitive bidding where you announce that on this day whoever wants to be issued this license what you going to offer us and how you going to evaluate your safety procedures, how you're going to – you know all the regulation requirements how are you going to comply with that? That is just my question and I am saying that did the Committee take that into account? Because whenever you just give one license then people are going to say but I have a better proposal for that I'm going to even put ten million dollars to that kind of business. The other business that has been there may be only has two hundred thousand dollars' operation and this one guy might have a big idea once the opportunity later on, I am just saying could that be something we did with the cockfight make it a ten years' license, a five years' license and then just limited to one. That is all, thank you.

President Palacios: Perhaps on page 3, what I'm reading here is that it does provides for promulgated regulation, had to promulgate regulation and even selection like criteria. So maybe

within the context of that part of the bill it gives a flexibility of the Department of Public Safety to promulgate those regulations and how it can and will select permits, I am not sure but it's the way I'm reading it. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. And again, if I may ask the author to just hear me out on this, yes, of course I supported this bill and I still support. I think bringing light to something I just realize which I felt to see the last time maybe I just ask the author this question. Senator Cruz did your intent that the license if issued is only one location for each license?

Senator Cruz: Chairman Igisomar that is the question that I ask the legal counsel, Mr. Joe Bermudes, because this is a shooting gallery and I ask whether can be apply similar to the issues of license, that there's one license but three facilities and according to him, it's only one license one facility.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Senator Cruz. I think I like to recommend an amendment Senator Cruz, I do not doubt the counsel, but a license means a license. As you may notice right now we have entities that had one license but multiple locations, I don't need to name who they are, but there is a license with multiple locations. For example, on line 4 page 2, "one shooting gallery license" could be one license and I can have multiple galleries or a shooting range license and I can end up with multiple shooting ranges actual locations. I was hoping that we can amend this to make it very clear if that is your intention. For example, line 13, is struck-out "a separate shooting gallery license or shooting range license shall be required." I'd like to for example, if look at this to be line with your intention "a separate shooting gallery license or shooting range license shall be required." Then a sentence to be added "The locations maybe separate or combined but limited to only once location."

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar, I think you work expeditiously to get to the crux of what you're trying to do. Should we take a two-minute recess and come up with the amendment and offer the amendment then we can entertain it? Senator Cruz before we go on recess. Chair would take a two-minute recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:40 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left off on discussion deliberating on Senate Bill No. 20-14 and the main motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-14. Is there any more discussion? Senator Quitugua?

Senator Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. Just for clarification and for the record, Mr. President, this legislation was withdrawn at the beginning of this session from the Committee. Because Senator Mangloña made comments few times whether the Committee had review this and

that, I would like to clarify that the Committee never review this legislation because initially during this session it was withdrawn from the Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any more comments, discussions? Ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President eight (8) members voting “yes” and one abstention.

President Palacios: With eight members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-14, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, no more bills under Bill Calendar.

President Palacios: We move on to Agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Misc. Comm. Nos. 20-16 to 20-20.

President Palacios: Comments? Senator Hofschneider recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Just quickly referring to Miscellaneous Communication 20-16 addressed to the Chairman, Standing Committee on Health and Welfare reference to some revolving fund line of credit, just a clarity Chairman, since you’re the one that actually met with these guys, what really are they asking.

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Senator. I believe I read that and did mention in our last session that I received a communication that I’ll be sharing it. Yes, you answer the question I asked myself when I received that letter because the letter gave us details, information with respect to the transaction

between MPLT and CHCC and the letter requested for our assistance but what the letter failed to clarify is, what exactly are they asking what type of assistance so that is not clear yet Senator for your information. Whether they are asking us to give them money to pay MPLT or to give them with some form of programs to assist them with their expenses and their revenues that is unclear at the moment. Thank you.

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider you still had the floor.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you. I guess we have to also take this up jointly since we are in the budget season or maybe sooner we can take it up and really get more detail information as far as what really they're asking.

President Palacios: The Chair will exercise its prerogative and assign the two respective Chairmen to call in CEO of CHCC to provide for clarification specifically what type of action and you might want to include the Chairmen of the respective Committees in the House alert them to this and see what we can do to find out more information on what type of action we need to do. Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: It's just in plain reading there, actually they're asking for funding to appropriate three million dollars that is the way it's written.

President Palacios: I think that needs more clarity than just that and what is this is this a line of credit we got from MPLT so then going forward how we going to do this. But certainly the Senate will entertain any appropriate action we need to take but I asked the two respective Chairs look into this and report back on our next session.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you.

President Palacios: Any other comments on any of the miscellaneous communications? On Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-20, can we take note on that, I remember we had that legislative summit with MVA and I think that is the same, please note that and schedule it to be all present. Any other comment on Agenda Item Q. None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Palacios: We are on Miscellaneous Business. Senator Santos recognized.

Senator Santos: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I would like to congratulate the Saipan Southern High School and Dr. Rita H. Inos High School for successfully defending their titles during the CNMI multiple schools JROTC Drill Meet which took place sometimes last Saturday. Well, the Southern High School won the overall award for arm category, Dr. Rita Inos High School won the overall unarmed category and with this they will be representing again the CNMI International Drill Meet at the Golden Bears Entrance in California in April. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Other members want to make any miscellaneous statement. None. We are down to Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Palacios: The Chair recognizes Senator Quitugua.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President during our last session on February 15, 2017, you tasked me to look into scheduling the Latte Training Academy relative to Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-15, to meet and do a presentation with the Senate so this is to inform you and the members that a presentation has been confirmed with the Latte Training Academy to happen on March 22, 2017, and this is during our Senate Session. Also, Mr. President announcement for the members of Education and Youth Affairs Committee that Committee Meetings and Public Hearings has been scheduled and probably a copy is already on your desk by the time we leave the session, on March 09, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. The Committee Meeting and Public Hearing is scheduled for Rota in the Mayor's Conference Room, and then on March 23, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., the Committee Meeting and Public Hearing is scheduled for here in Saipan in this Chamber. And then on March 28, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., is scheduled for Tinian at the Court House, to discuss and public hear Senate Bill Nos. 20-03, 20-15, and 20-21, these are the bills that were referred to this Committee. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any more announcements? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. Similarly, you did ask for me during the last Senate session to look into the request from the Special Assistant of Substance Abuse under Governor's Office, currently and tentatively the date have been scheduled for next week, Wednesday, March 01, at 9:00 a.m. for the Senators to meet up at the Marpi area for the Rehab Center. If there is any change, I'll let you know by tomorrow or Monday. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you.

Senator Igisomar: March 01, is a Wednesday. Thank you.

President Palacios: Clerk, can I request that you take those schedules and just email everybody as reminders. In regards to the Latte Training Academy I'm not sure what we can do to insert that into our Agenda Calendar for that session. Any more announcements? Let me just remind you that next Monday, I believe everybody receive their memo on the State Funeral for the Late Mayor Jerome Aldan, please observe the Dress Code for that day and we will be there ten to fifteen minutes prior to the nine o'clock official ceremonies.

ADJOURNMENT

President Palacios: Floor Lead motion for adjournment, please.

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

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is to adjourn subject to the call, it's been seconded. Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay".

All members voiced "Aye."

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

The Senate adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk