

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



Senate  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 2017

SJ 20-06

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 Fifth Day

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 Wednesday, March 29, 2017
 

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In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on March 23, 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](http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp).

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its 5<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session, on March 29, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., in Tinian Courthouse, San Jose, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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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 nine (9) members present, the Senate hereby establishes a quorum to conduct today's session. We go to item Agenda B, Public Comments.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**President Palacios:** The Chair now invites any member of the public present here today who wants to speak specifically on any agenda item appearing on today's calendar, the floor is now open. Please step up to the podium and state your name and state the subject you're going to speaking on. Thank you. Any member in the public wants to speak? Let the record reflect that there is no public comment this morning. Agenda Item C.

### READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNALS

None

**President Palacios**: There being no journal. We move to item Agenda D, Messages from the Governor.

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The Clerk voiced Governor's Message Nos. 20-32 and 20-33.

**President Palacios**: Thank you, Clerk. Member who wants to make any comments or statements, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider**: Thank you, Mr. President. If I am not out of order, Mr. President, my comment specifically to convey message from the Honorable Mayor San Nicolas if this is the time?

**President Palacios**: The Chair will allow it, please proceed.

**Senator Hofschneider**: Thank you, Mr. President. The Mayor wishes for me to convey on behalf in welcoming the Senate and the staff in Tinian to conduct the Senate Session here and hereby expresses appreciation for that. At the same time, he also apologizes he is not able to join us this morning because he has a lined up of schedules that are conflicting with our meeting this morning. I do however want to recognize the presence of the members of his cabinets which the resident department heads from the respective agencies that have joined us this morning, "Welcome" folks and the members of the DFEMS primarily, Lt. Cruz and Fireman Untalan, "Welcome". Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Is there any other comment on Agenda Item B? For the record, I just want to remind you folks, that I believe the funeral for late Mayor Vicente Aldan will be tomorrow on Saipan.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY**

**President Palacios**: There being no item under Agenda Item E, we move to Agenda Item F.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEAD OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

The Clerk voiced Dept. Comm. No. 20-04.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Any member wishing to make comment, or statement on that communication? Ready? Communication's from the Senate, Agenda Item H.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE**

The Clerk voiced Senate Communication No. 20-36.

**President Palacios:** Thank you Clerk. Any comment from any members? Senator Igisomar?

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just want to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to have Chair the Health and Welfare Committee and I'm very happy that we've assigned this through your leadership to our Senator Santos. I just want to do a heads up that of course effective April 01, but we've been communicating directly with each other to try and set up the meetings with respect to the Hospital and Medical Referral. And just for members as of now, there is a schedule for April 19 through 21, it's a schedule where we're working on for a visit down to Guam to take a look at all the facilities and all the hospitals and to hear our constituent for Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Northern Islands that are on Guam with respect to the housing units under whatever issues that they're facing now in Guam. I just want to give that as a heads up, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Any other member? Let me just take this time to thank you, Senator Igisomar for taking on this temporary assignment and the Chair also ask that you share all the correspondence and all documents relative to the committee so that we have a similar transition with Senator Santos. Secondly, I understand that there is a conference this week on the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association, I encourage the new Chair Senator Santos and every member of the committee, please look at your schedule and try to partake in this conference that is ongoing this week. I think Senator Igisomar can brief you on that later today during the session. Any more comments, statements -- Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, for the benefit of the public relative to the committee going to Guam to visit the Medical Facilities, this visit is prompted by repeated complaints by patients specially from Saipan on the housing issues and the issue is cleanliness. There's one hotel in Guam where we put our patients and the patients and the escort are asking if we can look into this issue because these are sick people and they are placed in not so clean environment. So the people who are listening will not say that here again the Senate is going to Guam for a relaxation trip. But this is a repeated concern raised by the patients particularly from Saipan. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Igisomar recognized.

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Because of the issue I just wanted to have some more -- I did call Director Ronald Sablan and coincidentally he said he's going down to Guam. He will be down in Guam to renegotiate the accommodations for our citizens. And yes for me, I truly did not prefer travel but this time I really want to go down there and put my fingers on the cables or on the walls and really see for myself the dirtiness because I truly do not appreciate to be hearing this from our people that their cleanliness is not a priority for their accommodation. Yes,

thank you Senator JQ for clarifying that this is not a honk-a-door trip this is a serious trip to make sure we take care of our people that are down in Guam. Si Yu'us ma'ase.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Mesngon recognized.

**Senator Mesngon:** Thank you, Mr. President. In line with the same thing, I've been receiving the same issues from our specific in general from First Senatorial District probably mostly in regards to this issue. I encourage the Chairwoman to please let's take a look at it seriously. They've been sending me also photos in regards to new relocation of the office with noncompliance at the same time with ADA compliance, it is not feasible and some of the obstacle that patients are going through is there's other business around the new facility that is hampering also some of the patient conveniences to go around. I do encourage the new Chairwoman to be very cautious on this because it is an issue with our patients and yes indeed within the same line with the First Senatorial District patients that are from Rota at the same time having the same issue with Saipan and I believe and even if there is patient from Tinian they'll be having *man parehu na klasen problema siempre* they'll improve. I am very concern and this is really serious concerns from our patients *ya impottante este Chair tagof attan sa pot hinemlon taotao ya puru taotao-ta este, ya impottante tana siguru na hufan ma'nahe i maolek na setbisiu. Talo-ha*, I applaud the Chair to recognize this issue *ya ta'chogue i maas maolek na setbisiu para man'malangu-ta*. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Mesngon. Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider:** *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President. Este na asunto, we encourage este na problema ya maolek sa i nuebo na Chair para hu'chogue este na oppotunidad para uma bisita. As a matter of courtesy, ti baba ta'manda si Director Ron yahu gaige lokkue guini na miteng sa duda-yo kao ti'siña ha'fatinas teniki. Pues yangen ta'probendisi salape este kada sakan ya'para ta'appasisiyi este siha na lugat ya substandard na setbisu dangkulu enao na problema Mr. President. A year in year out etyo-ha ta'sasangan ti'nanahong medical referral, ti'nanahong medical referral gi maseha hafa na'manera ta kompredi-ha sa sensitive sa pot bandan health lao yangen matto gueni gi'banadan hinemlo i manmalango ni para i basic needs ni para hufan maigo that's carrying it way too far. Ti'baba ya'baihu rekomnda gi committee chair debidi-hu gaigi si Director Ron yan at the same time lokkue guaha uno na asunto ni yahu para in'attan este i case worker ni ma'ayudadayi i yotta patients pot badan scheduling yangen estsa man'gaige giya Guam sa guaha regulation na guaha etyu i patient chumo'chogue i'yona appointment yan i mediku'na ya contrary to hafa i case worker responsabilidat-na pues yangen tinanahong case worker giya Guam pues debi ta'nafan mana'tungo, debi tafan mana'tungo ni Lehislatura ya'ta request guato gi Governor ya umanahe maas taotao. Unacceptable enao para i patient para-hu cho'chogue i yona appointment ya ti'parehu yan i case worker para ngai'an uma'li'e yan mediku, ngai'an uma'clear, yan ngai'an para uma'bira siha tatti Saipan, Tinian, pat'Luta pues tododo este na regulasion man'gaigi enao na'masusesedi pago na momento. Pues ilek'ho na debidi hu'gaigi si' Director Ron, debidi hu'gaigi yona field staff, guini na miteng yan i case workers maseha hayi man ma'assign gi papa ya'hu guaha one flow of information ya'hu guaha kinemprendi ginen i Senate Committee yan guayo giya siha para ta tungo maas taimano parata approach este sa estague talo halom i budget season pues hu'tungo-ha na'manma'nisisita talo salape lao malago-yo baihu tungo enague na'patti i bandan operational site, malago yo' lokkue*

*baihu tungo pot kuantu ta'nanahe este siha na lugat, ta'apapasi este siha na hotels ya' taigueni na'klansen sitbisio para taotoa'ta, yangen para guaho, gimagahet debidi uma'appasi tatti pago nu'etyo lao polu enao ya next the venue to diskukuti.* Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Senator Cruz, before I recognize the new appointee. Senator Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to share the same sentiment, I think this issue had being discussed over two years already and I understand the funding and issue for the Executive Director of the Medical Referral been working for additional funding *ya yangen i management guiya Guam gai isao nu'este ya' ti man'repopot ya sigi-ha man'mamaisen pot funding, hungan, siha man gai-iyo nu enao lao hagas-ha man'mamaisen fondu ya etyu-na kada guaha areas gi inilie'ta ma'halom salape gi different areas ta sigi-ha di tasubsidize guato or tana'i dididi i* Medical Referral, still, I believe they need a lot of funding to address all those issues. And you are right Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the budget discussion, I think we should call Ron in and discuss over this. It is also the same if it's outside the Commonwealth, like in the Philippines and Hawaii, it's always been discussing the funding's and issue. I think we should think and consider getting them additional funding for that, and if we give them the sufficient funding and they still continue to do the same thing, as what is happening at the moment, then, the issue is the management not properly rendering quality services to our patient here in the Commonwealth. It's very important, because, John is being always asking for funding and I know that there's lot of other areas that needs more funding. I think this is very sensitive and very critical that we should address because we have so many medical referrals. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Igisomar, for the second time.

**Senator Igisomar:** Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President. Actually, *malagohu-ha para baihu na'klaru i fino-na si Senator Jude, gi'magahet i gurupu para ta'gupu papa gi* April 6, which is next week. We were supposed to fly down there because of the urgency of the request, but I contacted the Director, Ronald Sablan, and he requested that we plan this properly because he needs to prepare his TA as well and make sure they make arrangements so that why the only available time now that we figured it's comfortable with most of the Senators and for allowing them time for Medical Referral to fly down if they're not on Guam and that is why we picked April 19. So, Mr. Ronald Sablan will be there and that is why we also have scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, because 20<sup>th</sup> will be the business for the meeting and the morning of I think that is Thursday, will allow us to do form of close up before we fly back here. So Director Sablan will be there and he's already informed. *Si Yu'us ma'ase Mr. President.*

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Please share those specifics with the new Chairperson. Senator Santos?

**Senator Santos:** Mr. President, I'll yield to Chairman Hofschneider.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Just a clarification.

**President Palacios:** Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider:** April 19 is the date?

**Senator Igisomar:** Tentatively we are scheduled on April 19, it's the date to head down there legally flight but the meeting days will be the whole day on the 20<sup>th</sup> and morning of 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Senator Hofschneider:** That will be good. If you can please avail yourselves and the Senate members on the 19<sup>th</sup> in the morning because I really do need you guys, I have something that I will share later on *lao maulek-ha yangen pupuengi*.

**Senator Igisomar:** Mr. President, since Senator Jude allows me to enter through this conversation, *malefa-yo baihu sangan na* any issues that we've heard from our constituents and I'm sure that our new Chair will hold a committee meeting before we actually fly down so let's aggregate, consolidate all our issues so we can plan ahead. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. We still have time to put the planning process in place. Let me recognize, Senator Santos.

**Senator Santos:** Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, Mr. President, I would like to extend my gratitude to you for the re-assignment on this Standing Committee on Health and Welfare as raised earlier by our good Chairman Igisomar, a tentative travel in making to Guam or of Guam at the same time taking it into consideration into the account all of the concerns or echoed provided by the Senate as echoed by our patients, our escorts including concerns that were raised relative to the relocation of the new facility of Guam/CNMI Medical Referral, a trip report and the meeting with the Director of the CNMI Medical Referral will follow immediately after the trip is performed in Guam. At the same time, Mr. President I will be closely working with Chair Igisomar with regards to this trip as well as the perspective members on the Committee of Health and Welfare. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you for that commitment Senator Santos. She is the Chair of this body. This is a recurring issue and I believe that the Senate could help facilitate a solution to this. I hope that towards the end of the month when we consolidate our reports and recommendations, those recommendations will also be supported to Medical Referral Office, Office of the Governor, and those issues will be shared to the committee on Fiscal Affairs. I think we all must take this seriously and put a timeline on ourselves and help resolve this issues. In regards to the funding level I think the Chair of the fiscal affairs in the Senate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature as well as all of us so fit to increase the funding of medical referral for the first time in the level that they were requesting so we did give him close to a million dollars, if I am not mistaken. So obviously it is either funding level or how we approach things that need to be resolve and I am confident that the committee and the members of the Senate will help facilitate towards a solution to this issue for our people. With that we move to the next agenda item. There being no item on Communications from our Washington Delegate or Unfinished Business. We move to Item K, Prefiled Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

**PRE-FILED OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**President Palacios:** Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. We do have three prefiled bills; Senate Bill No. 20-32: To reserve fifty percent of the MPLT interest for homestead infrastructure developments on Tinian, Rota and Saipan; and for other purposes. Authored by Senator Jude U. Hofschneider; Senate Bill No. 20-34: To amend 4 CMC § 2308(a) to clarify that the Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) Rate Subsidy is intended for residential customers only; to amend Section 302(a) of PL 19-75 to mandate CUC to immediately apply the subsidy upon the transfer of funds to CUC; and for other purposes. Authored by Senator Sixto K. Igisomar; and Senate Bill No. 20-35: To amend 1 CMC § 2806(c) to increase the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus an extension up to 35 years for a total 75 years; to authorize existing public land leases to be amended to extend the existing lease term up to 75 years; and for other purposes. Authored by President Arnold I. Palacios. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Please take a note that Senate Bill No. 20-33 was introduced on the floor on March 22, last session. So we move on to Agenda Item L, Introductions of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**President Palacios:** Introductions of bills not prefiled and needs to be introduced, any member. There being none. Reports of Standing Committees, there being none. Reports of Special/Conference Committee, there being none. We move to Bill Calendar.

**BILL CALENDAR**

**President Palacios:** Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. We do have one bill on the Calendar for final reading.

**President Palacios:** Please proceed.

**Floor Leader Borja:** I move for the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-02, SD1, to establish the Office of Planning and Development; and for other purposes.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. The motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-02, Senate Draft 1, it has been seconded. Discussion on the motion? Senator Paul Mangloña?

**Senator Mangloña:** Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President. I just have an amendment to offer, and that is on page 11, line 16, the requirement for the public hearings I just wanted to amend that Mr. President, so that on line 16, we put the words in between "thereon and Announcements", "**in each of the Senatorial Districts**" that will be the first amendment. And the second amendment will be on line 22, same page 11, after the word "Governor" to say "**and the Mayors of each Senatorial District**" and the final portion of my amendment is on page 12, line 11; delete the word "**approved**" and replace it with "**disapproved**" and then to add the sentence, "**The Legislature shall provide a written report as to the reasons for their disapproval. The Council after considering the Legislature's recommendation can resubmit the Plan for approval.**" And I guess with this amendment to authorize the legal counsel to make technical minor amendments to the amendments I just offered, if you would allow me Mr. President to explain a little bit on my amendments, the first two amendments basically are to require that --

**President Palacios:** Senator Mangloña, I think --

**Senator Mangloña:** I so move first so they can make -- So move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Senator Mangloña has offered some amendments to Senate Draft 1, and the motion has been seconded. Discussion? But before I take on the discussion I think the Chair needs to call a short recess so we can discuss little bit of the issue for the record.

The Senate recessed at 11:00 a.m.

### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

**President Palacios:** We are back to our session. Before we go on short recess Senator Mangloña offered an amended to the legislation, discussion? Senator Paul Mangloña recognized.

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. So that we can have a smooth discussion on my amendment and other amendments to be offered by the Chairman of the committee on Senate Bill No. 20-02, I respectfully withdraw my motion so that we can allow the committee substitute bill first to be entertain and then I will make the amendment at that time. I withdraw my motion for an amendment Mr. President, at this time.

**President Palacios:** Senator Paul is withdrawing his motion. Is there any objection?

There being no objection raised.

**President Palacios:** There's no objection so the motion is withdrawn. I now recognize Senator Borja.

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to offer an amendment in a form of Senate Draft 2; Senate Bill No. 20-02, Senate Draft 2, has a new Section 4 which amends pertinent sections of the Zoning Code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to clarify that the Zoning Board's function is to regulate and administer the zoning plan and the Office of Planning and Development's function is to create and/or amend new and existing plans. The amendments are as follows:

Section 4(a); amends 2 CMC § 7211(d) to remove the Zoning Board's authority to prepare a zoning plan.

Section 4(b); amends 2 CMC § 7212(a)(7) to remove the Zoning Board's authority to adopt a zoning system.

Section 4(c); amends 2 CMC § 7212(b)(2) to replace the Zoning Board with the Office of the Planning and Development within the authority to create a zoning plan and the mandate to submit the zoning plan to the legislature for approval by the respective delegations.

Section 4(d); amends Section 2 CMC § 7213(n) to substitute the Zoning Board with the Office of Planning and Development in the definition of zoning plan.

Section 4(e); amends Section 2 CMC § 7221(b)(3) to authorize the Zoning Board to recommend changes to the zoning plan.

Section 4(f); repeals Section 2 CMC § 7221(c) because the Zoning Board will no longer prepare the zoning plan.

Section 4(g); repeals Section 2 CMC § 7223 to abolish the Zoning Advisory Board because the Office of Planning and Development will prepare zoning plans.

Section 4(h); amends Section 2 CMC § 7231 to replace the Zoning Board with the Office of Planning and Development with the authority to prepare the zoning plan and make changes to the plan.

Section 4(i); amends Section 2 CMC § 7241(a) to replace the Zoning Board with the Office of Planning and Development.

Section 4(j); amends Section 2 CMC § 7241(g) to require the Zoning Board to submit reports to the Office of Planning and Development.

Section 4(k); amends Section 2 CMC §§ 7241(a)-(c) to replace the Zoning Board with the Office of Planning and Development with the authority to changes in the boundaries of zoning.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** The amendment has been offered in the form of Senate Draft 2, And it has been seconded, discussion? -- Primarily this amendment takes into consideration the over arty comment of the Director of Zoning which was made in the last session we took that work with of the legal counsel to effectuate the amendments across the board of the existing Zoning Law. Discussion? Do you need a few minutes to go through this? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to amend Senate Bill No. 20-02, SD1, in the form of Senate Draft 2, please say "Aye", opposed say "Nay"

All members voiced "Aye".

**President Palacios:** Motion carries. We are now considering passage of Senate Bill No. 20-02, in the form of Senate Draft 2. Senator Mangloña, do you have further amendments to offer?

**Senator Mangloña:** Yes, thank you, Mr. President. So now based on Senate Draft 2, the amendment I'll be offering on page 11, line item 16, so that it will now read on line 16, "**one or more public hearings thereon in each of the senatorial districts**" and also on line 22, so that line 22 so now reads "**the council shall not submit to the Governor and the Mayors of the First, Second and Third Senatorial Districts.**" And on page 12, line 11, of SD2, so it will now read from line 11 to the end of the section "**elements so submitted shall be deemed disapproved. The Legislature shall provide a written report as to the reasons of their disapproval, the Counsel after considering the Legislature's recommendation can resubmit the plan for approval by the Legislature.**" So move Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** The motion has been made for further amendments on Senate Draft 2, Senate Bill No. 20-2, it has been seconded. Discussion? Senator Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Just for clarification on page 12, on the amendment offered by Senator Mangloña, on line 9, including the whole paragraph or just the last?

**Senator Mangloña:** The amendment I'm making is on line 11, with the word "approve" to change that to "disapprove".

**Senator Cruz:** So I am just trying to understand on line 9, the full sentence "in the event of failure by the Legislature to act within such sixty days" so failure to act and then --

**Senator Mangloña:** If the Legislature did not act on it, it will mean that the plan has been disapprove. And the sixty days for the Legislature to act on it so that if they do not meet in a session they can't seem to agree the two houses or one house then of course the counsel will need to know why, what are the reasons, what are their recommendations so that is why the Legislature have to report back and say can you consider the following recommendations and then the counsel can then resubmit it back. They don't have to agree on it, they probably can call a meeting back in and explain, and discuss the reasons why they couldn't agree and then resubmit it again then they will have sixty days. The intent is actually to keep the plan moving we don't want it stuck in the Governor's Office or in the Legislature or anywhere, we want to make sure that this master plan is finally approve and that we can guide our development forth with that plan. That is the reason why we want to maintain sixty days' requirement. If you notice on line 2, when the plan is submitted to the Governor, the Governor have the same prerogative also because he can approve, he can disapprove or he can refer it to the counsel for further recommendation prior to approval. So if the Governor gets the plan he doesn't like something in the plan, he can say, here are my

recommendations take it back. But then after that the Governor has sixty days to act on the plan again, if he doesn't act on it, the plan is considered approved then. But the reason why the plan is considered approved because actually the Governor is the one that sort of oversee and runs this planning agency under the director that he so appoints. So that is the intent of the amendment that I'm offering.

**President Palacios:** Senator Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you. I am just trying to understand because in the first sentence "failure by the Legislature will automatically approve" but you recommend that you're putting on the floor is to disapprove right?

**Senator Mangloña:** If they don't act in sixty days, yes.

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Senator Igisomar?

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you, Mr. President. This is one, also my issue with respect to the last section of the amendment by Senator Paul Mangloña. Senator, I understand your last amendment, however, I am trying to understand it further the counsel will create a plan which will go through some processes and when that plan is done it will be sent to the Governor, and as you mentioned on line 2 there, there is time there for the Governor to go back and forth with the council within sixty days, but once that expires it will be transmitted over the Legislature base on my understanding and agreeing. The only thing I'm having hard time agreeing with Senator is, I want to state that if a council decides on the plan, I am sure it's been vetted, there's been public hearing on all the Senatorial Districts, *lao esta klaru hu'manao para i'Governor*, he has to act on it or not. But when a plan comes to the Legislature, for my part, I don't think the Legislature has anything else to do aside from maybe going through that plan, but if we don't do any form of action, if we do not disapprove it or whatever, it should be approved and I think that is the check and balance. *Kumo tita chogue checho'ta pues approved.* But I think if we put disapprove there, we're going to delay this further, and further, and further, so we may come to a forever plan that will never become a plan. *Pues ileleko-ha Senator, para guaho hu'a'atan ha esta na sentence maulek-ha para guaho lao hu'fafaisin hao kao siña hun'kunsidera sa* in essence it's giving us the *Legislature komu taya bidan miyu in'disatendi'ha pues isao miyu.*

**President Palacios:** If there is no objection let me interject, Senator Mangloña, is that okay?

**Senator Mangloña:** I yield.

**President Palacios:** I think that the intent is not to have it sit there, because if we don't act on it or don't approve it in sixty days it's deemed approved. So even if the Legislature is having formal conversations with the Planning Counsels and we don't agree on some of the issues that are being brought up by the Legislature and the Legislature is put on almost a disadvantage and it is deemed

approved. So in essence, I can see the point and the intent of the amendment is to provide the Legislature additional or just as it is given to the Governor, we have sixty days to act on it even if we put this as it is, the Planning Counsel can say, well we don't even have conversations for sixty days because we have deadline. Even if we say we have problems with certain elements of the plan we take away the authority of the Legislature to approve it because the sixty days is automatically approved anyways. Senator Igisomar, go ahead.

**Senator Igisomar:** Senator Paul Mangloña, *dispensa*, may you please read the last amendment again, *pot fabot*.

**Senator Mangloña:** After “its deemed approve” the “Legislature shall provide a written report as to the reasons for disapproval.” None action means “disapproval”. The Counsel after considering the Legislatures recommendation can resubmit the plan for approval, once again.

**Senator Igisomar:** Is that in writing Senator Paul Mangloña? *Taya guaha ya' biahu attan ya' bahu taitai?* If you don't mind.

**Senator Palacios:** I'll give Senator Igisomar two minutes' short recess. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:27 a.m.

### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:29 a.m.

**President Palacios:** We are back to our preliminary session. We left of with Senator Igisomar discussing the amendments. Senator Igisomar?

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. We got our discussion with the amendments by Senator Paul Mangloña and with the Counsel. I believe the Counsel will put in the proper language at the end of the amendment of Senator Paul Mangloña so just to make sure that through the declination or disapproval by the Legislature that it reverts back to the process within that section. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Any further discussion? Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. With that additional clarification that will be made by the Counsel, I think it provides clearer direction for the Counsel after the Legislature deemed approve or disapprove the plan, a clear direction that will suffice the intent of this section of the amendment that is made by Senator Mangloña. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Any further discussion? Ready? Those in favor the motion to amend Senate Bill No. 20-02, Senate Draft 2, please say “Aye”, opposed say “Nay.”

All the members voiced “Aye.”

**President Palacios:** Motion carries. Further discussion? We are now voting on the passage Senate Bill No. 20-02, in the form of Senate Draft 3. Are we clear on that? 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	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 nine (9) members voted “yes.”

**President Palacios:** With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-02, Senate Draft 3, passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** We have no further, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Mr. President, if there is no objection from the members, can we just go back, just a couple of minutes to Item K, under Prefiled Bills. Just for the purpose of the folks that are present here today I know that it is only introduction but I think when we deliberate on this with the committee, we may not be doing here in Tinian, for the purpose of the people.

**President Palacios:** If there is no objection we move back to Item K.

There being no objection raised.

**President Palacios:** There being no objection, please proceed Senator Hofschneider.

### PRE-FILED OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you Mr. President and members. On Senate Bill No. 20-32, entitled, “to reserve fifty percent of the MPLT interest for homestead infrastructure developments on Tinian, Rota and Saipan; and for other purposes.” The driving force behind sponsoring this such legislation, many of us known that one of the biggest item discussion through and through every year is the

homestead and one of the latest one which primary in the island of Tinian, the West Tinian Homestead, we are having some time to provide for funding for infrastructure for water and power, and Public Land had already issued those homestead to the qualified homesteaders and of course in Rota and Saipan, it is the same issue. I do know that there was a court ruling back in the day whereby it allowed for the homestead development as per say, the Constitution says homestead development but it only authorizes the surveying, the divisions of lots, also the access roads, stopping short of providing power, water and sewer for that matter can be incorporated as part of the homestead development and the chair court ruling actually prohibited as to capitalize that and then to turn around Public Land also give a three years limitation on each homesteader to provide so to build a house, a livable dwelling and all that, and because of funding issue lack of infrastructure the Legislature and the Department of Public Lands come up with a another policy saying we're going to waive the three years requirement for several reasons. So that's kind a like briefest stress to why we are at today. Luckily in the past some capital improvement project funds by way of 702, and local bonds that were made available to fund some of the needed infrastructure, however, that is not the case now a days, Mr. President, infrastructure funds, CIP funds is a hard cell and with CUC harping down split orders and taking five million dollars of the nine million dollars that we're getting is actually a four million dollars annual funding that can spread between the CNMI it can pretty much draw your conclusion as to how difficult tasks that is and not to mention there are specific tasks, specific requirements as to those funding sources can be use and it is now power and water for new homestead. So fast forward to today, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature I also introduced a Legislative Initiative to allow for the use of those public lands funding that are being used to develop homestead programs to allow to use for water, power and sewer, unfortunately it passes the Senate but it didn't really mustard enough action in the House and we sine-die in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Legislature I went ahead and I thought about this, everyone knows that we have an equity about three or four million dollars a year in interest generated by our MPLT and that is transmitted to the Legislature for general appropriation and over the years sometimes we use that to actually food the bill for a great code. If you guys remembered, we have a rolling blackout we have to use that even advance appropriate so we can all have a stable power generation at the time. Fast forward to today, some of these funding's are again, being advance to pay some of the CHCC's obligation. So putting all that together I think it's only fair that if we're going to impose and to have a homestead program and impose provisions to each homesteader a three-year provision, I think it is also important for us to say, okay let's provide funding for the basic infrastructure need. *Maseha ti para uma'pave i chalan lao kumo siña manahe kandit yan hanom yangen nisisario hu'guaha sewer which is additional, hanom yan kadit kumo siña ma'provide ya kosaki siña manhalom este siha ya hufan ma'aksa guma-niha ya uma'comply nu etyu i Homestead Act.* So with that Mr. President I am not sure which committee, I think it's REDP but maybe what we can do is, once this is in order we can do public hearing on all three islands again so we can hear the sentiments of these people which I kind a gave them a short overview of why we are doing this and why are we sponsor some legislation like this. *Si Yu'us ma'ase para i opotunidad.*

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Thank you for the justification for your introduction of this much needed legislation to resolve the catch twenty-two that different agencies in our government have imposed you didn't mention the environmental issue that is being imposed by our own BECQ. We fully understand, we get it and thank you for the exhausting explanation for the rest of us. Senator Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you Senator Hofschneider for offering the legislation, but I ask that with your designate can we discuss it with the committee level. I have a bill down at the House the duration same matters and it is Senate Bill 20-12, I am just hoping that the lower house will not be holding it further on that bill because addressing -- This is a novel idea and I agree with you but if we can discuss this in the committee of the whole not to jeopardize that.

**Senator Hofschneider:** No problem, Mr. President.

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. There is no shortage of efforts from the Senate to help resolve this issue. So to the two Senators from the Second Senatorial District, thank you for those efforts. Any more discussion on this issue? We are back to Agenda Item Q.

## PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Misc. Comm. Nos. 20-47 and 20-48.

**President Palacios:** Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. On Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-48, I respectfully request all the members to look at the comments. This legislation is in the Education and Youth Affairs Committee and the comment I requested from the AG is in our Order of Business today, so please take a look at it because the Committee will be calling a committee meeting to discuss these specific legislations. So please be ready when the committee convenes to discuss this so that we can improve the legislation as a result to the comments that are submitted and specifically from AG at this time. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Quitugua. Any more comments on Miscellaneous Communications? There being none, we move to Agenda Item R, Miscellaneous Business.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

**President Palacios:** Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President this is in regards to permits for small projects, I believe the Floor Leader did mentioned this during the Inaugural Session, however, I would like to ask the respective committees to please look into some of these permits, for example, for a smaller project, basically for Rota and Tinian like for the "Pala Pala" extension, I understand that it takes a while and it have to go to Saipan for processing and it kind a delays the process and my recommendation is for the committee to call the respective permitting agencies and see because they

have resident directors in the two islands and see if the resident director's office can be provided for a needed training to process and approve small permitting projects like the pala pala or earth moving permit for a small, around the house, this doesn't have to go to Saipan, some of these people have to go to Saipan to process this small project permits. Also they are required to go and get a sketch from a licensed architect or engineer in Saipan and that is costing the residents not only time but money. If the resident director's office here can be train to do all of these things and process the permits here I think it is going to be of great help to the people especially to Rota and Tinian. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Quitugua. By listening to that and being reminded of the inaugural speech by our Floor Leader, Senator Borja, the Chair will ask the Committee on JGO to begin discussions with the respective permitting agencies and to look at the processes and see how and what can be done to streamline processes particularly the small projects. Senator Mesngon?

**Senator Mesngon:** So noted, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Any other comments on the miscellaneous? Senator Mangloña?

**Senator Mangloña:** *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* I just like to discuss little bit on Senator Jude U. Hofschneider Homestead Bill, I commend him for coming up with this legislation I only ask if we can add a language in there so that we can also just like your bill, Mr. President, which I often refer to on the Federal Highway Funding, incorporate some language there so that we can flow the bond or use it to leverage a greater amount of money so we can do all our projects maybe at the same time in all the senatorial districts. I commend the good Senator for coming up with this legislation because we seem to always come out the last minute with some urgency to make a priority the eleventh hour and we can't seem to get the priority straight in the utilization of MPLT with this money. On another issue Mr. President, I commend you also for the Planning Bill, I think we need that and I think that is the approach we should all be taking. Let me give you an example DPL, DPL came up with set of regulations that recently this year impose a thousand-dollar fee per hectare of public land and this is even for grazing and agricultural who use permits. Fortunately, we heard yesterday that the Secretary of Public Land will be receiving that and they'll be promulgating new rules to significantly lower that. But my point is that sometimes in coming up with regulations, policies in the various agencies, they forget that Rota and Tinian in particular have a different situation, echoed earlier also by Senator Justo Quitugua, we need to bring more businesses developments down to Rota and Tinian and if they are going to be applying an across the boards policies, I don't think it helps us. Let me give you an example, the Paupau Hotel project, before I came back to the Senate I was trying to get someone to go there and at least open that, develop that piece of government property, when we started negotiating that it was an annual rental of one point five percent of the market appraise value, one point five percent of the appraise market value, with that new regulation out it's now eight percent, eight percent for Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The guy who is going to do it is going to run away. There is really no sensitivity as to the location of the project, as to the disadvantage, and the handicap that a developer faces on Rota or Tinian and these are example of how all these across the board policies are not working to help all of us. On Rota where agriculture is the main business there and where people are really undergoing economic hardship, we are going to charge a person

raising cattle thousand dollars per hectare even if he kills the cow, you know that is one cow a year you have to kill for every hectare where you need one hectare for one cow. So these policies sometimes are very unreasonable and members I truly hope that DPL can come in and also agree to revise their fees because eight percent market appraise value, who is coming down to Rota and develop there when their investment here on Saipan is going to take them further so how are we going to give them that incentive. I hope that we can come up with a legislation that actually give some flexibility for DPL to deviate from this establish rates so that we can tell perspective investors that even though your challenge with the airline issue, with the harbor issue, with the cost of living issue on Rota that you have certain advantages. And finally since we are under miscellaneous still, Mr. President, I want to comment about Public Utility Commission, I understand that the Commonwealth don't have any PUC in operation today. The member's terms have all expired so the protection that the government and the people of the Commonwealth have under the Public Utility Commission is no longer there. We all know that PUC place a very important role and that is why we supported it, we created it, because for the longest time it is only the Legislature actually acting as a PUC, I don't know who is the PUC, when there is no quorum under PUC. I comment on this today because I read the paper this morning and a lot of people are concern about the contract, or propose contract, or newly sign contract, I am not sure where we are at that stage with CUC's procurement of maybe ten megawatts, twenty megawatts generator. PUC if it was still active today, I think I would not be as concern because before any contract is approved PUC reviews the contract cease the effect of this contract on the power rate of the consumers, it tells the sensitivity of this contract versus what the financial situation of CUC whether we can sustain it. Now there is no PUC, I stand corrected, but right now that is the issue that I think the Legislature should be concern the fact that there is no PUC in operation today, I don't know if they have appointed new members. I just wanted to raised that concern today Mr. President and hope that maybe we can communicate to the Governor the importance of nominating the members to have a quorum. *Este-ha magof yo' nai'gumaigi yo' guini gi gatbo na isla'ta Tinian para este na session. Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Mangloña. Thank you for those comments and statements Senator Paul Mangloña. Certainly, I think most members, not all the members of the Senate are taken of act with the article on today's paper and try to discuss this particular issue with the Chairman on PUTC, Senator Igisomar, to take a look at it and act on this particular issue on behalf of the Senate and the Committee. That is a very telling situation I also question why CPUC became dysfunctional, obviously it got defunded. The Chair would also take a look at that particular law to see how to fix it, to ensure that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission becomes functional as it was included. Senator Igisomar do you have any statement?

**Senator Igisomar:** Yes, thank you very much, Mr. President. Yes, I truly appreciate the comments made by Senator Mangloña. Those issues will be discussing as Chairman of PUTC with the Governor. The Governor is currently looking for a qualified individual to be appointed to PUC and of course the reason why the PUC have challengers in the past is which we are trying to amend with our fiscal year budget 2017 to fund PUC but unfortunately it was line-item vetoed so we are tempting to do the same and change the policy accordingly because I think we created them and gave them only a hundred thousand dollars as a budget. Past Chair was coming to the Legislature screaming for many years, saying, I need more funding I can't survive on a hundred grand if you want me to operate properly. It is an on-going with the Governor and for my last discussion with

him before he left to California, he said he is still reviewing and looking for qualified individual to be assigned to PUC. I just wanted to make a comments as well with respect to the proposal bill by Senator Jude, I am very happy he did it, as a matter of fact, yesterday at the Women's Summit in Saipan at the Multi-Purpose Center, I publicly gave them a current draft proposal that we've been working on and when I saw Senator's bill I figured well if it becomes law, we can always use the account that he is creating a separate account to be use by Public Lands. But the idea that we are working on a concept on the side in addition to your bill Senator is similarly as how we gave money to CUC and how we gave money to CHCC, through the reserved interest into the future through MPLT. I think a much more efficient way to really speed up the process aside from waiting for the interest is by having discussion with Governor and with DPL to try and have a declaration of Emergency for Homestead and all our people that are in poverty so that we can just yank that fund out of MPLT directly as a loan. I am glad that you're creating this account, we can have that money dumped into this account that you're creating and from there we can use accordingly for utility infrastructure operate. The other item Mr. President I want to add is there were concerns raised by Senator Paul, it's not official because it does not come from the DPL Secretary, but the Secretary is not blind or deaf on the issues. She'll be coming into our office will be discussing these matters with you as well, on the issues that our constituents are bringing to us with respect to the high rates, from insurance to gracing but I heard from her that the AG approved, but I am not going to say that I'm releasing this information but approved her recommendation. Her recommendation for changes with respect to gracing, with respect to insurance rates reduction, mandatory limits of one million, five million, so now that she have the authority and the AG has already signed off on her shoe be filing for this regulations change announcement by the end of this month. So I hope that helps the information for everybody. Thank you Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Please look into the issue with CPUC and the propose contract. Let me ask first were you aware of this contract?

**Senator Igisomar:** I'm fully aware, Mr. President of what is happening with CUC. I've been meeting with the Chairwoman of CUC and with the Director these were some of the items they eluded during the last meeting with us on Saipan. Now with respect to the detailed of that agreement I do have conversation with CUC just recently last week, that I would like to have a natural documentation, requesting them to give a natural documentation from the RFQ request for quotation in addition to whether they've actually selected contractor listing of people that responded to the RFQ and if there's actually an award because in our discussion they were verbal and they were not in writing and I was not able to confirm them to our body or to you unless they were submitted and they gave me assurance that I was supposed to get them yesterday, or the other day. Well you saw the article in the paper coming out saying all these as we discussed this earlier I will acquire all these documentations and share with you as President and the PUTC Committee of the Senate.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Before I recognize Mangloña, this particular issue is very important, it is critical because of the implications that the community will eventually have to shoulder. We might have a very big implication in terms of the rates so in as much as you can get all information, documentation that we need because at some of the time if CUC is going into a debt

service they will come to the Legislature for approval. It is a big concern that we need to take a look at. Senator Mangloña, for the second time.

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. *Gef dinanchi sa i yoku concern guini, if I am not mistaken este na project para u accommodate additional mega wattage na ha nisita I Best Sunshine, pues yangen para u ma chuli este na contract pues kao para i taotao tano para ufan ma charge maas CUC rate para hu subsidize i Best Sunshine, I think this is something that CUC can work with Best Sunshine ya ni un sentimos debidi ufan ma'apasi i taotato'ta gi ni inefekta iyon rate. Ennao'ha iyoku concern guini ya if CPUC was around siempre i CPUC ilkena an hu'atan este ti ifekta i rate pues okay sign i contract sat i para afekta i rate. Lao if we move forward, hungan we need additional megawatt lao i point yangen para uma pega online i Best Sunshine pues ti debi di hu'afekta i taotao'ta sa the people are not there to subsidize debi hu'benefit i taotao'ta i project. Ya I know Best Sunshine siña uma ayuda hit yangen pot este ha, sa they don't know also want the people to feel we are subsidizing them. Etyo ha muna concern yu na contract ya we should've take lightly etyo na contract etyi I tima RFP and I still don't know the technical difference RFP versus RFQ, is it request for quotation, is it request for qualification, let say it is for quotation. But a major project like this, I think that a request for quotation is not appropriate, a request for quotation is something for ten thousand or fifty thousand dollars maybe hundred thousand dollars but a request for quotation in the millions, in my opinion should not be authorize. Este i request for quotation, just call up a company and say, I need to accommodate these ten megawatts what is your quotation? There is a lot of details in there involve *bula siha na* question, factors, ya it is not as simple. That is all that I am concern about and I think it is good if we are on top of this and I respectfully ask the Chairman and the Committee maybe to call CUC and let us find out what is going on so we are aware of this. Because I know that ultimately it's the Legislature that have to answer this and we hope that this doesn't lead to more *gastu gi* government *ni para hu'fan hasu pot hafa siha talo na inkubukao. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.**

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Before I recognize Senator Igisomar, let me recognize Senator Quitugua, please.

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. *Dos-ha na comments, Mr. President, pot i Public Law 15-02, guiya este i enabling legislation gi Public Land ya guiya este na lengthy na legislation mafa lai, gi about 2007 esta ten years este. Pago na ta'lilie na bula man'hu'huyong regulations ginen I Public Land, etyi guaha ni hongang-hit an man'mangomplen i constituents, pues manma'blame-hit, manma songni-hit ni Lehislatura na hita chumogue etyi siha na fees i manma sangani pago i taotao na estague pago balina este yagen para uma'atkila este na dikikin lugat. Esta ten years este Mr. President, I think it is about time na ta'attan este i Public Law 15-02, ya perhaps ta amenda este, ya ta provide more specific directions yan guide lines gi Public Land ya' munga na hu'sigiha mona este siha i timan gof ayudanti na regulation ni man'huhuyong ni para hu'adilanta i linala i taotao gi tano-ta. Any of us gi Senate can review este na Public Law ya ta'nahe i Public Land maas direksion ya' munga na sigi-ha maas mama'desi i taotoa-ta osino sigiha maas mona aluguatdi hu'adilanta i ekonomia ha'pupunu i ekonomia. I otro, Mr. President, gi egan-ha enao ni ta'diskukuti yan si Senator Sixto pot enao i CUC nu eyti i RFQ, fanahan i RFQ, Request for Qualification, ya aware-ha si Senator Sixto earlier gi yota discussion na tres Mr. President na he is going to look into that and possibly hagan halom i CUC so we can*

*further discuss enao siha na issues i ta'huhungok siha gi publiku osino ta' ta'taitai newspaper. An hafa na pinadesi pat linachi, Mr. President, tododo i kalulut i publiku guato gi Lehislatura ya ilekniha, isao niha talo enao siha i man gaigi genao eksu sa esta gui talo bidan niha este lao in actuallity ti bidata este sa ta nahe i opotunidad i Director or i Secretary para hu chogue manu maulek yahu implimenta Rules and Regulations, lao esta ta'liliha na megai na biahe na yangen mafatinasi i Rules and Regulation esta maas kini i lai otimona ya i lai ni fumatinas ni para hufanago i regulation esta i lai kulan ti bumaibali ya i regulations ha pago maas metgot lao ti debi na hu'taiguenao debidi hu metgotna i lai kini regulation, ya i regulation debidi hufatinas hu na klaru maas i lai ahe ti para hu-nahe i maas pobision para hu metgotna ki lai. Pues, Mr. President nisisario na ta attan I Public law 15-02 ya ta provide maas diriksion yan klaru na diriksion para i Public Land. I CUC kulan megai na issue gi CUC man huhuyon ya estague fanahan si Senator Sixto na guaha nabiahe nina malalago yangen ma agan ya masagani na isao Lehislatura Lao at the same time lokkue dinananchi-ha si Senator Sixto yangen ta hagan i Direktod pat i Secretary yata sagani hafa i complain ilekna esta hamyo gi Lehislatura in micro ma'manage talo i departamento. Lao ahe ti enague i intension is Legislature espisiatmenti i Senate, i pot i man hahalom siha ginen i taotoa siha na complain yan issues ni nina afefekta linala niha siha yan ekonomian i tano. Ya pot enao-ha Mr. President hita giya Senate debidi tana'dana i'luta, titanos-ta ya'ta atan este mona ya'ta ayuda muna libiano i linala i taotao kosaki maas nu adilanta mona i ekonomia. Yan lokkue guaha dididi kinemprendi ginen i publiku na ahe ti'todo isao-ta guaha na biahe man ma'cho'gue-ha lao esta kulan paha este gi kuminidat yangen guaha problema pat isao, isao Lehislatura. Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Igisomar?

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you, Mr. President. Again, *Si Yu'us ma'ase Senator Paul nu i yoma comments, I truly appreciated. Lao baihu na'kadada taiguini ya baihu summarize Mr. President, i CUC yan i PUC biahu sagan-ha complicated este na issue ya hita-ha muna taiguini este.* From a very simple common sense solution we've created a situation whereby with complicated processes, *i hafa para u'ma oda, osino i rate ni para uma'haksa pat para umana'tunok, mahlom i PUC,* so there's a lot of people to blame on this whole situation, *ya guaho as i yomu Chairman para iyomu Standing Committee, malago'yo magahet ni i fino-mu ni i diriksion lokkue earlier yan fino-mu last week na risibi Naya este siha i dokumentu ya ta atan maulek* so we can always come up with any form of emotion and discussion *na hafa este na'tima cho'chogue osino ginen* one board member or from the majority of the board members we can point fingers forever *lao malago'yo baihu sangan na ta nanga ya hu'fato. Sa pot hemplo etyo i CUC bulan biahe nima gagao CUC ayudu, i PUC ha'hire i maaas guagua'guan na Advisor na para uma'atan ha este i simple-ha para huma tutad-ha i mathematics kuantu na taotao guaha, hafa i rate, lao muyong-na man gasta-hit* millions and millions of money just to calculate a simple rate. *Pues ginen guaho biahu sangan-ha na* it's a complicated issue and we can always really go out tangent *ya baihu na siguraa ta atan i dokumentu* and approach this on a process. And of course everybody is invited to attend the PUTC Committee meeting as soon as we have all the records. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Igisomar. With that, I'm glad that we had this miscellaneous item it looks like we have more miscellaneous to discuss than any legislation, but this is where the free discussion comes up in the legislative process. With that, we have on Friday a Joint

Session of the Senate and the House of the Twentieth Legislature to receive the State of the Commonwealth Address of the Governor on Saipan, I believe it is ten o'clock a.m., Clerk? So I am going to ask the Clerk to give us some of the final briefing and the arrangement of the Joint Session on Friday. Clerk?

**Senate Clerk Bermudes:** We had a meeting the other day and it will be at ten o'clock in the morning but they're asking the members to be there between nine and nine thirty, and when you go into the Multi-Purpose Center you will be on the right sight forward you'll be standing there and then I'll be there with you. So by Thursday, tomorrow, or Sergeant-At-Arms will be bringing down all the materials for the information for the State of the Commonwealth Address. It is a coat and tie attire and they're asking if you can be there by nine or nine-thirty. Also the parking for the members will be at the same place in front of the Multi-Purpose Center and the DPS will be there to guide you guys in. Thank you and that is it.

**President Palacios:** I'll ask the members from Tinian and Rota, if you could all be on Saipan at least by tomorrow afternoon or evening, so we can get together early Friday morning and we all go to the Multi-Purpose Center and try to see what kind of arrangement we can make. I am pretty sure that all of us have had the opportunity to have Joint Session to receive the State of the Commonwealth Address. Mostly likely it's going to be the same protocols. The Governor further ask that if you'd allowed to used power point presentation during this address, I ask for your indulgence and allow him to use some of the technologies that are down there at his disposal. Are there any questions on this particular issue? There being none. Any other further information, clerk?

**Senate Clerk Bermudes:** No, that is it.

**President Palacios:** Thank you very much. We move on to the next Agenda Item, Announcements.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Palacios:** Senator Hofschneider, is it your birthday?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to notify the members that the President of WITCHI will be here on eighteenth through the twenty-second and it is going to be his first visit to the CNMI as assuming a new role. The tentative schedule is on the eighteenth to pay a visits to the Governor and the Lt. Governor and in the morning of the nineteenth, I proposing that he visits jointly the Senate and the House for a brief visit and any que on him that requires. There are other elements on the agenda that I will be sharing as soon as we finalize hopefully by the end of the week or if not early next week or through the weekend and I'll be sharing with the rest of the crew board.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. I would like to ask that you collaborate all information's and the efforts with the Chairman on Education in the Senate.

**Senator Hofschneider**: I am already doing that, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Any other announcements? There being no announcements, we are down to our last Agenda Item T, Adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**President Palacios**: Floor Leader?

**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**: The motion has been made to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair, it has been seconded. Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

**President Palacios**: The Senate stands adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Frances Joan P. Kaipat  
Senate Journal Clerk