

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



Senate
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION - 2017

SJ 20-07

First Day

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on May 05, 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 1st Day, First Special Session, on May 10, 2017, at 1:15 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, seven (7) members are present two absent.

President Palacios: With seven (7) members present, we've established a quorum to conduct today's session. Senator Cruz is on his way in he'll be here shortly. Floor Leader Borja has a family member in the hospital and may not be able to make it to today's session. Without objection, I will appoint Senator Quitugua to act as the Floor Leader for today's session. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: We are on Agenda Item B, Public Comment. Are there any members out the public that would like to make comments or statements on items appearing on today's Order of Business? There being none. We move to Agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of Journal.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The Clerk voiced Senate Journals Nos. 20-04, 20-05 and 20-06.

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Senate Journal 20-04, Third Day, First Regular Session, March 10, 2017; Senate Journal 20-05, Fourth Day, First Regular Session, March 22, 2017; and Senate Journal 20-06, Fifth Day, First Regular Session, March 29, 2017, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made for the adoption of Senate Journals Nos. 20-04, 20-05 and 20-06 and has been seconded. Discussions? Senator Mangloña recognized.

Senator Mangloña: Yes, Mr. President. I just like to know, if we can still pass it but allow the members to at least on next session to make some corrections? I know that sometimes we speak in the vernacular so that we can easily clarify what we are saying but in correcting the journal it's very difficult to correct the spelling. Can we just pass it but then allow the members no later than next session to make some corrections?

President Palacios: Grammatical.

Senator Mangloña: Grammatical basically.

President Palacios: If there is no objection to the members we can allow that. Okay.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you.

President Palacios: Further discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt the three Senate Journals appearing on today's Order of Business please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governors Messages Nos. 20-34 to 20-42.

President Palacios: There are nine Messages from the Governor. Any comments on any of the messages from the Governor? -- Let me just make a note of Governors Communication 20-34, the 2018 Budget for the CNMI Government has been submitted and I fully understand that the

Committee has begun the process of addressing and looking at the proposed budget. Chairman Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: My apology, Mr. President. I overlooked that segment there. But definitely, everyone knows we had our meeting yesterday with the Secretary of Finance and the Special Assistant for the Management and Budget reference to the Concurrent Resolution. There are specific requests have been made by few of the members on some of the allocation or the items there. I just want to go on record that this is not the first time but primarily on the distribution of all the earmarks provided by the statutes that governs so will definitely assist us moving forward with the deliberation.

Senator Cruz came in at 1:20 p.m.

President Palacios: Clerk, let the record reflect that Senator Cruz is present. Welcome. Are there any other comments? Chairman Cruz, on Governor's Message 20-36, I believe the package for Mr. Thomas Villagomez re-nominations documents are already in the committee?

Senator Cruz: The last one that I inquired from my secretary, the required documents are still at the Governor's Office. During my absences, Mr. President, I apologize because of death in the family and I am not here couple of days. I will look into it and if all the documents are complete we will schedule a public hearing. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you, Chair. Any other comments? None. We are on Agenda Item E. Clerk?

COMMUNICATONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

The Clerk voiced Judiciary Communications Nos. 20-03 and 20-04.

President Palacios: Any comments? There being none, we move to Agenda Item F, Communications from the Heads and Executive Department. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk voiced Department Communications Nos. 20-05 to 20-12.

President Palacios: Are there any comments? Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is in reference to Department Communication 20-06. A letter that you received, Mr. President, and you disseminated over to the members from Mr. Joseph M. Pangelinan, providing a soliciting of only those inactive classified employees of the former Department of Public Health and Social Services. Based on this letter according to Mr.

Pangelinan, OPM only has the files of those inactive eligible employees not the active classified employees of the former Department of Public Health and Social Services. When he mentioned in this letter that that information's could be obtain from the present CHCC, Human Resources Manager, I immediately contacted Ms. Clare to immediately forward that information's which she did and a copy of which was provided to the members. On this listing of the active classified employees of the former Department of Public Health and Social Services there's a total of twenty-seven employees that were affected by this retroactive payment of five percent. According to Ms. Clariss, a memo will be forwarded over to the Department of Finance, the Secretary of Finance in particular in order to include these employees together with those inactive classified employees that were already submitted to Mr. Joseph Pangelinan for the processing of their retroactive. However, we received here a letter from the Secretary of Finance on Department Communication No. 20-07, indicating that the total amount necessary to compensate these employees were not what Mr. Pangelinan has indicated here due to several other friends benefit that were not factored in. So with that, Mr. President, the total amount is going to be more then what was indicated in Mr. Pangelinan's letter. On the other hand, Mr. President, I will be contacting the HR Manager of CHCC, Ms. Clariss to make an official transmittal of this listing that she provided with the active classified employees that this was not an official listing that was provided to the Senate. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Please work with the Committee on Fiscal Affairs to begin finalizing this. Because, I remember we appropriated funds of one point two million dollars last year for this, unfortunately, this was not a complete listing. I hope that this time around when we go through the process we will be done with it.

Senator Santos: That is correct, Mr. President. Again, because they were employees have already been compensated with your retroactive or five percent bonuses and so it is only fair that these employees both the inactive classified employees and active classified employees of the Department of Public Health and Social Services should also be compensated. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. I trust the Chair of Fiscal Affairs will be working on this with his House counterpart. Any other comments on Department Communications? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just wanted to state that under item 6, which is Department Communication 20-10, DPW regarding construction of Marpi Landfill that is currently on-going within your Committee of PUTC as you assigned us that letter. In addition to that, we are working closely with Fiscal Affairs to find how we can assist DPL on the Marpi Landfill Cell 3. In addition, Mr. President, lastly, I like to make a comment on Department Communication 20-12, which is the SAA for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation regarding expenditure report, for your information, I believe the SAA for the Substance Abuse, Ms. Yvette Sablan wrote a letter to the President and the House Speaker giving a report on the Substance Abuse. However, it is fitting that she wrote this letter but I actually missed it, I never saw this letter. But I did write a letter to her, dated April 19, 2017, which we can actually find in our package under Senate Communication 20-51 and I am encouraging the members to review Senate Communication 20-51. In her report to the Legislature, she was giving us reasons as to what is happening with the funding or what is her program doing. I believe in essence she is stating that she has yet to kick-off from the program on

rehabilitation. As we are all aware the Governor, himself, and yourself, President, we are all stunt supporters of having a rehab. We already have a Drug Court in the CNMI, but, we have yet to have a Rehab Center emplace and as we have discussed we have yet to see at least a success story and a person who may have gone through the program so that is not happening yet. In the letter that I sent her although we're not there but it's similar, I would like to state that in that letter I was asking her for the action plan for the implementation of the impatient Alcohol Substance Abuse Program action plan or existing MOU with respect to the Far East acquisition property and other documentations so that she can support us to the whereabouts or the accountability of the almost two million dollars that we've already appropriated to that program. I just wanted to bring that attention up, Mr. President so that the members can be aware. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is in reference to Department Communication 20-12. Similar issue as to what Senator Igisomar has earlier indicated that we did received a letter from Yvette R. Sablan, Special Assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation reporting on the first quarter Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2017. Her letter basically explains that the purpose of SAR and its establishment at the issues they had faced during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. You know the letter says that their main plan was to transition former employees under the crisis counseling program with FEMA the community guiding center into SAR at the same time to change some of these individuals to be license to provide services to immediately assist CGC's current substance abuse program and secure them in having a fully qualify license personnel for the long run. However, according to Ms. Yvette Sablan, due to constrictions with the Drug Court Program and the limited substance abuse treatment providers within the community SAR inadvertently had to delay their class during the first quarter to assist CGC and DCP to provide a valuable and immediate implementation of an inclusive service for the community. However, Mr. President, Ms. Yvette Sablan failed to respond to the letter that was addressed to her by Senator Igisomar which letter was dated April 12, 2017. And so, Mr. President the Committee on Health and Welfare will be meeting sometimes next week and we will further perhaps deliberate on this matter we would than determine on what will be the next force of action with respect to the letter to the Senate. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Just for a reminder to everybody on this particular issue in general, Drug Court specifically, Ms. Kabua and Judge Kim Tenorio will be giving a joint presentation in the House on Friday, May 12, at 9:00 a.m. I encourage everyone to be there and perhaps some of the questions will be answered at that meeting. We have three agencies there supposed to be running or doing something putting together a program for our people on this particular issues. Hopefully, we can get going and set aside a substantially amount of funding for the programs and we need to have this thing working with all three agencies working together in collaborative. Thank you. I encourage the Committee on Health and Welfare to look into this particular issue at the earliest possible date. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I like to just for everybody's understanding at least not us but the audience and our public that are watching, the Drug Court is

really a prejudgment program. What that means is, if somebody is caught and his gone for jail for a case or for trial they're giving option especially methamphetamine provided that it is not a violent crime, they did not hurt anybody or kill anybody but they were caught basically on drugs, using drugs, or passing drugs around. So that Drug Court, that is the purpose, is to give an option to these people whether they are willing to enter the program so that we can slowly rehabilitate them or give them some sort of services. Now, Rehabilitation Center on the other hand which is something we really need, is a center that will support the Drug Court and similarly at the same time we are hoping that it will open its doors for voluntary access for our people that are not necessarily caught by the law or that are not sent to court but are willing to send their children to such center for rehabilitation. That is a component that we often hearing in the community also on KKMP Radio addressing and sharing the abuse and use of methamphetamine and so that is why this SAR, Substance Abuse Program is very important as their role is to put in place a rehab center whatever form either home base rehab or any other clinical services. Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. I think the members of the Senate look forward to hearing more about where the program is gone and where we will go. Thank you. Are there any other comments on the Department Communications? Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 20-12 to 20-23

President Palacios: Any comments or statements from the members on any of these communications? Senator Quitugua?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, number 6, under House Communication No. 20-17, relative to House Bill 20-56. I believe this communication and bill has not been assigned to any Committee in the Senate. Therefore, if there is no objection from the members, I would like to ask that we accept this communication which has been placed on today's Calendar for action.

President Palacios: Would it be possible Floor Leader, maybe we just accept a motion to accept all House Communications.

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Additionally, Mr. President, if no objections from the members, to accept all House Communications listed on today's Agenda.

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: There being no objections, Senate hereby accept all House Communications on today's Agenda. Any other comment? Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is in reference to House Communication No. 20-19. Mr. President, I just like to join the House through House Commemorative Resolution No. 20-

02, giving credit to the achievements that women had throughout history also giving credit to the successes that women have in the Commonwealth in terms of the status in the workforce throughout the government and private sector in which women in the CNMI have made great historical contributions to the growth and strength of the Commonwealth in countless ways. Although, the main purpose of HCR 20-02, was to declare the Month of March 2017 as the CNMI Women's Month and March 8, 2017 as International Women's Day. It was also to commemorate Women in the Commonwealth and around the world to celebrate the achievements of Women while calling for greater equality and to pay tribute to reflect at the progress made to advance Women's equality. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments? There being none. We are down to the Communications from the Senate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-37 to 20-56

President Palacios: Any comments? Please take note again, reminder of Senate Communication No. 20-54, Friday, May 12, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the House Chamber, a Joint Presentation with the CNMI Drug Court. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is in reference to Senate Communication No. 20-46. Mr. President for your information and the members, a draft Committee Report has already been disseminated to the members on Health and Welfare for their review and comments, or recommendations and that a Committee Meeting has already been set also for May 19, for further discussion on the Committee Report and what will be the next force of action that the Committee members will be taking base on the findings of the trip that was perform to Guam to visit the Medical Referral Office. The final and signed Committee Report will immediately follow and will be pre-filing, Mr. President addressed to you and hopefully it will be included in our next session. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. I hope that the recommendations would give us some solutions to some of the continuing problems with this program. I really need to emphasize that I know each and every one of us get calls from our constituencies regarding some of the Medical Referral issues. I hope that the Committee in its report give us some finality in terms of the actions that the body will take. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just wanted to add a reminder for all members especially if you are not a member of the PUTC Committee to be cognizant of Senate Communication 20-55, which is the CUC/OPA Report that we received. In addition, first time ever that the Legislature received the vitals of final report, the vitals that the organization did a feasibility study on the CUC with respect to its power distribution or supply. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Is there any other report regarding CUC? No.

Senator Igisomar: Mr. President, if I may? Thank you. Yes, there is. Actually, we did an oversight on CUC and there were recommendations made by the Committee but it is not final but some of the key recommendations that the Committee made although there are some of the agencies may have initiated already is requesting for the OPA to look into the matter that surrounding the oversight we have OPA, Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office to look into the Board Members and to see what went wrong based on the records For your information all the records that the Senate, PUTC Committee gathered for the oversight were transmitted to the Attorney General's Office for their use. They are available. That is why when we were requesting for these records we make sure that there all filed with the Senate Clerk so that anybody can have an access to it. Although, the report from your Committee is not final those are the three key recommendations that are listed in there. In addition, another key addition is to make sure that the Board of Directors for CUC actually go through a training or fiduciary responsibility training so that they will know what to do and how to operate the operation of CUC. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. To the members look forward to the final report. Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Yes. I believe when we started to talk about this CUC issue, I raised the concern of the lack of quorum for the Public Utility Commission. I hope that the Chairman and the members of PUTC would consider that concern and maybe add on to their report how are these projects pending or being proposed by CUC presently being reviewed by PUC, if they are being reviewed knowing that they do not have a quorum. I hope that could be a part of the report. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I thank Senator Mangloña for bringing that up, we will add in and reiterate. Your Committee actually wrote to the Governor about two to three months ago, informing him to immediately put the proper members into PUTC, Public Commission, on utilities. I will make sure we have that in, Senator Mangloña. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*. As a refresher and reminder to our Honorable Governor.

President Palacios: Thank you. We move on to Agenda Item I, Communications from Washington Delegate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

The Clerk voiced Washington Delegate Communication No. 20-02.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any comments? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Senate President. I may have overlooked it in our past communications and I apologized for over looked it. I would like to make a request to our Chairman on the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies to look into -- I overheard a statement made by the Washington Delegate from American Samoa, Ratta Wagon Amautao, that there was a very significant bill that she worked on in Capital Hill to have included the territories. Because during the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, that territories were excluded but the bill was in Capital Hill and it was passed with respect to her additional amendments to include us. So I'm hoping, since I do not see it here to have some kind of communication with our Delegate through Federal Relations possibly to have an access to such bill that the Washington Delate from American Samoa is alluding to. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

President Palacios: Thank you. We move on to Agenda Item J.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Palacios: There being none. We are down to Agenda Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, the following Bills, Local Bills, and Resolutions have been pre-filed and according to our Senate Rules, these pre-filed Bills, Local Bills, and Resolutions are automatically considered introduced: Senate Bill No. 20-36, introduced by Senator Igisomar; Senate Local Bill No. 20-02, introduced by Senator Santos; Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-01, introduced by you, Mr. President and all members; Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-02, introduced by Vice President Mesngon; Senate Bill No. 20-37, introduced by Senator Santos; and Senate Bill No. 20-38, introduced by Senator Igisomar. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Floor Leader. Are there any other bills? We are down to Agenda Item L.

INTRODUCTIONS OF BILS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILS & RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: Any non-pre-filed bills to be introduced in this afternoon's session? Senator Mangloña recognized.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to formally introduce Senate Bill No. 20-39, "To replace the Commonwealth Corporation with two Independent Autonomous Public

Corporations to separately manage and control the power service and water service systems, and to create only one elected consolidated Commonwealth Utilities Board for the two public corporations; and for other purposes.” Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I hope that in the future I don’t have to be introducing this local bill again. To officially introduce Senate Local Bill No. 20-03, “To amend Title 10, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 2, entitled Rota Dog Control Act; and for other purposes.” Mr. President and members, this is basically just to revert back again this Rota Dog Control Program to the Department of DNLR as the Department has the manpower and the financial resources. Currently, it is under the Municipal Council but after a meeting with the Rota Legislative Delegation the Municipal Council highly recommended that it be reverted back to DLNR since they do not have the funding as well as the manpower. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other Bills, Initiatives, Resolutions to be introduced on today’s session? -- We move on to Agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 20-06, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-09, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-06 has been made and seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-06, say “Aye”. Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 20-07, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-07, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-07 has been made and seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion please say “Aye”. Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Standing Committee Report No. 20-07 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 20-08, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-13, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-08 has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: I know Mr. President this one is just a typo error which I’ve ask the Chair the item “e” has to be omitted because it is actually inconsistent with the content of the bill. I’ve informed the Legislative Assistant to omit this section here. If it’s in order, we can just adopt the Committee Report as amended or we can do something.

President Palacios: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 1:55 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 1:56 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Senator Hofschneider you had a question on the Committee Report for reconsideration, please proceed.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Upon discussion with the members, I move to strike-out Item E on the Report.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Is everybody clear on the amendment motion offered by Senator Hofschneider? The motion has been seconded by Senator Santos, discussion? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I am path hold by the report itself in addition on how the bill was written. Simply, *tumai manu este na’ tumai guine Senator?* How did the language of a thirty percent disability be converted to a thirty percent discount? Was this there before or was this just accidental?

Senator Hofschneider: It is an oversight.

Senator Igisomar: It is an oversight, alright.

Senator Hofschneider: That is the reason why I cleared it with the Chair before I sign it yesterday. I was pointing that out, so therefore I am moving to remove that so it can be consistent with the bill.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, I agree. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* I am ready.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment on the amendment motion offered by Senator Hofschneider. Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt the amendment offered by Senator Hofschneider, please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are back to the main motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-08, further discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-08, please say, "Aye". Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-09, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-15, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Adoption motion for Standing Committee Report No. 20-09, has been seconded, discussion? There being no discussion. Those in favor say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-09 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-10, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-04, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The adoption motion for Standing Committee Report No. 20-10, has been seconded, discussion?

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: I remember when this was being discussed in the prior meetings, I raised a concern with the insurance company whether this would have any impact? Because when we amended this last time, it was the insurance company that was requesting for this so that the cost will not be driven up as far as the policies concern. So I just wanted to know whether that was considered, Mr. Chairman?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: We sent requests specially to Finance and the current holder of the contract, but they have not responded. I even talked to Congressman Barcinas, and he said that he would submit comments later on, but we have not received.

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* I believe Senator Paul Mangloña is alluding to something that we may have systemic problem in our CNMI Government with respect to coverage. I am glad that Ms. Charlotte is here as well to hear this. In our insurance division under the insurance commissioner, Department of Commerce, there are a lot of consumer Advocacy Rules that must be abided by, by carriers. I believe we tend to do a lot of favors for these carriers, reduction of premium so that they can get it, or something so that the carriers are not able to provide. I hope that we are able, of course I know we are favorable to this bill, but one big problem and gap that we have and the insurance is, I don't believe any of our government employees currently, maybe some now, because we've been pushing the issue. I don't know if everybody currently holds a health insurance card saying, that they have health insurance actually holding it, or somebody holding a life insurance card saying, I have a life insurance coverage. If you passed away without such a card and you do not know or you are not aware that your parents or siblings have some sort of coverages with the insurance company, you will never file a claim. It is because we are lacking communication on advocacy program whereby within our government agency should be informing our employees of their rights. Their rights with respect to life insurance coverage. Mr. President, I don't think I'm far away from the subject but, there are gaps with respect to rights of our employees of government on coverage of life insurance and coverage of health insurance. That is why we tend to sometimes end up abiding by the carrier's desire. Their desire of what must be done in order for them to provide coverage. But I think that if we stand and we have the political will that we want our people to have two times their salary then it must be two times their salary. If you can't play, then get out of the CNMI and we will get another carrier that will provide such coverage. I am saying this because I am passionate about one idea. We introduced such policy in the past with respect to health insurance for retirees who have retired and have no health insurance coverage. I still believe up to today, that retirees in the past because of the exorbitance cost of health insurance they started running around buying health insurance from other private companies who have lowered their benefits or the premium with no benefits whatsoever, without informing those government employees that if you come over to me you will not have such coverage. And when those retirees decided to retire, they retired and they did not have a government health insurance plan. No one told them that you must have a government health insurance plan. So when they retired because of an existence of law in the retirement fund they ended up not being able to have health insurance and now were screaming that

we cannot give them such coverage because the premium may be very expensive for everybody. But I think in essence we snaffle them in the very beginning. I am glad that we have this bill to kind of put things back into correction the fact that people were paying double their salary then all of a sudden it was reduced. In essence similarly to this, I hope that we can have the political will to at the same time, bring back the health insurance to the retirees that are not truly informed that they must be covered by the government group health/life insurance policy. Another gap, Mr. President, sorry to keep going on, but there was another gap. The other gap is, I've researched and looked into our policies and our administrative code to try and find out where exactly in our laws does it stated that there is a government plan. I can't find it. I keep ending up under Retirement Fund. Of course luckily, we send it over to Finance. But in definition under the Secretary of Commerce or under the Insurance Commissioner, a government plan is a plan that is a contract between a government employer and an insurance company. However, in the past which was authorized and allowed people were insured elsewhere, somewhere else and it's called, "Government Plan." I just don't understand why that is not in. Again, I may be going on and on and on, but I hope that this bill if approved and continue to have the political will to be able to convince the entire Legislature and the Governor that we should return the health insurance coverage as well back to the retirees. If it is going to cost us, as we heard from the Secretary of Finance the other day, we have a lot of money. It is just a matter now of prioritizing. I think we have a lot of people that need health insurance and this is one I know. *Dispensa, Mr. President, si Yu'us ma'ase.*

President Palacios: Senator Santos, do you have anything to add?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. Briefly, I submit to the narrative of Senator Igisomar. Standing Committee Report No. 20-10, the Committee finds that 1 CMC, Subsection 8363, was amended in 2011, which reduces the life coverage of annuitants to one point eight times the salary. That was found to be unfair or unreasonable to those who have been paying two times their salary for so many years. So the main zest for Senate Bill No. 20-04, seeks to revert from the previous of two times the salary instead of the one point eight. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Quitugua and I talked about this issue. When it was changed, it was changed by the statute, am I correct on that? At the time it was changed, it was really because the government is not up to paying its share of the premium, it was to save government money. I believe it was the Seventeenth or the Eighteenth Legislature that this occurred. But the bill, it's to seek the revert of this situation. There being no other comments. Senator Quitugua?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. I just like to add in a few words on this Senate Bill. When Public Law 17-66 was enacted, many of our employees who have been paying the premium of life insurance for over twenty years were really caught on the last minute when they found out that their family who was holding life insurance was not provided the two times their salary which was the original policy. These families are expressing their dissatisfaction because the bill was enacted into law without any public hearing or notification to the policy holders. That is why this legislation came about in the Ninth Legislature which the Senate did passed. The families continue to ask us if we can revert back the payout to where it was because they have been paying

their premium for more than twenty years, and it's only fair that they receive what they're supposed to receive in the first place. Thank you Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. There being no other comment? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No 20-10, please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are down to Standing Committee Report No. 20-11, Floor Leader.

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption Standing Committee Report No. 20-11, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-05, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The adoption motion has been made and seconded to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-11. Discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-12, reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-06, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The adoption motion has been made and seconded on Standing Committee Report No. 20-12. Discussion? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a brief comment on the bill itself. As you may have been aware we met with the Committee and also at the same time, we had the opportunity through the efforts of joining the PUTC and Fiscal Affairs with Public Works to ask plenty questions with regards to Marpi Landfill. As a result of both meetings the Committee would like to adopt and make some changes reference to the original intent of the bill so as indicated on the Committee Report, which was signed by the majority of the members. I want to thank the Committee for their input and I move that we adopt this Standing Committee Report.

President Palacios: Further discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of the last Standing Committee Report on the today’s Calendar, No. 20-13 reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-17, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The adoption motion has been made and seconded on Standing Committee Report No. 20-13. Discussion on that motion? Ready? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are done with the Standing Committee Reports. The Chair recommends that we take a three-minute or a five-minute break. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:13 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left off on Agenda Item M and we are now on Agenda Item N.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

President Palacios: There being none. We now move to Agenda Item O.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Clerk voiced Senate Commemorative Resolutions Nos. 20-01 and 20-02.

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Senate Commemorative No. 20-01, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Adoption motion has been offered and seconded for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-01. Discussion? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-01, please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-02, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Adoption motion has been made and seconded for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-02. Discussion? Those in favor of the motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are on to the next item, Agenda Item P, Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-09, SD1, on Final Reading, so move.

The motion has been seconded

President Palacios: Passage motion has been made and seconded on Senate Bill No. 20-09, Senate Draft 1. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, roll call.

CLERK called the roll:

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

President Arnold I. Palacios Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted “yes” two absent.

President Palacios: Seven voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-09, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-07, Senate Draft 1, on Final Reading, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made to pass Senate Bill No. 20-07, Senate Draft 1, is has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, seven (7) members voted “yes.”

President Palacios: With seven voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-07, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of House Bill No. 20-56, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made for the passage of House Bill No. 20-56, has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Years from now or thirty years from now this park would be bulldoze and turn into container yard or part of the harbor facility or part of American Memorial Park, my point is that I wish that we could have consider something like the Department of Finance building or offices where ever it may be in the future that it be name “Governor Eloy S Inos.” This is just personally what I feel to honor this person who is known as the number guy who we go after if it is financial

concern or challenges or something to budget in our government we always run to the Governor and we know that it will be resolve. I fully support this bill. I was just hoping that if this were to go to the committee then I would have brought that up to may be make an amendment. In addition to this, that we also name the Department of Finance, if it is a building in the future that it be call, “Governor Eloy S. Inos Building”, Department of Finance. If it is presently house with the administration that their office should be call “Governor Eloy S. Inos” Department of Finance Office. So that where ever it goes in the future that it will be known as “Governor Eloy S. Inos” Office.” I guess we can go forward with this but may be there’s something we can consider in the near future. Because I feel this park was built to take care of the old landfill or dump ground, and one day this will be bulldoze and to put to better use than park. I am just worried that when that time comes you will not have the full recognition of the former Governor. That is all. I don’t want to delay this I will support it but something that I think that the Committee can look further in the near future. *Si Yu’us ma’ase, Mr. President.*

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments, statements? Senator Quitugua?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. I really have the same concerns as Senator Paul Mangloña, and I even asked the author, Congressman Angel Demapan, why not name the Department of Finance because that is where he worked for a long time. He told me that it is the wish of the children and the family to name this Peace Memorial Park as “Governor Eloy S. Inos Peace Park”. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted “yes.”

President Palacios: Seven members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 20-56 hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-04, Senate Draft 1, on Final Reading, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion on Senate Bill No. 20-04, Senate Draft 1, has been made and seconded, discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Just a quick comment, Mr. President, I will support this. I just want to go on record that we have to be ready to supplement the pension because we know that if this bill were to become law for sure the insurance pension would go up and we will need to be ready. I agree totally with Senator Igisomar that we have to be firm and support this. So let us appreciate the fact that we would have to come up with funning for this so that it does not get pass through to the retirees and the employees. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments or statements? Ready for the question?
Clerk

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Excused
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	Excused
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, seven (7) members voted “yes.”

President Palacios: Seven members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-04, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-05, Senate Draft 1, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion has been seconded on Senate Bill No. 20-05, Senate Draft 1. Discussion? Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: If I am in order, Mr. President, I would like to offer – I yield at this time, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Proceed, Senator Santos.

Senator Santos: Okay, Mr. President. I am prepared to move forward with this floor written Amendment to Senate Bill No. 20-5, Senate Draft 1, to read on page 1, line 15, “their life insurance benefits because their contracts were not renewed” put “,” then amend “pressured to resign”. Page 2, line 16, “employment contracts are not renewed,” then add “pressured to resign”. Page 3, line 2, “political subdivision and instrumentalities who retire” to amend “from government service”, so move, Mr. President. Copies have been provided to all the members on this amendment. Thank you.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been seconded on Senator Santos’ Amendment. Discussion? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Mr. President can we take a quick recess, if you don’t mind?

President Palacios: Quick recess for clarification.

The Senate recessed at 2:39 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:43 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We went into short recess, Senator Santos had the floor and she offered an Amendment. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, after our recess, I would just like to withdraw my amendment and proceed with the main question. Thank you.

President Palacios: Okay. Senator Igisomar this is on the motion to pass Senate Bill No. 20-05, Senate Draft 1.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am highly favorable for the bill. I’m just throwing in some bytes similarly to Senator Paul Mangloña’s that, yes, it is something that we really need to consider in exploring the welfare of our people of the CNMI considering that we have exorbitant cost on the hospital and the medical referral. We are hoping that this benefits are allowing has coverage for our people to help the government alleviate some of the stress on our government. *Si Yu’us ma’ase.*

President Palacios: Ready for the question? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted “yes.”

President Palacios: With seven members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 20-05, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-06, Senate Draft 1, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion for Senate Bill No. 20-06, Senate Draft 1, has been seconded. Discussion? Senator Hofschneider recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, permission to comment on your bill?

President Palacios: Please proceed.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. As I indicated earlier, when we were adopting the Committee Report, there are substantive changes on the percentage. I know that you originally planned a fifty percent earmarked of the Beautification Tax, one of the Solid Waste Management, because of the gravity problems for all landfill operations and dumps in the CNMI the Committee take that very seriously as well as the meetings that we had with DPW and the fiscal visits that some of the Senate members had made to the Marpi Landfill up north. We arrive in a conclusion that we are going up the earmarking to the entire hundred percent and that would assist with the funding request for construction of Cell 3. The funding request for the potential relocation and new Municipal Solid Waste of Tinian. The continued funding of the Municipal Solid Waste operations in the island of Rota. So that in itself, Mr. President, satisfied the Committee thereby adopted the Committee Report earlier now ready to adopt the bill as amended. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Further comment? Thank you Senator Hofschneider, you opt the empty. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: *Si Yu’us ma’ase, Mr. President.* I truly hope too, in line with Senator Jude Hofschneider, I truly hope that the House will support this bill once we pass it out of this floor. I am

congratulating you for putting in such a great bill. It is an alignment with the priorities of the CNMI taking care of our waste, the solid waste and transfer station and we truly hope that with the amendment of your Committee, we will be able to take care of all these problems. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, *Mr. President*.

President Palacios: Thank you.

Senator Santos: Mr. President, if I may? I just like to put on record that although this legislation aims to provide significant funding to Marpi that Rota and Tinian also will be getting ten percent for our landfill solid waste. Thank you.

President Palacios: That is correct. Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you. I appreciate Senator Santos' alluding to that particular segment that the enabling statute that created the distribution of revenue generated is intact. Although this is just fondling the entire Beautification Tax over the Solid Waste Management to address the concerns and operations of all three islands. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any more comments? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Excused
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	Excused
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted "yes."

President Palacios: Seven members voting "yes", Senate Bill No. 20-06, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-13, Senate Draft 1, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made to pass Senate Bill No. 20-13, Senate Draft 1, it has been seconded. Discussion? Ready for the question? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted “yes.”

President Palacios: Seven members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 20-13, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-15, Senate Draft 1, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion for Senate Bill No. 20-15, Senate Draft 1, has been made and seconded. Discussion? No discussion. Ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted “yes.”

President Palacios: Seven members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 20-15, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, a motion to pass Senate Bill No. 20-17, Senate Draft 1, which is the last bill on today's Bill Calendar.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion has been made for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-17, Senate Draft 1, has been seconded.? Discussion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Excused
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	Excused
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voted "yes."

President Palacios: Seven members voting "yes", Senate Bill No. 20-17, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. I would like to thank all the Committee Chairs for working diligently to get all these legislations on the floor today. We are down to Agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-49 to 20-85.

President Palacios: We have thirty-seven Miscellaneous Communications, any comments? Senator Paul Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Yes, Mr. President. On Miscellaneous Communication 20-63, the Attorney General submits his comment on the mandatory minimum sentence pertaining to Senate Bill No. 20-20, I respectfully ask the Committee on JGL to look at this bill. It seems like a few recommendations that this bill could easily passed the Senate as the AG supports it with some concerns that he raised with regards to DUI and serious traffic offenses. I just ask the Committee to take note of that communication. On another AG's opinion and it is little complicated and that is his letter with regards to the Volunteer Police Reserve. I would like to look at that further as I am the sponsor of 20-31. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senate Bill No. 20-20, I believe it is JGL, the Chair of JGL is not here this afternoon. He had to leave during the session but to those members, who is the Vice Chair, Senator Hofschneider. We will relay that to the Chair. Thank you. Any more comments? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President. Dos, uno gi Miscellaneous No. 20-68, para baihu na tungo-hao ha* and just to reiterate that is why your Committee on PUTC did not necessarily truly rushed on the report on the oversight because CUC immediately thereafter, after our oversight send us a notice letting us know that they have canceled the RFP on that particular purchase through that contractor. *I sigundo*, I just want to make a comment on Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-49, which is the first one with respect to the Northern Islands Mayor. I just wanted to state that I am hoping that our Senate members will be forthcoming and supportive on any funding request by our Northern Islands Mayor when we come to the budget period so we can support our Northern Islands Mayor and our people that were displaced out of the Northern Islands to go back to our lands up north. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I though it is important that I put something on record with respect to Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-85. But before I do that, I would like to applaud Senator Igisomar for cheering this respond from CEO/CHCC with respect to the 340(b) drug discount program at CHCC. The CEO basically informs the Senate that CHCC has begun discussing the matter for eligibility to this drug discount program with the office of Pharmacy affairs at the Human Resources and services administration that at the outset of their discussion or meeting with the exception of Kagman Community Center, in order for CHCC to be eligible CHCC must register at the federally qualified health center or somehow a look alike. The office of Pharmacy affairs has advised CHCC to go ahead and submit their application in July as a disproportionate share hospital due to its location in a non US state and that CNMI's ineligibility for disproportionate share hospital funding adjustment. The letter also indicated definitely Rota and Tinian would not be eligible as both centers are not federally qualified health center at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments on Agenda Item Q? We are down to Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Palacios: We are down to Announcements. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I have several here, one of which is to extend appreciation to all the teachers in the Commonwealth and around the world as they celebrated teacher's appreciation week sometimes last week. Similarly, I would also like to say that everyday should be a Mother's Day. Because a mother is a silent hero to every child and a light of every whole. The purity of love and care could only be found in a mother. With this, I would like to

thanked all Mothers for their countless sacrifices of love for their children and that all Mothers are such a special gift of God. A Biblical scripture in the Bible say, in Exodus 20-12, "Honor your Father and Mother that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." With this, I would like to extend deepest and sincerest gratitude to all our Mothers. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Santos well said. We move down to Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Palacios: The Chair would like to announce and again remind everybody of the meeting with the Drug Court, Judge Kim Tenorio, on Friday, and the Director of the Drug Court. Any other announcements? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Just apprehension, Mr. President. Respectfully request that I will be blocking off this coming Thursday, at approximately 9:30 a.m. for Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting.

President Palacios: Is that tomorrow?

Senator Hofschneider: Next week Thursday. I will be making a formal announcement after the session.

President Palacios: At your request, Senator Hofschneider, we are scheduling a session next Thursday.

Senator Hofschneider: That is correct.

President Palacios: Is that going to be in the afternoon?

Senator Hofschneider: That is correct, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Is that going to be amendable to everybody? The Chair will be calling a Special Session on Thursday to address two critical legislations that the Fiscal Affairs Committee would be finalizing in terms of the Committee Report with some proposed amendments to the legislations. So I'll give you an advance noticed that the Chair will be calling a Special Session next Thursday in the afternoon. Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: If I am in order, Mr. President, may I suggest for a two o'clock Senate Session so my nine thirty meeting would essentially give us ample time to finalize all the documents that we need.

President Palacios: Yes, the word got out. But we will go ahead and give you the opportunity. We will have the session at two o'clock, if that is okay with everybody. If you are going to be presenting a Committee Report and to be adopted.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, can we go on a short recess to discuss this?

President Palacios: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:02 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:04 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Senator Hofschneider, is your concern being addressed?

Senator Hofschneider: Pretty much, Mr. President. Thank you for your attention.

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Just an announcement. *Mr. President etyo i yota* Communication from Heads of Executive Department No. 20-09, that is the 29th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference for June 13-15, 2017. I just want to give a heads-up, *hu taitai este ya*, it is a fifty-dollar application fee. *Pues kumo para un'atendi este gi Saipan, na asugurao na un file taftaf* to Finance to request for fifty-dollar to pay for the venue. If they are giving us free access it would have been nice, but I think it is a fifty-dollar entrance fee. Si Yu'us ma'ase.

President Palacios: Anymore announcement? Agenda Item T.

ADJOURNMENT

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. A motion is in order to adjourn this session at 3:07 in the afternoon subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion has been seconded.

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

All members voiced "Aye".

President Palacios: Motion carries. This Senate stands adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk