

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



Senate  
THIRD SPECIAL SESSION - 2017

SJ 20-09

First Day

Friday, June 09, 2017

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

**Acting President Mesngon:** Good Afternoon, everyone. Thank you and *si Yu'us ma'ase para finaton-miyu*, for coming up here to the Senate Chamber. Just for information, the Senate President will not be sitting with us today, and I'll be sitting as the Acting President, for today's session.

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its 1<sup>st</sup> Day, Third Special Session, on June 09, 2017, at 4:06 p.m., in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Steve K. Mesngon, Acting President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Clerk, please take the roll.

The Senate Clerk called the roll, eight (8) members are present and one (1) absent.

**Acting President Mesngon:** With eight (8) members present, we have the necessary quorum to proceed with our Order of Business. Next in our Agenda is Public Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Acting President Mesngon:** Anyone in the gallery who are present wish to make any public comments? Please, come up to the podium in the front. Please, state your name if you wish to make public comment. If none, Clerk, let the record reflect that there is none under Public Comment. With this, if there is no objection, I would like to ask the members, since our audience here in the gallery presently are waiting for the nominees that are being here couple of days ago, we will skip the

Agenda and go down to the Reports of Standing Committees, so we can entertain some committee reports for today's Agenda.

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

**Acting President Mesngon**: Ready? We will proceed down to line Item M, Reports of Standing Committees.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Acting President Mesngon**: I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Borja**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-16, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the appointment of Ms. Leticia D. Reyes, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Board of Trustees, representing the Third Senatorial District.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon**: There's a motion on the floor for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-16, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the appointment of Ms. Leticia D. Reyes, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees, representing the Third Senatorial District. Discussion? I would like to recognize the Chairman of EA&GI, Chairman Cruz.

**Senator Cruz**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this is to report Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-16, the appointment of Ms. Leticia D. Reyes. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Leticia D. Reyes, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Board of Trustees, begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to 3 CMC §2825, Ms. Leticia D. Reyes, was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, on May 11, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Board of Trustees. The Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Ms. Leticia D. Reyes, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Leticia D. Reyes's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Ms. Leticia D. Reyes's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Ms. Leticia D. Reyes, possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees. Mr. President and members of the full Senate, I ask that you support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-16. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Chairman Cruz. We are still under discussion. Any other member would like further discussion? Ready? If none, we are now voting on Standing Committee Report No. 20-16. Clerk, please take the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight (8) members voting “yes.”

**Acting President Mesngon:** With all eight (8) members present voting “yes,” Standing Committee Report No. 20-16, is hereby adopted. Congratulations, Ms. Leticia Reyes. I would like to ask the indulgence, to continue with the remaining Standing Committee Reports, then, as the presiding, I will call a recess for the congratulatory. We will continue to complete the rest of the nominees. I would like to recognized again, the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Borja:** Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-17, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the appointment of Mr. David B. Rosario, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees, representing the Third Senatorial District, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There’s a motion on the floor to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-17, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the appointment of Mr. David B. Rosario, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees, representing the Third Senatorial District, and it has been seconded. Discussion? I would like to recognize again, the Chairman from EA&GI, Chairman Cruz.

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Again, Mr. President, your Committee is ready to present Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-17, on the appointment of Mr. David B. Rosario. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Mr. David B. Rosario, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees, begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to 3 CMC §2825, Mr. David B. Rosario, was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, on May 15, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees. The Committee on

Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Mr. David B. Rosario, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Mr. David B. Rosario's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Mr. David B. Rosario's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Mr. David B. Rosario, possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustee. Again, I ask the full member of the Senate to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-17. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. We are still under discussion. Any other member who wish to make any discussion? Recognized, Senator Quitugua.

**Senator Quitugua:** Mr. President, if you can clarify to the audience and especially the nominees, that if the Standing Committee Reports are adopted relative to the nominations that the nominees are deemed confirmed.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Chairman Quitugua. I retract that information, we just adopted Standing Committee Report No. 20-16, the appointment of Ms. Leticia Reyes, and she's dully now confirmed as the whole confirmation body of the Senate. Are we ready? Clerk, please take 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 Arnold I. Palacios	Excused
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
Acting President Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight (8) members voting "yes."

**Acting President Mesngon:** With all eight (8) members present voting "yes," Standing Committee Report No. 20-17, the appointment of Mr. David Rosario, is hereby adopted and he is now confirmed. Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-18, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the

appointment of Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees, representing the Third Senatorial District. So move, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's a motion on the floor to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-18, and it has been seconded. Any discussion? I recognize the Chairman from EA&GI, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Again, your Committee is ready to report Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-18, this is the appointment of Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro, serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees, begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to 3 CMC §2825, Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro, was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, on May 15, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees. The Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustees. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro, possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Board of Trustee. Again, I ask the full Senate members to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-18. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. We are still under discussion, any other member? I recognized, Senator Paul Mangloña?

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. This has nothing to do with the nominees, by the way, I support the nominees also. This is the only opportunity that I can probably make a statement on Commonwealth Health Care Corporation matter that is of critical importance to the people of Rota, and since this is the last three nominees that we will be discussing today, I chose at this point to make a comment. I comment, Mr. President, because, I read an article yesterday, regarding the Hemodialysis project for the island of Rota. I know that we've been communicating over many years with CHCC on this project. I just hope that the two nominees that we confirmed earlier and Ms. Ogumoro, also, can take this project seriously and can be also a champion of this project, because, really, Hemodialysis project in Rota is needed. I know that the financial challenges are there, but, nonetheless, it is something that I think every major island in the Commonwealth should have. Because, we are not only talking about the six patients that are presently here on Saipan, we are talking about four or five in Guam, and maybe five or six in the Mainland, and in other places that are in need of this service. But more also, because, as we try to develop our islands, we invite tourists and other people to come to our islands and if we do not have this service, then, it is not only

the patients that we are hurting, it is also their spouses, their family that travels with them. This is something that each island should have. And, you know, when you take a look at Guam for example, or neighbor to Guam, before they have maybe two or three facilities on Guam, now, it seems like every village on Guam has such a facility in their community and this is made possible, because, of our advancement in technology and fiber optic, and better communications, so we talk about telemedicine. I hope that CHCC can look at this opportunity. I don't know how much emphasis I can put, Mr. President, on the need to finally move forward with this project. CIP funding, we have the money. We can go in there and fix what we need to fix, but, again, because of the negligent of the past CIP management, or Public Works, or Health Care Officials, they have not actually properly look at the scope of work, or at the requirements of Medicare, or Medicaid, the Delegation have provided for the funding and this is going to be, maybe, the third time or the fourth time, that they have informed us of the need to make corrective measures as far as the designer of the facility. It's been sitting there for more than eight years now, and when you know that the CIP money is there, then, I think that we should move forward. I ask the nominees to please look at that, CIP is not an issue, we can correct that. We spoke with the CEO, about a year ago, and it was my understanding that, they were supposed to come up with the operation site as to what are the personnel that we need. I know, we don't need Nephrologist, we can possibly use a telemedicine there, but, what other dietician or what other personnel we need, we are waiting for that so that then, we can look and assess how we can fund for those personnel. The risk, I guess the high risk dialysis patient, we will have to let them know that they have no choice but to come here. But for those people that are not high risk, then, it is really hardship for them and their families. When you talk about twenty families, when you count Saipan, Guam, and the US and elsewhere, that is twenty family times five, that is about a hundred families that are affected. Then the few ones that are on the border line, actually, when a doctor determines that you need dialysis, it is really terrible sentence for that patient and his families because they actually have to leave Rota. Imagine, your house is there, you put an investment on the house, your farm is there, your family is there, you have to move. It is a death sentence actually, to move everyone to Saipan, or to Guam. I hope that you don't take that lightly that you have only six patients never mind just let another ten years go. I think that we need to work together and see what federal assistance is there, how we can use telemedicine and I move forward with this project. I hate to be one that is being told to leave the island because of this diagnose. I am sorry for prolonging this I am not a member of EA&GI Committee. I just take this opportunity emphasis this, Mr. President. Thank you so much. And, I thank the nominees for accepting this appointment by our Governor, and, I look forward to working with all of you. Si Yu'us ma'ase. One final issue, Mr. President, that I want to bring up also, I keep reading in the newspaper recently, about PHI, and about the In-house Pharmacy. I hate to be in your position, but, whatever the plus and the minus with that, I hope that you take that seriously. One thing though I want to mention, is that, our Governor, when he was back in the Senate, the two of us actually, we walk with the CEO in the hospital, at that time when there were a lot of emergencies going on. I just hope that you will consider that the hospital needs to run this pharmacy itself, then, please make sure that we run it like a business. Because, I remembered when Governor Torres, and I went down there, they told us that they couldn't buy a thousand-dollar worth of stamps to mail out the billings worth couple hundreds of thousand dollars. So, they were behind. They were not mailing the billings because they do not have thousand dollars in their account to mail out the billings. I remember back then they did not have a lot of the medication. They were lacking a lot of these medications. So,

somehow, I am a believer of privatization and whatever your decision, I hope that it is in the best interest of our people. That is all, I just want to state that. Thank you.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Senator Paul Mangloña. You are right, there's much discussion during EA&GI hearing with the three nominees. That is one of the major topics about the dialysis in Rota. It is prudent to mentioned that yes, Senator Santos, was really let the members or the appointees acknowledge the importance of that hemodialysis in Rota. It is dully noted that the three nominees were really attentive to take a look at it, and if there's any possibilities and I believe it goes down to finances, it is all about budgeting. It is good that you mentioned about the CIP and probably the nominees, or the two that were confirmed earlier should noted like what Ms. Reyes, stated earlier during the hearing that, we have to work together. This is the time, that when you are in there, please, regularly let the members know so we can support not only Rota, but, Rota is like an issue now on the newspaper about the hemodialysis. That is why probably Senator Paul Mangloña is really bringing up this issue and also Senator Santos. Also not only for Rota but even Tinian and Saipan. Whatever the course of health care that we need please, you know. Senator Paul Manlgoña, we dully noted during the hearing that was a heavy discussion also about the hemodialysis on Rota. It is good that you point that out also that the nominees could hear your position on the hemodialysis also on Rota. It is dully noted and thank you for your statement. We are still under discussion. Any other member would like to comment? Ready? Clerk, please take the roll call.

CLERK called the roll:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight (8) members voting "yes."

**Acting President Mesngon:** With eight (8) members present voting "yes," on Standing Committee Report No. 20-18, for the appointment of Ms. Lauri B. Ogumoro, is hereby adopted and she is dully confirmed. Congratulations, to the three nominees of the CHCC center. I am sorry, I have to take my mind from Rota since the topic from Senator Mangloña was mentioning earlier about Rota, so please indulge me. I would like to continue with this and I would like to recognized the Floor Leader, again.

**Floor Leader Borja:** Mr. President, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-19, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, representing the Third Senatorial District, so move, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's a motion on the floor to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-19, and it has been seconded. Any discussion?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Mr. President?

**Acting President Mesngon:** Recognized, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. First, I wanted to acknowledge during the hearing for Mr. Villagomez, was very fruitful and of great exchange. But, I just want to kind of go on record that there's couple of things that I've raised up and I appreciated Mr. Villagomez's attention on the matter. I thought that I would reiterate my position and requesting the CPA Board of the fees that are being proposed to take effect on October of this year. I am just raising this up simply, because, it may trigger an increase in airfare interisland between Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and so forth. I do know, that they have a fiduciary duty with their bond rating and all, but, I just ask that before they engage, they seriously look at the impact that may have, whether, it will force the issue of potentially raising the increase in air fare rates. There is associated fees and it's understandable. There's associated fees that is currently being in their authority but, for every time that we consider making adjustment especially on the high side, if we are going to increase it, I always would like them to think that the effect, how would it effect the paying customers. Especially the ones that are traveling often between the islands of Rota and Saipan, Tinian and Saipan, so I thought I mentioned that. Also, I would like to express appreciation for their support in any of the projects that are currently on going and one being a long much awaited projects on the island of Tinian, the terminals. Also, I was advised that there's another one that is coming through that is very critical with the infrastructure in the airport on the island of Tinian. Again, thank you, Mr. President, for your attention, I appreciated. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Chairman Jude U. Hofschneider. We are still under discussion, any other member? I recognized, Chairman Cruz.

**Senator Cruz:** Mr. President, can we have a short recess? So we can call the members of CPA, Board of Directors, to discuss over the matter that Chairman Hofschneider have mentioned.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Before I call the recess, I would like to retreated again, the three nominees that were just confirmed, and as a full body along with the Acting Governor now, our President, I would like to congratulate the three nominees that just dully confirmed. Again, I would like to take a short recess, but, would like to congratulate the three nominees that we just recently passed the three Standing Committee Reports. Thank you. Recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:33 p.m.

**RECESS**



The Senate reconvened at 4:50 p.m.

**Acting President Mesngon:** We are back from recess. We are still under discussion and I would like to recognize the Chairman from EA&GI, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Before, I present the report, I would like to thank again, the nominees and colleagues for your understanding when we were under recess. This time, Mr. President, your Committee is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 20-19, this is the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, representing the island of Saipan. Pursuant to 2 CMC §2123, Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez, was re-nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, on March 27, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, representing the island of Saipan. The Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Mr. Thomas P Villagomez, possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Again, I ask the full Senate members to support Standing Committee Report No. 20-19. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. Any other member? Are you ready? If none, we are now voting on the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-19, on the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, representing the Third Senatorial District. Clerk, please take 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 Arnold I. Palacios	Excused
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
Acting President Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)

CLERK: Mr. President, all eight (8) members voting "yes."

**Acting President Mesngon:** With eight (8) members present voting “yes” on Standing Committee Report No. 20-19, we are now hereby adopted and confirmed, Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez. Congratulations! I will take a real short recess so we can congratulate the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:53 p.m.

#### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 5:10 p.m.

**Acting President Mesngon:** We are back from recess. Before we continue, I would like to give an apology and excused the two members, Senator Teresita Santos and Floor Leader Borja, since they are catching a flight out of here and they’ve been abbey with time. I would like to appoint our Legislative Secretary, to be the Floor Leader to continue with this session. Senator Justo S. Quitugua, I dully appoint you to continue as the Floor Leader. With this, we are still under Reports of Standing Committees, and I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-15, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There’s a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-15, any discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-15, say “Aye”. Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced “Aye.”

**Acting President Mesngon:** Standing Committee Report No. 20-15, is hereby adopted. Floor Leader, we are still under Standing Committee Reports.

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** Mr. President, I think we have already adopted all Standing Committee Reports that are on today’s Order of Business.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Floor Leader. I would like to retract and go back to our Order of Business. The item that we left off is on Item C, Reading and approval of the journals.

#### READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Senate Journals 20-02, 20-03, 20-7, and 20-08

**Acting President Mesngon:** I would like to continue to recognize the Floor Leader.

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, a motion for the adoption of Senate Journals 20-02, 20-03, and 20-08, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** I would like to make that correction, Floor Leader, is it also including Senate Journal 20-07?

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** Yes, Mr. President, including Senate Journal 20-07.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's a motion the floor for the adoption of Senate Journals 20-02, 20-03, 20-07, and 20-08, it has been seconded. Any discussion? With this, I would like to call for the adoption of the just mentioned Senate Journals, from 20-02, 20-03, 20-07, and 20-08, please say "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

**Acting President Mesngon:** Senate Journals 20-02, 20-03, 20-07, and 20-08, are hereby adopted. We are now down to line Item D, Messages from the Governor.

### MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governors Messages Nos. 20-46 to 20-63.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Clerk. There are eighteen all in all from the Governor's Messages. Any member would like to make any comment on any particular messages from the Governor? Ready? If none, we are going down to line Item E, Communications from the Judiciary.

### COMMUNICATONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

**CLERK:** We have none, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Clerk. Item F, Communications from the Heads and Executive Department. Clerk?

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk voiced Department Communications Nos. 20-15 to 20-17.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Any member would like to make comments on these particular communications? Are we ready? We will go down to line Item G, Communications from the House. Clerk?

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE**

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 20-32 & 20-33.

**Acting President Mesngon**: There are two communications from the House, any member? If none, we continue down to line Item H, Communications from the Senate. Clerk?

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE**

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-63 to 20-73.

**Acting President Mesngon**: There are eleven communications from the Senate, any member? Okay, we go down to line item I, Communications from the Washington Delegate. Clerk?

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE**

**Clerk**: We have none, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon**: Line Item J, Unfinished Business.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Clerk**: There is none.

**Acting President Mesngon**: Okay. Line Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

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

**Acting President Mesngon**: I would like to recognized the Floor Leader.

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the following Senate Local Bills, Senate Bills, and Senate Joint Resolution have been pre-filed: Senate Local Bill No. 20-04, Senate Bill No. 20-43, Senate Bill No. 20-44, Senate Bill No. 20-45, Senate Bill No. 20-46 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, are hereby according to our Senate Rules automatically introduced.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Pre-filed bills, there are six of them. Any member would like to make any comments or move of any of these bills has been pre-filed? Are we ready? Can we just have a quick recess? Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 5:17 p.m.

### **RECESS**

The Senate reconvened at 5:18 p.m.

**Acting President Mesngon:** We are back from recess. Now, we are down to line Item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

### **INTRODUCTIONS OF BILS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILS & RESOLUTIONS**

**Acting President Mesngon:** Recognized, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to formally introduced Senate Bill No. 20-47, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC § 4372; to amend 2 CMC § 4376 to establish the Kastiyu Agricultural Homestead Development in Tinian; and for other purposes.” And if there is no objection from the members, especially the Delegation members from Tinian, if they want to co-sponsor this with me, Mr. President, can we have the Clerk to make that note?

**Acting President Mesngon:** Clerk, please note that as requested by the author.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Any other member would like to do some introduction of bills? If none, we go down to line Item N, Reports of Special/Conference Committee. Clerk?

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

**Clerk:** We have none, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Line Item O, Resolution Calendar.

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

**Acting President Mesngon:** I recognized the Floor Leader?

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if there is no objection from the members, a motion to suspend all pertinent Rules for the placement of Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, on today's Resolution Calendar, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There is a motion on the floor to suspend pertinent Rules in order to place Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, and it has been seconded. All in favor to suspend all pertinent Rules in order for us to place Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, say "Aye". Opposed say "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

**Acting President Mesngon:** The motion to suspend the Rules is now suspended. Floor Leader, you still have the floor.

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** On Resolution Calendar, Mr. President, a motion for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's a motion on the floor to adopt Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, To recognize Honorable Froilan Cruz Tenorio for his exceptional accomplishments and distinguished service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and it has been seconded. All in favor of the motion to adopt say, "Aye." I am sorry, we still have some members to have discussion on the floor. I now recognized, Senator Sixto Igisomar.

**Senator Igisomar:** Mr. President, I just wanted to, I guess ask, if it is okay for all members to have it as a Committee as the Whole as sponsors?

There was no objection raised.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's no objection. Clerk, please note that. You still have the floor Chairman Igisomar.

**Senator Igisomar:** That is it, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you. I now recognized, Chairman Jude U. Hofschneider.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. I want to first commend Senator Igisomar for sponsoring this bill. I just wanted to point out that it was under his leadership during the time when he was the Governor, that the first Casino in CNMI has open, he was very instrumental in pushing forth the development and the opening of the Casino on Tinian. Although, his vision is perhaps to expand the industry forth, I think it is appropriate that we recognized his accomplishment in regards as a constituent from the island of Tinian. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Senator Hofschneider, for that message. We are still under discussion, any other member? Are we ready? There's a motion to adopt Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, all in favor say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

**Acting President Mesngon:** Senate Joint Resolution No. 20-04, is hereby adopted. You still have the floor, Floor Leader.

### **BILL CALENDAR**

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** On the Bill Calendar, Mr. President, if no objection from the members, I recommend that Senate Bill No. 20-08 will remain on the Calendar for the next Senate Session. Thank you.

There was no objection raised.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's a recommendation from the Floor Leader, Senate Bill No. 20-08, if there is no objection from the members to remain on the Calendar. Thank you, members. Floor Leader, you still have the floor if any.

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** There is no more Senate Bills on the Calendar, Mr. President.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Floor Leader. We go down now to Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

### **PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-95 to 20-118.

**Acting President Mesngon:** We got twenty-four on Item Q. Any member would like to make any comment or discussion on the matter of any particular item on Item Q? If none, we go down to Item R, Miscellaneous Business.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**Acting President Mesngon:** Any of the member wish to make comment under Miscellaneous Business? I recognized, Senator Paul Mangloña.

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. First, I want to thank the Chairman of Fiscal Affairs, Senator Hofschneider, for introducing Senate Bill No. 20-48, although a question arises as to

whether this is an appropriation measure or not. The fact of the matter is, he has focused attention on the needs of Public School System in their plan to promote early Head start and in improving the facilities. I understand there is a need, Mr. President, for, I believe, almost six hundred thousand dollars to add more classrooms and renovate the facilities. The intent of Senate Bill No. 20-48 is to provide them that funding. I hope that we can conveyed to the House of Representatives the need for this assistance so that they can actually plan for the next school year. I thank the Chairman and his leadership for bringing in PSS and addressing this concern. Of course, we took the opportunity to talk also about text books, and other instructional materials that are required for this upcoming school year. They have assured us that all the textbooks that are required will be there in time next year. This is a concern that we raised yesterday, Mr. President, because, really with the additional funding that they are getting there shouldn't be any excused for any students next year to not have chemistry, science, or any textbook in the school. I am happy to hear that from PSS. So again, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Senator Paul Mangloña. I recognize, Senator Sixto Igisomar.

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just wanted to state to clarify the record and I know that Marianas Variety is here and she assured me that she will correct the record. There was an article that came out and it was missing the whole content of the story and I am sure that Marianas Variety is trying to shorten the article so that they can post it properly. I made a statement during the CHCC Board Public Hearing under the EA&GI Committee. I think the article printed the language that Senator Sixto Igisomar was saying that, is it his job to look at CHCC. But I wanted to clarify that in the whole context the main John Rau, was questioning or stating that yes, of course, our constituents to us, giving us issues to look into, but whether it is our job to do the job of the departments and agencies. So, it was not saying that it was my job or our job to look at what is happening. But the question was, that they should do and perform and do their job and not for us to be the one to drop everything here and to go down there for example, at the moment we were discussing CHCC, that it is not our job to go down there and do their job for them. So, just for clarification, and I know that, Cherry, stated that she will take care of it. Thank you very much, Mr. President. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you, Chairman Sixto Igisomar. I hope to make that clarification from the Marianas Variety, to make the correction. Also, Senator Paul Mangloña's statement earlier with this PSS, we had a Fiscal Affairs meeting yesterday, and it is put in that the members really support the intent of the proposal the PSS and the management. That is why the members are really eager to push this forward in order for the PSS to solicit or to move with the project to assist our schools, especially, with infrastructures and textbooks. What Senator Paul Mangloña, was stating that for next year we are guaranteed to have all in place before the school starts. That is a good news for us. We are still under Miscellaneous, any other member would like to make any statement? If there's none, we go down to Item S, Announcements.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Acting President Mesngon:** Recognized, Chairman Sixto Igisomar.

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to make this announcement, that the PUTC Public Hearing on the bill that was in PUTC, initially scheduled for June 12. I know, that there was confusion in movement of dates, but, we have members that were not available. So, the PUTC Public Hearing for the telephone texting while driving bill for Rota, is scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup>. *June 30, etyo no Vice Chairman Quitugua?* So it is scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup>, down in Rota. Saipan, will be announce at a later time. Thank you very much.

**Acting President Mesngon:** Thank you. Clerk, please note that, for the members, it is going to be down in Rota. Any other member? If none, I would like to recognized the Floor Leader for adjournment. We are under Item T, Adjournment.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Acting Floor Leader Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. A motion to adjourn today's session at 5:33 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**Acting President Mesngon:** There's a motion to adjourn subject to the call, all in favor of the motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

**Acting President Mesngon:** The motion was carried by voice vote. This Special Session is hereby adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Frances Joan P. Kaipat  
Senate Journal Clerk