

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



Senate
SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2017

SJ 20-13

Second Day

Thursday, August 10, 2017

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold S. Palacios, issued a session call on August 07, 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.

President Palacios: Before we go into session, I would like to recognize the presence of the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, welcome Governor, members and staff and members of the community also, thank you for joining us this afternoon.

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Second Regular Session, on August 10, 2017, at 2:48 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll, seven (7) members are present two (2) absents.

President Palacios: With seven members present, we have established a quorum to conduct today's session. We are down to agenda Item B, Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: The floor is now open for any member of the public to submit comment. If there's anyone please join us in the chamber up here, state your name, the organization you represent and the issue that you wish to speak of. The floor is now open.

Mr. Richard Villagomez: Good morning, Mr. President and honorable members. Richard Villagomez here on behalf of DPL with Rachel Roque here, to comment on Agenda Item M (3), which has to do with Senate Bill No. 20-35. I can make comments now or the floor will be open when you get to agenda item or shall I wait?

President Palacios: No, now is the time for those comments.

Mr. Richard Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. President. Looking at this bill it proposes to increase public land leases from forty years to a total of fifty-five years. Public Land had submitted comments in response to the previous version of this which was to increase it to seventy-five years. No real issue of the fifty-five years just a couple of things I'd like to point out, one thing is that there's a sentence in here that starts on page 4, line 4, and it reads, "a leasehold interest of up to forty years may be given up on approval of two-thirds of the members of the Legislature," so that kind of says that every lease would be required to come to the Legislature. I don't know if that is the senate's intention, but I would recommend that that sentence be amended or deleted all together and continue with what is in Public Law 15-2 which is whatever is five hectares or above be brought to the Legislature or renewals. The other comment is actually had to do with Senate Resolution 19-05, which encourages Department of Public Lands to encourage new investors to lease or purchase private lands, this is actually just a comment, with the forty years being increased up to fifty-five years, I guess we will continue to encourage investors to do that, but it makes public lands more appealing. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Villagomez. The Committee will take that into consideration. Thank you. Good afternoon, please state your name.

Mr. James Stump: My name is James Stump; I am an attorney here in the CNMI. Thank you for the opportunity to present comments concerning Senate Bill No. 20-35. I am not here to talk about the issues of the constitutionality of the bill, but, I just want to provide comments of the proposed structure. I agree with the comments on the bill that the Marianas Islands are experiencing a period of significant growth that is welcomed after many years of a depressed economy. I think we can all remember the bleak period not too long ago when we had limited periods of electrical power due to inadequate resources and infrastructure. But fortunate under the current economic conditions and the Legislature is to be commended for making critical decisions which facilitated this significant economic tum-around. The issue that I want to talk about today concerning Senate Bill No.20-35 concerns the ability to extend public land leases to fifty-five years. The thing I want to talk about is that currently we have a high because of the economic conditions. We have a significant demand for lodging accommodations. Many of the leases associated with the hotels are currently nearing the end of their lease period. Many of the hotels on the beachfront areas throughout Saipan were build many years ago and have adequate facilities and furnishings. These aging hotel facilities have a direct impact on the nature of a customer demand for tourism. As we cannot attract tourists who are seeking accommodations in four and five-star facilities with hotels that need extensive renovations to reflect current trend. As has been stated repeatedly over the last several years by tourism officials, the CNMI wants to focus on the attraction of a smaller clientele of high-end tourists as oppose to just going with mass tourism because of our delicate infrastructures and limited facilities. In order to accomplish this extensive renovation is needed to the existing hotels to attract higher-end tourism market. Extensive renovations to a 300-room hotel can easily exceed \$50 million dollars, and these type of capital investments cannot be warranted when the owner only has a 15-year leasehold period remaining. Because of this, the owners will only make limited renovations of the facilities, unless, Senate Bill will act to defer extensive renovations to the hotel structure, not act as an incentive. Under this Bill, we will be perpetuating the current condition of our hotel stock and will likely to be in same situation

ten years from now when this proposed interim extension is near the end except that then we will have hotel stock that is further aged. An alternative to this proposal is to address the issue of the need for extensive hotel renovations head-on right now and establish a structure that provides significant incentives for major hotel renovation immediately while the economy is at a strong point. Such an incentive could be provided if the Legislature provided an opportunity for existing hotel owners to cancel their leases and enter into new leases accompanied by a guarantee of immediate significant renovation of the existing hotels. This could be accomplished through the development of a request for proposal process in which the existing hotel owners are given some form of consideration for their existing investment, and a new lease structure is provided to increase government revenues on this limited public property. I firmly believe that this type of structure could be accomplished within the existing parameters of the CNMI Constitution, but you need a cooperative approach between the Legislature, the Attorney General, Hotel representatives and the Governor. Using this approach, this plan could be developed in short-order. In closing, I want to reiterate, the CNMI economy currently has a unique and limited opportunity. The economy is strong, tourism demand is great, and many of the existing leases on hotels are coming due. Now, is the perfect time to require and foster extensive renovations and upgrades to our hotel stock. This opportunity is fleeting, and the time to work with stakeholders to develop a feasible plan to attain this objective is currently before you. The proposed Senate Bill, will ensure that this opportunity is missed, because there will be minimum incentive for significant renovation with this minor extension of time and we would have lost this opportunity. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Stump. Are there any other? Again, state your name.

Mr. Alex Sablan: Good afternoon, Senate President and members of the Senate. My name is Alex Sablan; I am here representing the Government Relations Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. We have met to discuss Senate Bill No. 20-35, and its increasing the number from thirty-five to fifteen years. I just want to qualify my statement by acknowledging Mr. Stumps recommendation as good alternatives but in addressing 20-35. It is of the opinion of Chamber of Commerce that we support the effort to move the legislation to fifteen years and to extend public land leases from forty to fifty-five years to give the hoteliers that are currently in place with current leases and any potential investor coming in the effort of opportunity to garner the fifteen years or fifty-five years to continue to spur this economy. While I share Mr. Stump sentiments on the efforts to giving hoteliers the additional time by breaking leases and renegotiating, I think there's time for that discussion down the road, but at this stage, well, I do not speak on behalf of the Hyatt and the other hoteliers, they have expressed their supports in getting something better than nothing , and getting time and opportunity to achieve Mr. Stump and many other individuals that have expressed the idea of being able to break a lease and renegotiate with Department of Public Lands to get more extensive timeline for hoteliers. There have been six opinions, my understanding is the senate legal counsel as well, has issue an opinion on this that there is the ability to break a lease and re-negotiate with the hoteliers. Hopefully, as Mr. Stump describes there is a meeting of the minds with the Legislature, the Administration, the Attorney General and hotelier operators to achieve that end goal. I think absolutely it isn't the best interests of the CNMI not to lose this window of opportunity. I think we all recognize we are in a bubble and exploiting this bubble to the full extent possible in getting all the hotels that are in dire need of some life in it in getting the rooms renovated and not losing our only branded international hotel chain Hyatt Regency would be beneficial to the entire community, the

entire economy and again, moving the momentum forward that we have going right now, I think it is in everyone's best interest. So, with that the Chamber of Commerce fully supports 20-35 in the move to have fifteen-year extension. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Sablan. Any other comments? There being none. We move down to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of Journal.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you Mr. President. For the adoption of Senate Journal 20-11, I so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Senate Journal 20-11, 1st Day, Fifth Special Session, it's been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, "Aye." Oppose say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. We move down to Messages from the Governor. Clerk?

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governors Communication No. 20-97.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any comments? There being none. We move down to agenda Item F, Communications from Head of Executive Department. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk voiced Department Communications Nos. 20-26 to 20-29.

President Palacios: Any comments on these communications? There being none. We move to agenda Item G

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 20-70 and 20-71.

President Palacios: Thank you. On House Communication No. 20-71, this is regarding House Bill 20-105 which is the budget. I am sure that the Committee on Fiscal Affairs scheduled some meetings and we begin to take up this issue on timely manner. I have the opportunity to speak with the Chairman of Fiscal Affairs this morning who is presently off-island and he made a commitment that no later than the second week of September, the Senate will have a final version of the budget. With that, I urge all members to work diligently so we can get this budget out of the Senate. Any other comment? There being none, we move to agenda Item H.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-100 to 20-102.

President Palacios: Any comments? There being no comments we move to agenda Item K, Pre-filed of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. Floor Leader?

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have two pre-filed bills and one resolution. Senate Resolution No. 20-11, "Respectfully requesting the United States Postal Service to provide additional service windows in the Chalan Kanoa post office," introduced by Senator Teresita A. Santos; Senate Bill No. 20-60, "To regulate off-road vehicles including ATVs, SxS, and UTVs; and for other purposes," introduced by Senator Justo S. Quitugua; and Senate Bill No. 20-62, "To regulate cannabis in the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes," introduced by Senator Sixto K. Igisomar. That is all the pre-filed bills, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. Going back to Senate Resolution No. 20-11, if there is no objection by the members, I would like for this resolution to be introduced as Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: There being no objection, Senate Resolution No. 20-11 is hereby introduced as Committee of the Whole. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I also have here pre-filed bills, if I may state them, Senate Bill No. 20-58, "To amend the 3 CMC § 2836 to remove the payment requirement by CHCC

to the Commonwealth government; and for the purpose; and also Senate Bill No. 20-59, “To amend 3 CMC § 2824, to establish a claims and clinical data base warehouses at CHCC and to improve accountability for how health insurance premiums are spent by requiring health insurance insurers and health care providers to submit reports on claims and clinical data to the insurance commissioner; and for other purposes.” Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Did you forget to introduce those in the last session?

Senator Igisomar: I was not here I was missing in action for a brief moment. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. On Senate Bill No. 20-62 would you like to invite other members to co-sponsor this legislation?

Senator Igisomar: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. If there is no objection from the members the bill is open, Senate Bill No. 20-62, which to regulate the cannabis in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is open for anybody to come in. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. We are down to Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

INTRODUCTIONS OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTION

President Palacios: Go ahead, Senator Mesngon.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to formally introduce Senate Bill No. 20-65, which is “To established guideline for the Child Support Enforcement Division pertaining to non-custodial parents regarding non-compliance support orders; and for other purposes.”

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other? I have one Senate Bill No. 20-64, “A Bill for an Act to establish a State Directory of New Hires; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and I invite all members of the Senate to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation. Thank you. Any other bills, legislations to be introduce this afternoon? There being none. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:10 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left off on agenda Item L, recognized, Senator Borja.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to officially introduced Senate Bill No. 20-60 on behalf of the author, Senator Justo S. Quitugua, “To regulate off-road vehicles including ATVs, SxS, and UTVs; and for the purposes.”

President Palacios: Thank you. With that, we move to agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have four Standing Committee Reports on our agenda for today. However, I would like to make a motion to withdraw Standing Committee Report No. 20-35 on today’s calendar. The Committee have done public hearings on all three Senatorial Districts and we received a lot of comments and as a result, the Committee decided to withdraw this Standing Committee Report so that we can entertain and take into consideration the comments submitted to the Committee. I would like to refer this back to the Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs.

President Palacios: Thank you. If there is no objection, the Chair and the Floor Leader is asking that we refer Standing Committee Report No. 20-35 to the Committee and defer action on Senate Bill No. 20-35 today. Let me just ask the Floor Leader, when do you think the Committee will anticipate and come up with a finalize version to incorporate those comments inclusive of those made today, when can we expect?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, I think the Committee will be ready to report back on this bill by the next scheduled session.

President Palacios: Thank you. Is there any objection?

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: Let me just ask the legal counsel, should we do that in a form of a motion? -- That’s a motion offered by the Floor Leader and that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All member voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-35, is hereby referred back to the Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs. Let me just make a statement, for those that make comments relative to the Standing Committee and the Senate Bill we certainly appreciate your effort to come up and make those comments, those comments were most likely be taken into consideration by the Committee on the next session. We will report back on this

legislation in a timely manner in the next session. So, Mr. Villagomez, Mr. Sablan and Mr. James Stump, those comments were not fill to un in vain. Thank you very much. Floor Leader, proceed.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-26 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs reporting on House Bill No. 20-04, House Draft 2, “To remove the limitations on the amount of funds from MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Tinian and Rota,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-26, reporting on House Bill 20-04, House Draft 2, it’s been moved and seconded, discussion? Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I know that this particular Standing Committee Report before appeared during last session but action was deferred as a result of Senator Cruz bringing up an issue and I just like to ask if that concern raised by Senator Cruz has already been addressed?

President Palacios: Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. I think when we get to the bill there will be a comment on that.

President Palacios: So, in essence it will be address.

Senator Cruz: I assure. Thank you.

President Palacios: Senator Santos you still have the floor.

Senator Santos: With that, Mr. President, I am ready for the question. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other discussion? There being no discussion. Those in favor of adopting Standing Committee Report No. 20-26, please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-26 hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-34 from the Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigation reporting on the appointment of Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is being made for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-34 relative to the appointment of Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that motions had been seconded, discussion? Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. President, but I yield to the Chairman on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Santos. Chairman Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President and Chairwoman Santos. I hope that you are supporting the Committee Report. Mr. President, this is Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-34, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation is ready to present the Committee Report. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan, to serve as an Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court. Pursuant to Article VI, Sections 4 and 5 of the NMI Constitution, 1 CMC § 3302. Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, on May 12, 2017 to serve as an Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation recommends that the Senate gives advice and consent to the appointment of Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan to serve as an Associate Judge to the CNMI Superior Court. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted to Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan's overall credentials in addition your Committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. Your Committee considered that the violation of Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan by the CNMI Bar Association and after much deliberation and based on the overall assessment Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues your Committee considered that Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as an Associate Judge of the CNMI Superior Court. Your Committee concludes that the appointment of Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan meets all the necessary requirements pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of the NMI Constitution 1 CMC §3202. Furthermore, Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask the full Senate members to kindly support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-34. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you Senator Cruz. Any other comment? Ready for the question? Before the Clerk calls the roll, I just want to inform the members of the public in the gallery this afternoon that we will be voting on the confirmation of Mr. Bogdan as the Associate Judge and if the Standing Committee Report is passed by the vote of the Senate then the candidate is hereby confirmed. With that, Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Excused
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

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

President Palacios: With all seven members present voting “yes” Mr. Wesley M. Bogdan is hereby confirmed by the Senate to serve as the next Associate Judge. Short recess. (APPLAUSE)

The Senate recessed at 3:25 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:34 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are still under Standing Committee Reports. Floor Leader?

Senator Manglona: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Yes, Senator Manglona?

Senator Manglona: Can we recognize the presence of our Acting Speaker in the gallery? Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you very much. Can you please make that formal recognition?

Senator Manglona: Yes. With us this afternoon in our session is the Acting Speaker Janet Maratita, we are honored to have her presence here, Mr. President. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Acting Speaker please stand-up and be recognized, thank you. Thank you for joining us this afternoon. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. The last Standing Committee Report on the agenda. For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-36 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-41, “To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Can the Chair please take a short recess?

The Senate recessed at 3:35 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:36 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Floor Leader you still have the floor.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the suspension of all pertinent Rules so that we can entertain Standing Committee Report No. 20-36 and also to place it on today's calendar.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the suspension of Rules for the placement of Standing Committee Report No. 20-36 and it's been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Now for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-36 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-41, "To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes," so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-36 relating to Senate Bill No. 20-41 it's been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader, do we have anymore?

Floor Leader Borja: That is it on the Standing Committee Report, Mr. President.

President Palacios: We move down to agenda Item O, Resolution Calendar.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, we have two resolutions on the calendar.

President Palacios: Please proceed.

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 20-6, “To support the Petition for Certiorari and the appeal of the Ninth Circuit decision in Davis v. CNMI Election Commission et al, and support the notion that the term “NMD” as used by the CNMI Constitution Article XII and Article XVIII is a political as opposed to a racial term,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 20-6, it’s been seconded, discussion? No discussion ready for the motion? Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-11, “Respectfully requesting the United States Postal Service to provide additional service windows in the Chalan Kanoa post office,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-11, it’s been second, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 20-11 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader, do we have any more resolutions?

Floor Leader Borja: That's all on the calendar.

President Palacios: We are down to the Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Can we have a short recess?

President Palacios: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:40 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:41 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, I move to place Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1, on today's Bill Calendar for Final Reading.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the placement of Senate Bill No. 20-41 on today's Bill Calendar it's been second, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the placement motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Senate Bill No. 20-41 is hereby placed on the Bill Calendar for Final Reading. Senate Bill No. 20-41 is reference to Standing Committee Report No. 20-36 which we have just adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-4, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, "To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Tinian and Rota; to allocate two percent of the funds for the Municipality of Saipan; and for other purposes," so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Thank you. Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-4, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, it's been seconded, discussion? Senator Cruz? Short recess.

The Senate recessed a 3:43 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We were entertaining the passage motion of House Bill No. 20-4, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, we are under discussion. Senator Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I would like to offer a Floor Amendment, On page 2, under Section 2, to delate (a) and (b) that is line 6 and line 14, and replace with the following: a new “(a) Provided that not less than two percent **for each municipality**, but not less than \$300,000 **each**, whichever is greater, of the funds per fiscal year from the MVA Trust Fund, shall be remitted to **each** of the Municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to be used for island-wide clean ups, **promotional programs, charter flight tourism incentives**, and beautification projects including purchasing supplies and equipment’s for such projects. The expenditure authority of these funds shall be the Mayor of each respective Municipalities.” Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: A Floor Amendments is being offered by Senator Cruz, in the form of SD2, I believe everyone have a copy of the Amendment offered by Senator Cruz, that motion has been seconded. Discussion on the Amendment? Ready? Those in favor of the Amendment motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. House Bill No. 20-4, HD2, SD2, is hereby adopted. Legal Counsel?

Counsel Bermudes: Just allow me to change the technical amendment 1 (c), because now the old (b) is replaced it reflects on (a), so I would change that under line 22.

President Palacios: If there is no objection, we will allow the legal counsel to make those special technical amendments so that the legislation flows consistently and coherently. We are now back to the main motion on House Bill No. 20-4, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 2. Further discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Palacios: With seven members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-4, HD 2, SD 2, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of House Bill No. 20-45, House Draft 1, on Final Reading, “To established two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kannat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion for House Bill No. 20-45, House Draft 1, it’s been seconded, discussion? No discussion? Ready? Clerk, call the roll on the passage of House Bill No. 20-45, HD1.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Palacios: With seven members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-45, House Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1, “To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been made for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1, has been seconded? No discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll on the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)

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

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

President Palacios: With seven members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: That’s all we have on the Bill Calendar.

President Palacios: Thank you. We move to agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-148 to 20-157.

President Palacios: Any comments on these communications? There being none, we move to Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Palacios: Are there any miscellaneous businesses, issues, any member wants to bring up? There being none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Palacios: Announcements? I have one announcement, I just issued a Memorandum to all Senate members relative to a scheduled Joint Presentation of Senate Resolution No. 20-9, in the House Chamber on Tuesday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m. This is a Resolution that we had adopted as Committee of the Whole, for the Employers Support of the Guards and Reserved Week. Please take note of the date and time. Any other Announcements? Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. My statement is not so much for announcement, but I just like to state that I know that there's been a lot of media going around with respect to North Korea. I would like to just state that at least we all should come together the people of the CNMI and the world to give our prayers to President Trump, and to the North Korea President for them to really think about, and not just the two, but also the World Leaders to really reconsider the lives of the people that will be affected if anything ever goes wrong between the two with their battle of words and power. We pray for the safety of the people of North Korea, the people of Guam, our soldiers, men in uniform both in North Korea and in the United States so that we can make sure that

no lives are lost and that they calm down and pray for them to really consider and think about the people of the world. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

President Palacios: Thank you. Let me just also include the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to that. Any other miscellaneous statements, announcement? Chairman Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you. Just to remind the members of the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations that we have a scheduled Public Hearing for CUC Board of Director on Monday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m. Thank you.

President Palacios: Members of the Committee on Executive Appointments please take note of that Public Hearing. Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Cruz for bringing up that announcement. Also, I would like to make an announcement that on August 16, there will be an Oversight Hearing on Medical Referral Office just to make that out to all members of Health and Welfare Committee on behalf of our Chairwoman Senator Santos. I'll be guiding that Oversight Hearing on August 16. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

President Palacios: Thank you. Members please take note of that date and time of that Hearing. Any more announcements? Floor Leader, the Chair will entertain an adjournment motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Borja: I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion has been seconded.

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

All members voiced, "Aye."

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

The Senate adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk