

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



Senate
SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2017

SJ 20-14

 Third Day

 Thursday, August 17, 2017

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on August 14, 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 Third Day, Second Regular Session, on August 17, 2017, at 3:53 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.

The Clerk called the roll, all nine members are “present.”

President Palacios: With all nine members present we’ve established a quorum to hold today’s Senate session. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Before we proceed down on the Order of Business, we have resolutions to present this afternoon and if there’s no objections from the members, can we do that before proceeding down the agenda?

President Palacios: For the presentation of those two resolutions I call upon Senator Quitugua to present them to the individuals then we will call for a short recess. Please, proceed.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’use, Mr. President.* Mr. President, we have two additional nursing graduates that have passed the National Council Licensure Examination known as NCLEX for Registered Nurses, and I am very honored to read Senate Resolutions Nos. 20-06 and 20-10 in summation due to their lengthy contents on behalf of the 20th Senate members. These resolutions were introduced by the Committee of the Whole, and adopted on August 3, 2017 during the Senate’s First Day, Second Regular Session; and certified by the Senate President and the Senate Legislative Secretary. Senate Resolution 20-06 is “To recognize and congratulate Mrs. Rezalina Davis Barcinas on passing the National Console Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses.” Mrs. Barcinas holds a

bachelor of science in nursing from Good Samaritan College in the Philippines in March 2006.” And Senate Resolution No. 20-10 is “To recognize and congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College graduate Mr. Michael Hidalgo on passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.” This legislative body is proud to recognize residents of the CNMI such as you Mrs. Barcinas and Mr. Hidalgo for pursuing a career in nursing which provide our people hope in the future that aim in providing immediate care during times of pain, discomfort or trauma. On behalf of the members of this body, CONGRATULATIONS Mrs. Barcinas and Mr. Hidalgo. And now, Mr. President, the Senate is ready to present the aforementioned Resolutions to the aforementioned deserving recipients. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Quitugua. We will take a short recess to present these resolutions to the individuals. Sergeant-At-Arms, would you please escort the individuals.

The Senate recessed at 3:55 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are on agenda Item B, Public Comment. We will now open the floor up to receive any public comments from the general public present here today on any of the agenda items on today's Order of Business. The floor is now open for any member of the general public. Any member? There being none. Please let the record reflect that there is no public comment. Agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of Journal.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

None

President Palacios: Communication from Heads of Executive Department.

COMMUNICAITONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARMTENT

The Clerk voiced Department Messages Nos. 20-30 and 20-31.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any member wants to comment on any of the two communications? I like to note on Department Messages No. 20-31 this is the report from OMB regarding their reprogramming activities for third quarter 2017. Fiscal Affairs Committee Chair, please take note of that and see if we can make sense of this print out where the reprogramming activities are according to the Planning and Budgeting Act.

Senator Hofschneider: So noted, Mr. President.

President Palacios: We move down to agenda Item G. Floor Leader?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Under agenda Item G, I move to suspend all pertinent Rules to amend our agenda and include House Communication No. 20-73 in regards to House Bill No. 20-108, HS1, "To appropriate the amount of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00) and pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to the active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen as authorized by Public Law 19-75." Also, we have several bills that we will include on the Bill Calendar for action today.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Floor Leader, you're offering a motion? -- Motion has been made and seconded to include House Communication No. 20-73 on today's Order of Business, 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: We proceed with agenda Item G.

President Palacios: Thank you. Agenda Item H, Senate Communications.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communication No. 20-103.

President Palacios: Thank you. There being none on agenda Items I, J, we're down to Pre-Filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: Clerk, are there any?

CLERK: No, we don't have, Mr. President.

President Palacios: We proceed to agenda Item L, Introductions of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Initiatives.

INTRODUCTIONS OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: The floor recognized, Senator Santos.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I would like to officially introduced Senate Bill No. 20-66 which seeks, "To amend 6 CMC § 2138 to prohibit pharmacies in the Commonwealth from dispensing any prescription drugs to minors without the presence of a parent, legal guardians or an adult; and for other purposes." Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any other bills?

Senator Santos: I have two more, Mr. President. Thank you.

President Palacios: Proceed.

Senator Santos: I would like to also introduce Senate Bill No. 20-67, "A Bill for an Act to authorize subsistence crop farmers and livestock grazers to connect to existing CUC pipelines for crop irrigation and livestock at no cost; and for other purposes," and the last Senate Bill, Mr. President, if I may?

President Palacios: Proceed.

Senator Santos: Thank you. I would like also to introduce Senate Bill No. 20-68, "A Bill for an Act to prohibit price gouging of school supply items when schools are about to open and to provide for an investigation of such price gouging by the Consumer Counsel; and for other purposes." Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other legislations to be introduced this afternoon? There being none. We proceed to agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Palacios: I would like to ask the Floor Leader to proceed first with Standing Committee Report No. 20-37. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I was supposed to do that, anyway, we do have two Standing Committee Reports on the agenda today. I am going to begin with Standing Committee Report No. 20-37, for the adoption from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Mr. Matthew Holley to serve on the CUC Board of Director representing the Third Senatorial District, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered by the Floor Leader is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-37, it's been seconded. Discussion on the motion? Senator Cruz, Chairman of EAGI?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-37 this is the appointment of Mr. Matthew Holley. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Matthew Holley to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors, pursuant to 4 CMC Section 8131(a), Mr. Matthew Holley was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, on May 25, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors to represent the island of Saipan. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Mr. Matthew Holley to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the island of Saipan. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Mr. Matthew Holley's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and based on the overall assessment of Mr. Matthew Holley's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Mr. Matthew Holley possess the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the island of Saipan. Your Committee concludes that the appointment of Mr. Matthew Holley meets all the necessary requirement pursuant to 4 CMC Section 8131(a). Furthermore, Mr. Matthew Holley has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask the full members of the Senate to kindly support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-37. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Senator Cruz, thank you. Any other comment? Ready for the vote? Just so it's on record, the members are actually not just voting to adopt the Committee Report in essence with

adoption of the Committee Report the Senate will also be voting for the confirmation of Mr. Holley. 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	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

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

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” the Senate hereby confirms Mr. Holley to serve on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors. Congratulations. Let’s take a five-minute recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:11 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:44 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left of on Reports of Standing Committees, agenda Item M. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Standing Committee Report No. 20-35, before I move for its adoption, I just want to inform the members that there is a minor amendment just to include couple of names that testified in the last session on the bill, so that is the minor changes. For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-35, from the Committee on Resources Economic Development and Programs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-35, “To amend 1 CMC § 2806(c) to increase the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus an extension up to 35 years for a total 75 years; to authorize existing public land leases to be amended to extend existing lease term up to 75 years; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motions is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-35 reference to Senate Bill No. 20-35. The Committee Report is recommending passage in the form of 20-35, SD1. Motion has been seconded, discussion on the motion? Ready? 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: We have no further on the Standing Committee Reports.

President Palacios: We don't have any on agenda Items N, O, so we are down to agenda Item P, Bill Calendar.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the placement of Senate Bill No. 20-22, Senate Bill No. 20-58 and Senate Bill No. 20-59 on today's Bill Calendar for action.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the placement of additional Senate Bills on our Bill Calendar; Senate Bill Nos. 20-22, 20-58 and 20-59, discussion on that motion? Ready? Those in favor of the placement motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Those bills are now placed on the Bill Calendar on today's Order of Business. Floor Leader, please proceed with the first bill.

Floor Leader Borja: The author of Senate Bill No. 20-62, requested to defer action on this until the next session, if there is no objection from the members.

There was no objection raised.

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-35, SD1.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-35, SD1, it's been seconded, discussion? Before I recognized Senator Paul Mangloña, I also have further amendment to this legislation. Do we all have a copy of the amendment, the Senate Draft 2? It is coming around. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:49 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:55 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Before we went on a short recess the Chair offered an amendment to the main motion in the form of SD2, it is passed around and let me just highlights the amendments. The substantial changes basically limit the eligibility of existing public land leases to amend their lease to extend beyond 40 years and only existing public lands with the hotel or golf courses on the property will be eligible to amend their lease. Any amendment to extend an existing public land leases subject to the new terms and consideration on at least two new appraisal reports any amendments to an existing public lands must be approved by the Legislature sitting in joint session. The second substantive changes delete the languages requiring all new public land lease 40 years to be approved by the Legislature. The amendment then therefore, reverts back to the original language that only public land leases with more than five hectares requires legislative approval. However, any amendment for extension of additional 15 years requires the legislative approval of three-fourth members of the Legislature. So, we're just amending that to revert back and clarify the old language, those are the substantial changes. The motion has been seconded, discussion on the amendment? Ready for the adoption of Senate Bill No. 20-35, SD2? Those in favor of the amendment motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are back to the main motion and we will be voting for the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-35, SD2. Discussion? Senator Mangloña, recognized.

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President, I have here Senate Draft 3, but in order to lessen the discussion and promote understanding on the amendment maybe we can call for a very short recess so we can get copies. Do we have copies for the members? – Okay the members have copies. Senate Draft 3, basically, Mr. President, further detail your amendment. I just came up with this because after listening to James Stump in the last session with his presentation about how we need to help the existing hotels and by helping them it's just not enough to extended it. We need to take advantage and have them come up with a development plan so that they don't only benefit on the lease extension but also the public. The community benefits from the public improvements that will come under consideration so it's just basically an expansion of your amendment and further clarify. For example, the possible terms and conditions which is number one; new improve or development on the property to be lease beneficial to the economic development of the CNMI. Public benefit and contribution creation of public improvements separate from leases activities such as construction and renovation of public facilities establishment of in-house job training programs for CNMI residents, financial contribution

to an independent job training program and on and on as shown on SD3, which our legal counsel pretty much just took the consideration factors under the QC requirement. So, just using those requirements under the QC to establish it as the factors to consider existing hotels and golf courses that want to appear before the Legislature for extension. That is basically the main portion of this amendment.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Thank you. Do we have a second to that motion? Senator Mangloña, I think they are making copies. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:49 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:55 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Before we went into a short recess, Senator Paul Mangloña offered an amendment in the form of SD3, the motion has been seconded. Further discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of adopting the amendment offered by Senator Paul Mangloña please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are back to the main motion for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-35, in the form of Senate Draft 3. 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	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

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

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-35, Senate Draft 3, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Before I move for the passage of the other bills on the calendar, I would like to make a motion to place another bill on the calendar which is House Bill No. 20-108, HD1, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Placement motion offered by the Floor Leader, has been seconded. For the placement of House Bill No. 20-108, House Draft 1, ready? Those in favor of the motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. House Bill No. 20-108, HD1, is placed on the Bill Calendar. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-22 on Final Reading, “To amend 1 CMC §§ 8459(a) and 8460(a) to require employers to contribute 4 percent of an employee's compensation if an employee contributes at least 4 percent to the employee's Defined Contribution Plan individual account; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-22, it has been second, discussion? No discussion? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-22, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-58 on Final Reading, “To amend 3 CMC § 2836 to remove the payment requirement by CHCC to the Commonwealth government; and for the purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-58 on Final Reading, discussion on the motion? Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill No. 20-58 is a bill that is necessary for CHCC to be able to meet its financial obligations and to address other immediate needs that CHCC is required to address. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Further discussion? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Senate Bill No. 20-58 and similarly to Senate Bill No. 20-59 which are on our calendar, these two bills were extracted from the CHCC bill which we're amending the CHCC board responsibility. We did finish our Public Hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota on the entirety of the CHCC bill, there was no contention from any public with respect to the contents of the CHCC bill. I am not deviating from the main bill, but I just want to state that with respect to these two provisions and the reason why the committee under the leadership of our Chairwoman, decided to extract these two as we wanted to make sure that these two provisions of the bill continues forward because they're necessary. Because we have a feeling that there will be lot more contentions on the over all of the CHCC bill we do not want these two bills delayed. That is my comment, Mr. President. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

President Palacios: Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. I was just going to ask a copy of the legislation that we are about to pass, I like to go with the legislation. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. So what does this basically do? I am not sure, it pays the obligation of CHCC the line of credit through the interests basically obligating the interest income that is generally covered over to the general funds, is that what I am...?

Senator Igisomar: Yes, Mr. President. Originally, on the MPLT on this particular provision in the current statute all the interest of the MPLT were reserved to pay for the loan that CHCC borrowed and currently CHCC is paying at about 30 to 60,000 thousand-dollars average amount on interest only and not even paying on the principle. So, what this is saying, because in the current statute it stated that the government shall come back to CHCC or for any appropriation we do to CHCC the government can always subtract, but considering that CHCC is fi-folds and they're lacking of funds they request and coming from the committee is that we go ahead and allow the bill to become law to waived the mandate of reducing any funds to CHCC to pay the \$3,000,000.00. I hope that answers your request.

President Palacios: Thank you. I don't have any problem with the intent of the legislation, but isn't this interest payment already obligated through stipulated orders that we committed for CUC's judgements and are there other outstanding commitment of those annual interest that is supposed to be covered over from MPLT to the general fund?

Senator Igisomar: We've committed those through statute including the CHCC commitment through statute. What this is saying is that, we don't have to obligate CHCC to pay us back for that interest because we need to take care of them so that they can move on with their operations and have a better hospital for all of us. We are waving it in essence, Mr. President, they don't have to pay the 3% that we've already advanced.

President Palacios: Okay. Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you. Chairman Sixto Igisomar, I know that every year the interest earned that you are asking to directly goes to CHCC for the repayment of the loan that they borrowed from MPLT, this is the purpose of this bill, right?

Senator Igisomar: The purpose of the bill is to waive CHCC to state that we don't have to ask CHCC to pay back the interests that they borrowed. So, we are forgiving the loan.

Senate Cruz: So, the interest rate that is going to the general fund is not going to effect the entire - because I know we are distributing that to different areas in the department, right?

Senator Igisomar: Currently, as the President mentioned, we've already encored or obligated the interest of MPLT into the future for the stipulated orders and also for CHCC we've already obligated those. So, to prevent the CNMI government from going back to CHCC and saying, "pay me back for this" this bill is saying, "we don't have to do that." This is our support to the hospital by not obligating them to pay for the interest that MPLT gave the government. So, in essence MPLT give money to CHCC and MPLT stated, "CHCC you'll pay me back." And the government at the same time stated, "don't worry MPLT we have the interest to give you to pay you back for the money that you give CHCC." And in return we will go after CHCC to pay us back. So, all this is doing is removing the encumbrance of CHCC having to pay that money back. But as the President stated, all the interest had been encumbered into the future. I did ask MPLT for an accounting but I have yet to receive of how far in the future the CNMI government have encumbered interest payment to the CNMI government from MPLT.

Senator Cruz: Thank you. I am supporting as long as it's not going to affect the yearly general budget. Thank you.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Chairman.

President Palacios: Further discussion? Ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

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

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-58, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-59, on Final Reading, “To amend 3 CMC § 2824 to establish a claims and critical data warehouse at CHCC and to improve accountability for all Health Insurance premiums are spent by requiring Health Insurance insurers and Health Care providers to submit reports on claims and clinical data to insurance commissioner; and for other purpose,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion on Senate Bill No. 20-59, has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: May be just to be enlighten, I know that we made an attempt during the last Legislature to substitute.

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. As requested by our Chairman of Fiscal Affairs, Senator Jude Hofschneider, I will go ahead and elaborate summarize briefly, Senate Bill No. 20-59, it has to do with the clinical database warehouse. The clinical database warehouse I believe was passed into law back in 18th to 19th Legislature when the CHCC governing board bill came to the Senate, the House and I would say accidently, there was a provision in there which is a provision with respect to the clinical database warehouse we were saying that at that time when that CHCC governing bill came to the Senate we were going to amend it, but for whatever reason, there was a rush on the bill to be passed by the Senate without an amendment and we were in an agreement and understanding that we will come back and edit and I amend to make sure we bring back the clinical database warehouse of policy provision back into law. It was not intended to be deleted accidently in the CHCC governing board bill. So, what does this do, if that is what maybe you asking Senator? The clinical database warehouse basically work allows the hospital and insurance division out of commerce to collaborate with all the insurance companies to collect the data to protect the data to make sure they are hype compliant and putting the data together so that to CNMI can have a record and have a way to be able to consolidate data to give a report for our hospital and/or for HHS and CMS so that we can have an understanding of what kind of chronic diseases we have in the CNMI and what kind of proactive policy we can make ahead of time before it gets out of our hand. I hope that make sense.

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: I think that was more for... I was thinking that it was already been implemented, but if we need a statute to tell them to do it then --

Senator Igisomar: If I may add, currently Senator you are right. Currently, the hospital is receiving federal grants moving forward with this concept because it was passed into law and so if this does not move forward it will stall their developments in their federal projects. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Further discussion? Ready? For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-59, Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-59, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader, next and last bill.

Floor Leader Borja: Last bill on the calendar, for the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-108, HD1, “A Bill for an Act to appropriate the amount of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00) to pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen as authorized by Public Law 19-75,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-108, House Draft 1, it’s been second, discussion on that motion? Senator Paul Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I don’t know what to say. We’re not seeing the problem of the Public School System. Just yesterday, we started the new school year. The hospital we just pass a legislation here to give them more responsibilities and obligations and I hear there will be federal grants but I know that it is going to cost the hospital additional funding for their operation. I know NMC has needs also, the president is going around asking for additional funding. I don’t know about the members, but when I see there is eight million dollars on the table and the

Governor has informed the Legislature that there is eight million dollars on the table and two months have elapse and the Legislature do not see any real urgency in using the eight million dollars, I have to say that that's a serious negligent on the part of the Legislature, and I don't want to be a part for that negligent. Eight million dollars is on the table, yes, I am happy that the House have addressed the \$1.4 million which is will be address in this legislation, but I think it was very obvious and very clear and there is no other way to make it clear in the last session when we debated, we discuss the need to address PSS and CHCC. As a matter of fact, I have an amendment to give four million dollars to CHCC and four million dollars to PSS and this was about two weeks ago. And here we are, we're reacting again luckily the House of Representatives passes 20-108 and as a result of the Senate has a session and now we are going to pass \$1.4 so now again, we'll just wait and hopefully in next week or two weeks the House would have another idea and then we come back and react again and hopefully they finish the eight million dollars to address critical needs of our government. If they do not finish it then we'll just have to keep waiting for them. My point, Mr. President, is that since two weeks ago we had \$28,000,000 on the table and we passed \$20,000,000 for land claim judgment. Why is it the Senate? There is no constitutional hydrants or obstacle for the Senate to appropriate the whole \$28,000,000. I say this because I'm worried because PSS is constitutionally due 25% of \$28,000,000, 25%. So knowing that, that is not even debatable matter constitutional requirement. If anything, every time we appropriate just give 25% give it to PSS. I know that we all like to see advancement in the early childhood education. That's what they're doing now they even come before us and amended textbooks appropriation so they can use it for --

President Palacios: Senator Mangloña, are you going to offer an amendment?

Senator Mangloña: I hope that there is no limitation, Mr. President, on the time, but if there is then I hope that we can apply to all, but I just want to make a statement on the bill.

President Palacios: I think we've already got the gist of where we all going so with all due respect at the end of the day – are you going to offer an amendment?

Senator Mangloña: Yes, I am planning to offer, but I want to make a statement, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Why don't you offer the amendment and we can further elaborate on your amendment?

Senator Mangloña: I think part of getting the amendment accepted is to explain. The bigger issue here I mean, Mr. President, is the 25% and I want to ask the legal counsel are we legally right in piece mealing this and is that legal to keep taking money from – it's like passing the budget instead of passing at one time and PSS is due 25% we can pass the budget for all the departments and keep putting 25% back or how do we guarantee that at the end of the day 25% exist for PSS? I want to ask the legal counsel are we okay to keep passing this and then what happens if next the Governor declares that, oh, the numbers are wrong there is no more money from the gross receipt tax, so we ran out of money. How do we give PSS their 25%? I don't know, Mr. President, how can I refer this question to our legal counsel?

President Palacios: You going to ask the presiding officers if it's okay to do that, but I will allow that. Legal counsel, did you get a gist of his inquiry? We should go on a short recess.

The Senate recessed at 5:30 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 5:41 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to session. We left off, with Senator Paul Mangloña, having the floor continue Senator Paul Mangloña.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President and thank you to our legal counsel for her opinion. I hear the members saying that of \$28,000,000 identified about two months ago by the Governor may actually be more than that significantly more maybe \$20,000,000 more \$30,000,000 more we do not know but we know that it will be more. My concern still remains, Mr. President, that there is eight million dollars on the table the Governor has identified the eight million dollars it's available and if we amend this bill and include money for PSS that PSS can then tomorrow use every single dollar that we give them of \$6.5 million if that's the balance of eight million minus \$1.4 for lump-sum payment that is about \$6 sum million if we pass that they can get every single dollar of \$6.8 million tomorrow the Governor has identified \$28,000,000 more than two months ago so if we do not amend this it will mean that we're putting money on the table that has been identified. Since I hear loud and clear that that might increase and what I'm hearing is that PSS would be address at a later date so maybe give PSS four million and CH CC \$2.5 million for a total of \$6.5 and tomorrow CHCC can begin to implement their salary increases for the nurses can begin to take care of their financial needs and can begin to have an impact on the health care improvements in the CNMI. That I believe is the wisest thing to do by the Senate. We can no longer continue to wait for the House to write us a check of one million dollars now wait next week again another \$1,000,000 then the Senate signs off. The Senate body can take a House Bill and amend it because we cannot introduce appropriation measure in the Senate. If we want to have an impact on helping our hospitals and our schools, then we need to make changes whatever change we can make the House can come in on Monday or Tuesday of next week pass that and give it to the Governor and by next week at least we can alleviate some of the needs of PSS and CHCC. If there are municipal needs that can wait may be to the next appropriation when they identify more, but for now, I think we don't need to debate on the need for the CHCC and on the need for PSS and on the fact that \$6.5 million will be on the table if we do not amend the bill. I will not offer na amendment, Mr. President, I would leave it up to the Leadership of this Senate because the number is there to make an impact. I thank you for the time allowed to speak on this legislation. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.*

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President, for recognizing me. I just like to ask our legal counsel two questions. Legal counsel, the first question is, is the source of funding specifically identified in this appropriation bill?

President Palacios: You may respond legal counsel?

Counsel Villagomez: The finding just says the Legislature has been informed by the Governor's office that the amount of \$1,400,000 is available.

Senator Santos: So there's no specifics as to the source of funding?

Counsel Villagomez: Just reading the findings and the Sections 1 and 2 of the bill, it's not very near what the source is, but Section 2 does reference the casino BGRT statute.

Senator Santos: With that, I will go to my second question. My second question would be can we amend an appropriation bill absent specifically identifying where the source came from? Amend an appropriation bill absent specifically identifying where this source came from?

Counsel Villagomez: I would not recommend it only because it's not clear what the source is. My recommendation would be to first find out what is the source and then clarify that in the bill because it's not quite clear we are assuming that it's from the casino BGRT, but the bill itself doesn't specifically state that the sources from the casino BGRT account.

Senator Santos: It would be then your legal opinion for this body not to amend this appropriation bill absent that. Absent specifically identifying where the source came from?

Counsel Villagomez: I am not saying not to amend it I am just saying it is not clear so I think either way, whether you amend it or not it still does not clear what the funding source is.

Senator Santos: Thank you. Alright, Mr. President, I yield for now.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any further? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, thank you. First, I wanted to recognize the awareness of the House of Representatives to appropriate this very important piece of legislation to finally retire the much awaited and very critical piece of legislation to the deserving employees. If you recall, Mr. President, at time when this thing first came to rise back almost a year ago, we were made to believe that only \$1.4 was enough to retire this obligation by the government by way of Public Law 11-59. Fast forward to today inclusive of the many employees to include also CHCC former CHC when it was under the line agency and it's a substantial amount, with each amounts up to at least over \$1.4 million and this is the right thing to do, and again it could come at a better time. I do however, as was mentioned by some members earlier I take exception and the fact that why are we piece meal something that an appropriation that we can actually address some other needs. This is a very good strategy from the House by really pinning it down to the very critical piece of legislation and everybody's getting phone calls when are we going to pass this, and it is a very good way of addressing the issue itself. Mr. President and members, I must caution everybody in this chamber that we need to be very careful about how we are addressing some of these appropriation measures that are currently before us as we all know potentially where this is coming from and I have extreme reservation as to how are we going forward with this when the legal counsel is not even very sure as far as the legality

of this particular appropriation, but if this is something that would muster the clearance from this body and finally retire this obligation then I may consider supporting. But I am not very pleased with the way the House has been addressing an appropriation measures thinking that it's almost everything is urgent and expecting the Senate to just blessed it every time they ask us, I think that is wrong. Because this is a very important piece of legislation we were made to make this decision today and I hope that they understand and they are listening of what we're saying up here because this is not going to sit well again. I wasn't here on the last appropriation but I am hearing that there are a lot of members that are very disoriented and very disappointed with the fact that we are not going to pass anymore appropriation bill when it's unclear and there's no equity to some degree as far as the distribution of such funds. There's two things that I want to go on record saying, number one; I've already send the request by the Secretary of Finance to identify the entire amount of what is available for fiscal year 2017 and if it's necessary that we allocated 25% to PSS then we should do it right away because we're still in the fiscal year 2017. And if it is also necessary to qualify that figure that the gaming commission had share with some of the members of the committee on Gaming Commission of the Senate then I think it's very important that they identify that and inform the Legislature. It's in the constitution, it's in the law, Planning and Budgeting Act, it's very clear. So, as members we need to be very cognizant of that authority and responsibility. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. The Chair will take a short recess.

The Senate recessed at 5:52 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 5:55 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are still discussing House Bill No. 20-108, House Draft 1. Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Than you, Mr. President. I know that House Bill No. 20-108, HD1, is a long overdue legislation which primarily seeks to cure or retire the retroactive payments of several active and inactive employees of several departments and agencies here in the Commonwealth. This legislation has generated extensive discussion earlier which lead to the question of whether to pass or not to pass this bill. We took into consideration all the discussions that were raised all of which are legitimate discussions and because numerous employees have already been given their retroactive payments and because these employees of what over two hundred who are to be paid their retroactive payment through House Bill No. 20-108, HD1, it's just and it's fair to support this legislation at this time so it can be transmitted over to the Governor for action. And because again, as was responded by the legal counsel to the questions that I raised the source of funding was not specifically indicated as identified in this legislation. Our legal counsel provided the opinion that it may or may not be constitutionally legal to amend this bill at this time. With that, Mr. President and members, I humbly ask that we pass this legislation and that any subsequent legislation that deals with an appropriation that we the Senate solidify our efforts to allocate certain percentage for the first second and third senatorial districts precinct needs. I am sure that my colleagues from the first senatorial districts would agree to that and

I am sure also that my colleagues from the second and third senatorial districts would submit to that. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Senator Mesngon?

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. Same in line, Mr. President, the only issue here I am concern on this bill is because I've seen amendment to amendment on this particular list of names from OPM. Mr. President, I am getting frustrated also of this when are we going to retire these employees? It's long overdue and I stipulate that we pass this bill also the same time. But the next thing around again, if OPM say the list still have some pending, we have to take action on this because we are not playing with these employees that are entitled to have these kind of assistance that have long overdue that you need to be paid. The first forty million initial that we appropriated only accessed that 1.4 will be enough and then there's another variance of 1.4, I don't understand OPM where were they coming in with their list. Are they up-to-date of their listing of employees from previous and present? I recommend auditor will come into OPM and audit all documents to upgrade all their staffing for all the three senatorial districts. Because this is combo luting every single time that we appropriate there is insufficient. I hate from the last time from our committee mentioning that there's some individuals that did not paid from at the last appropriation because there's not enough funding and they are blaming the Legislature that they don't provide that funding. Yes, we did provide the funding because it's coming from their listing. I want them to understand that this listing has to be parallel of what you putting out there and what we appropriating because this is important for our people. We don't want to single out one individual and then you come back tomorrow and say, oh, I forgot this one name or two names. We need to stop this. Mr. President, I just like to echo this because we don't want to see this happen again. Maybe another five hundred thousand will be identified tomorrow because there's twenty people has not been identify not been paid on batch. We need to cover everybody every single employee that deserves this. It is not that I'm against this bill I am urging the members to please pass this because this is long overdue. We need to pay out these individuals we need to pay our people. In fact, in reference to our people in Rota itself here we got employees that passed away already. It is prudent that at least their children or their family will receive these funding for them. I urge again, Mr. President, I know we got other pressing issue, pressing issue from different agency or critical agency that we need also. I think it is prudent also what the Fiscal Affairs Chair was mentioning the Secretary of Finance will give us the total amount so we can guess disburse for PSS, disburse for other critical agency, CUC or whatever agency that we need so ones and for all let us try to help other department also as well. But I encourage my colleagues to please let us just be in hand with this legislation and let us just pass this all. I ask your indulgence to please support this bill because it is really necessary for our staff that needs this assistance that it's been long overdue and waited for them. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Mesngon. Senator Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. I wasn't going to comment because I did make a comment on the last session that we had. But since you recognize me I'll just say a few words, Mr. President. I share the same sentiments with the members in regards to OPM. I don't understand why they don't have the full record on employees that are eligible either active or inactive. I see a message here I believe OPM two more employees calling in, I don't know why these two have to call in to tell them

that they are eligible. I think they should have a system that will have all either inactive or active employees in the system. It was mentioned by the other members we don't know may be next time again there is an appropriation there is another list. I know that they put \$20,00.00 cushion for in case somebody just pop into personnel and say, I am also eligible I don't know if that is how the system goes. Somebody will come in and say, I am eligible. I think they should have their own record because OPM that is where government employee's records are and with department they have their own. I am very surprised that OPM don't have all the list of names that are eligible. In regards to those BGRT's, I think it is very clear that Senator Quitugua mention about the regulators that came in reporting how much taxes they paid. I believe if I recall, from June 2015 to July 2017 they have collected over ninety-nine sum million dollars and even if we minus all those that we appropriate we still have a lot left as what the legal counsel have mentioned. The \$28,000,000 that was identified by the Governor that was in March so there's a lot of months that already passed. I believe we still have a lot of money and it's very clear and it should be done that way that they should be transparent how much so that we can be able also understand where the money is coming from. I know this is a very tough one we're not expecting something like this it affected all three senatorial districts in regards to distribution that we passed Public Law 19-75 that is allowing frozen salaries to be paid by BGRT. This is something very tough that even if you want to challenge it, it is not fair for those that are been waiting for their money. That was last year, people are keep on calling in when is the next and I said, as long as they identify sources from BGRT then I think the Legislature will act on it. Mr. President, I think this will be my last to put my vote on and I will stick to what I said and may be perhaps next time if there is and I know there is, and my package in my office is ready for the next round that they appropriate. I ask my colleagues also at the House, please be mindful that we have to sit down and talk about the next appropriation because we cannot continue to go like this where our senatorial districts need also assistance from sources. I think we need to sit down and talk about the next otherwise, I don't if appropriation from the House that comes to the Senate will be pass. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Sixto Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I am highly favorable as well to support this bill. However, I do have similar comments from the colleagues. Number one, I just don't understand why the need of course I fully support having the retro pay for the last time we have this meeting, initially, I thought it was all complete and done then later on they came back stating possibly, they meaning Civil Service or OPM, they need approximately another \$300,000 and it balloon to \$1.4 million. So it is a frustration and I hope that the agencies on their part, do their job to make sure that they at least account for everybody that they must retro and not come back over and over and over again and never ending and all we're going to end up doing this entire year make sure it's retro because somebody as missing the point somewhere. At the same time, Mr. President, I am highly encouraging of course our Chairman for Ways and Means and Vice Chairman, also the Chairman for Gaming and the co-chairs of the Gaming, that we not only just request from finance and or treasury on numbers, but specifically, to urge and encourage that we get an audit for end of fiscal year 2015, 2016 and current on the following: Gaming BGR received by the CNMI treasury or finance, total amount appropriated as well as any and all offset if any on revenue and expense adjustment. I believe that somehow I have this feeling that while we are deliberating on how much is there did they appropriate it, how much was identified, how much did the BSI stated, who much did Finance, while we are doing all these, there

are things are happening within the accounts with respect to potential policies that we must put in place to secure, to secure the BGR so that it does not get lost through other ancillary areas that may be qualified which we can actually stopped. I will not go further on that, but I just think that there is loss on the total BGR through adjustments. Now, I know base on an estimate thanks to our Chairman of Gaming, Senator Justo Quitugua, we've appropriated a total of about \$61,680,926.03 by estimate date of letters received by the Governor and not counting the \$1.4 letter that he stated. The year-end or the timeline on those estimates the last one would have been February 2017 and there's a lot more funds that we belief is with finance beyond the \$61,000,000. I think that we need to get a really good audit from the secretary so that we can actually backtrack the numbers so that we can and I think the \$1.4 is not necessarily any new number. That's what as you're saying cautioning Senator Jude Hofschneider, that we must be cautious. I favor this bill for its passage but right after admittedly, we'd need to account for every dollar into that section BGR as per 4 CMC § 2308, every dollar in and every dollar out as authorize by our appropriation so that we can and up-to-date and I know Senator Justo Quitugua is saying, we have so much money up to July. We haven't even counted up to September and the last time we appropriated that \$40,000,000 it was an estimate up to September 2015 or 16 right, but that was a substantial amount. So, I hope again, I'm not saying I disagree with the numbers I totally feel the concerns and I'd like to justify this so we can all come together and really push for the issues that Senator Paul Mangloña is saying and Senator Jude Hofschneider and all our other members to make sure that we set aside money for where its due. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. The Chair will allow one more go around but this time around it will be half the time you took. So let us try to wrap this up. Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. First, I want to clarify what our legal counsel stated for the record, she did not say that we cannot make any amendment because \$1.4 million identification is not clear. I think she is saying that the \$1.4 million identification is not clear to even pas or to amend or to do anything. Just for the record, that is the legal opinion. Number two, I am 1000% in support of resolving this retroactive pay. I never indicated that I do not support and I am in full support it and I am in full support to pass this \$1.4 today. The only thing that I was discussing earlier was that there is eight million dollars on the table before the Senate. The Senate has eight million right in front of the face today so what we're trying to decide is just put it on the side don't give it to PSS don't give it to CHCC that's the action that we are taking today. We're saying you don't need to give CHCC three million or four million and PSS three million or four million. We are saying our hands are tight, no, our hands are not tight regardless whether there's more money coming up next month or in six months the money's there before us \$8,000,000 and I'm just saying that PSS and CHCC, especially CHCC needs funding right now. This money has been on the table before the Senate for more than two months and now we're going to wait for the House to say, yes, we are going to meet next week to pass that. That is what I am saying, Mr. President, I fully support paying this, but I am saying that we can also pay CHCC and PSS. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Hofschneider, you have three minutes.

Senator Hofschneider: Just give me one, Mr. President. I certainly appreciate the second go round. I just wanted to remind everyone that some of us are very critical of the agency that is overseeing the administering and getting the numbers for this, but please bear in mind that this agency was also put

to shame for number of years because it was a directive from previous decisions to almost make it very insignificant part of the government which is really a shame and that is the reason why that there's a law now that reinstitute it back under the watch of Civil Service Commission. These are just an occurrence I think I said this in the past that it is an extraordinary occurrence whereby there's actually appropriation where there's money already not the projection. Therefore, through the years over 10 years they felt probably insignificant in the reason as a public agency in the government. But nevertheless, it's budget time and I know that OPM will play a key role again everyday it's budget season. Keep in mind OPM that they may need help in order for them also to be a little more effective maybe with the numbers that we are asking, may be they need help from us. Just keep that in mind I just wanted to say that, Mr. President, I am ready.

President Palacios: Any other member wants to take the second round? Ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll for the passage of House Bill No. 20-108, HD1.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-108, HD1, hereby passes the Senate. Before we go further, I wanted to thank the members of the Senate for a very engaging deliberation on this particular issue. Senator Paul Mangloña, Senator Sixto Igisomar, Senator Santos are very articulate in terms of their needs, I agree and Senator Hofschneider also. I fully agree that we need to begin to seriously take a look at the needs of PSS and the hospital (CHCC) and further consider also the needs of the individual entities the first and second senatorial districts as well as the specific needs of the third senatorial district. At to large extent, I agree that this body specifically the Senate needs to be clearly informed and advice and accurately inform of the specifics of resources being generated through the gaming industry having said that, I fully agree that we should request for an audit of gaming resources specified as recommended by Senator Igisomar. The Chair would also take that into consideration and perhaps officially and formally make that request. I would also like to ask the Chair of Fiscal Affairs and members of Fiscal Affairs make sure that you follow through on the requests for a full accounting of the resources from 2015. If the gaming commission could give us an accurate accounting than certainly our own Department of Finance can too. I know that each of us have their own list of priorities to recommend for funding and those opportunities will come very, very, very soon I believe. But today, we overcame all the obstacles and came together to do what was necessary to pass this legislation so that we addressed the shortcomings of the past legislation which

appropriated and paid for the initial recipients of the retroactive pay. I think we finally made hold of all the employees that have worked over the years since 1996, the 1159. So, we put that to rest today. I want to thank every member for supporting it. Having no further bills on our Bill Calendar, Petition, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-158 to 20-164.

President Palacios: Any comments on these communications? Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: I just want to remind the members of Fiscal Affairs Committee that we have 1:00 p.m. meeting tomorrow in the Senate Chamber. Also, a notice is being in order for next week Monday at 2:00 p.m. here in the Senate Chamber. The President had asked the members to focus on coming up with a bill as she quickly as possible. Therefore, the Committee will be meeting on subsequent days until the senator version is completed. I just want to remind everyone. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other announcements? The Departments of Land and Natural Resources and the Division of Agriculture, Saipan Farmers Association is also inviting us to the Agricultural Fair on Saturday. I want to thank the Chairman of Fiscal Affairs for reiterating the need to move forward with the budget for 2017. With that, the Chair will entertain a motion for adjournment. Floor Leader?

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion has been seconded.

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

All members voiced, "Aye."

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

The Senate adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk