

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



Senate  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2017

SJ 20-17

Fourth Day

Friday, September 08, 2017

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on September 04, 2017, that the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at [www.cnmileg.gov.mp](http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp).

**President Palacios:** Before I call this session into order, I want to recognize and welcome the Northern Marianas College community and Northern Marianas Technical Institute community to the Senate this morning. It's nice to see every one and hopefully, we can learn a lot from you, we welcome you to make comments in the public comment section of this session. I see Dr. Fernandez and some of the boards and management of Northern Marianas College, I'll recognize you and welcome you to the Senate. I also see many of the boards and the top management of Northern Marianas Technical Institute here this morning and welcome all of you as well as the students. Are we ready?

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its 4<sup>th</sup> Day, Second Regular Session, on September 08, 2017, at 10:45 a.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, eight members are "present" and one "absent."

**President Palacios:** With eight members present we've established a quorum to call a session this morning. Please have the record reflect that Senator Santos is excused for today's session. We move on to agenda Item B, Public Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**President Palacios:** I wish to open the floor now for those that are present here to submit or make comments on any of the agenda items appearing in today's Order Business. Before you start your

comments or testimony, please state your name and the organization, and hopefully, even the subject matter or the agenda item that you're going to be making comments on. Thank you.

**Mr. David Attao:** Thank you, Senate President and good morning Senate body, and good morning to NMC and NMTI families also. I would like to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of our Board of Directors, our NMTI Team, and most importantly our students and community commend Senator Justo Quitugua and the Senate for having the vision to write and revise and hopefully for the Senate to pass SB 20-21 that would help meet the CNMI's workforce needs. Senate Bill 20-21 will help stabilize Technical Trades in the CNMI and provides an opportunity for Technical Trades to be offered in all three islands, as negotiations with the Mayors of Tinian and Rota are ongoing. Senate Bill 20-21 as revised again, addresses the workforce gaps in over 5,000 jobs in the areas of Technical Trades, Culinary Arts, Hotel and Restaurant Operations, Automotive Technology, Construction Trades (Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, etc.) and our Technical Trades High School targeted at the out of PSS aged students and community members who want to start trades and earn a high school diploma through a different path. Senate Bill 20-21 in our support offers other specialized services that can help in our community such as CUC and we have now programmed with IT&E and other service providers. Senate Bill 20-21 would actually help a lot of our hard to serve and hard to reach populations that are not accustomed and used to going to school in a regular academic setting in their areas where PSS and NMC might not address immediately. We are not here to compete against NMC or PSS, that is not our goal. Our goal is to help our community and a workforce develop itself. NMC and PSS will find job in what they do but NMTI also does find job in what we do. So again, we are not here to compete, we are to support the bill because the bill stands alone as a separate entity from PSS and NMC and the functions are not applicable amongst all three programs. We just want to help our community and meet that mandates that applies to the CNMI to transition our workforce smoothly between entities whether it be from PSS to NMTI, PSS to NMC, NMTI to NMC, NMC to NMTI and into the workforce as needed. As you guys know, there's over twelve thousand people that are CW's and we need to replace them and we're working hard on that. Finally, we humbly urge the Senate to pass Senate Bill 20-21, so we can have an independently locally grown workforce source that we can all be proud of it's because of the vision and leadership shown today by the Senate we can make this happen. We thank you and we highly consider allowing us that opportunity to pass that bill. Thank you very much.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Mr. Attao. Is there any other public comment? Please state your name and the organization that you're representing, and the subject matter that you will be speaking of.

**Mr. Frankie Eliptico:** Good morning, Senate President Palacios and members of the Senate, my name is Frankie Eliptico, I am with the Northern Marianas College specifically the office of Institutional Advancement. My purpose here is to just provide a respectful request to the Senate with regards to Senate Bill 20-21. The Northern Marianas College has always been and will always be supportive of NMTI its purpose its mission, the college have been very instrumental in helping NMTI and its growth especially during its formative years. When the bill was first introduced in this Legislature 20-21, we had several concerns that we provided during our testimony when it was first brought and we just have not had time to review the new draft the substitute bill, SB No. 20-21, SS1, and we just have a humble request to please allow us some time before the senate acts on the bill to

allow us to review it and to also provide if possible comment if there is at time. So that's our respectful request this morning and we will be in the gallery if you have any questions. Thank you so much.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Are there anymore comments? There being none. Just for the record, we have very full Bill Calendar this morning. One of which is the Budget bill for the Commonwealth inclusive of the appropriation for NMC and probably for NMTI also. So, we will be spending most of our time on this one particular legislation. If we have additional time, we might be able to take up some of these other bills that are on the Bill Calendar, so I just want to let you know that these legislations other than House Bill 20-105 will most likely take up the whole session just to let you know. We certainly appreciate the comments from NMTI and the comments from NMC relative to Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1.

**Senator Mangloña**: Mr. President?

**President Palacios**: Senator Mangloña?

**Senator Mangloña**: Can we have an understanding not to take up Senate Bill 20-21, SS1, today? I just heard from Mr. Eliptico that he wishes to make some recommendations and I'm worried that if we work on the budget and then come back to the legislation that he and others might not have the opportunity to comment because it's scheduled to be a pass today.

**President Palacios**: Most likely, we will not be able to get there, but let me ask Senator Quitugua because I've asked him about this and he is the author. Senator Quitugua, recognized.

**Senator Quitugua**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, there's a prior agreement with the members of the Senate before we came, out that we will just leave the legislation, Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, on the calendar to provide NMC an opportunity to review the substitute bill. So, we will not be picking up this bill on today's session. Thank you.

**President Palacios**: Are there any other comments? So, let me ask Northern Marianas College to please submit a timely review and comments on Senate Bill 20-21. We will leave this legislation on the calendar and we will be able to have the opportunity to talk with NMC's concerns if there are and most likely take up this piece of legislation in our next session, it will stay on the Bill Calendar. Okay, Senator Mangloña, Senator Quitugua. Thank you. We are down to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

## **READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

**President Palacios**: Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja**: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have two Senate Journals and I move for the adoption of Senate Journals 20-12 and 20-13, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Motion for the adoption of the two journals appearing in today's Order of Business, Senate Journals 20-12 and 20-13, it has been seconded, discussion? No discussion. Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

**President Palacios**: Motion carries. These journals are hereby adopted. Messages from the Governor. Clerk?

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The Clerk voiced Governor's Messages Nos. 20-115 to 20-117.

**President Palacios**: Any comments on these communications from the Governor? Senator Mesngon?

**Senator Mesngon**: Thank you, Mr. President. On Governor's Communication 20-115, we just wish to thanked the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor for acting on this Local Law 20-05, to appropriate Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$69,918.00) license fee collected for poker and pachinko slot machines for the First Senatorial District. This local bill was enacted for our patients in Rota that was staying here in Saipan. So, I wish to thank again the administration for acting upon this bill, Local Law. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Senator Quitugua, recognized.

**Senator Quitugua**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I also would like to give an appreciation to the Governor for signing the local law and this will help tremendously the people of Rota. Thank you.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. We move on to agenda Item F, Communication from Heads of Executive Department? Clerk?

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY**

None

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

The Clerk voiced Department Messages Nos. 20-36 to 20-38.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Are there any comments on these three communications? There being none. We move on to agenda Item G, Communications from the House.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE**

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 20-88 and 20-89.

**President Palacios:** Are there any comments? Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. Under the House Communication, I want to suspend all pertinent Rules to amend our agenda to include three House Communications; House Communication 20-90, House Communication 20-91 and House Communication 20-41, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion offered by the Floor Leader is to suspend pertinent Rules so that we can amend our agenda to include House Communications 20-90 and 20-91, relative to Senate Bills 20-7 and 20-3, respectively, discussion on that motion? Those in favor of the suspension motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All member voiced, "Aye."

**President Palacios:** Motion carries. Let me take a minute here.

The Senate recessed at 11:03 a.m.

**RECESS**

The Senate reconvened at 11:04 a.m.

**President Palacios:** We are back to our session. House Communication 20-90 relative to Senate Bill 20-07, SD1; House Communication 20-91 relative to Senate Bill 20-03, SS1, HD1, are hereby placed on the Communications from the House. Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** At this time, I yield to the author on one of the House Bill for the acceptance of amendment.

**President Palacios:** Senator Quitugua on 20-90, I belief.

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. On House Communication 20-91 reference to Senate Bill 20-03, SS1, as the author of this legislation, I accept the amendments made by the House and I urge the members to support such an amendment, therefore, I would leave the proper motion for the Floor Leader to make for the acceptance on the amendments from the House. Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Our Rules allows us to accept it but we need to do a roll call. I need a motion from the Floor Leader. Floor Leader, recognized.

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move to accept House Communication 20-91 reference to Senate Bill No. 20-03, SS1, HD1, “To amend 1 CMC §§ 2261(b) and 2262(a), to limit the public high school student representative to the Board of Education to one year and rotated appointment by public school; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion has been made for the acceptance of House Communication 20-91, further discussion? There being none. We will now call the roll. Clerk?

**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	Excused
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

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

**President Palacios:** With eight members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-03, SS1, HD1, with the amendments from the House hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader, do we have to make a motion to accept this other communication? Okay. We’re down to agenda Item H, Communication from the Senate. Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua:** If I may, Mr. President, can we go back to Item G, I would like to make some comments on House Communication 20-88.

There was no objection raised.

**President Palacios:** There is no objection, we go back to Communications from the House. Senator Quitugua, recognized.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this is a very important legislation, House Bill 20-99, SS1. This legislation appeared on the Nineteenth Legislature, however, the Senate made some amendments; and unfortunately the House did not act on it. So, this time around, House Bill 20-99, SS1, has a similar amendment which will ensure that the retirees are guaranteed with their 25% pension including bonuses. In addition, this legislation also includes NMC and NMTI as a

recipient of the funding originating from the 5% gross receipt tax from the casino. Thank you. And further, Mr. President, I really thank the members of the House that voted to accept the amendment from the Senate. Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Let me just make a very short comment on that. Just so coincidentally, the two large recipients are in the gallery. The Senate made that substantives change to what was a very simple legislation to ensure that Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Technical Institute are included as recipients. So, as Senator Quitugua stated, the Senate tried to insert this last Legislature, unfortunately, rat time ran out on it and so the Senate inserted and successful in the House accepted the amendment. We want to let you know that the Senate and the House are certainly looking to provide the resources for our institutions that provide very critical trainings and education to our people. [APPLAUSE] With that, we move to Communications from the Senate. Clerk?

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-108 to 20-111.

**President Palacios:** Are there any comments, statement on these communications? There being none. We move to agenda Item I, none; Unfinished Business, none. Are there any Pre-Filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolution? Are there any Introductions of unnumbered bills? Senator Quitugua?

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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

None

### INTRODUCTIONS OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Officially introducing Senate Resolution No. 20-12, recognizing the two additional NMC Nursing graduates that passed the NCLEX, and if there's no objections from the members who are present today, I would like to have this introduced as a Committee of the Whole. And further, Mr. President if the Floor Leader can make the proper motion when it comes to Item O, so that we can place this Senate Resolution on today's calendar for adoption. Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Are there any objection to introduce it as a Committee of the Whole?

There was no objection raised.

**President Palacios:** Senator Quitugua, there is only one resolution? The resolution offered by Senator Quitugua is hereby introduced by the Committee of the Whole. I also have a Commemorative Resolution to introduce this morning. Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-03, relative to recognizing the contributions and extending our condolences to the family of the late Tony de Brum of the Marshall Islands. If there is no objection, I will offer that as the Committee of the Whole. Are there any other legislations? There being none. We move down to Reports of Standing Committees. Let's take a short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:09 a.m.

### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

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

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. We do have five Standing Committee Reports appearing in our agenda, however, we will be deferring action on the rest of the Standing Committee Reports and will be acting only No. 2, Standing Committee Report No. 20-39. For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-39 from the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-33, "To enabled the CNMI to participate in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Professional Student Exchange Program; and for the purposes," so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-39, actually, the Committee is recommending filing of this legislation as it is duplicative, discussion on that motion? Senator Quitugua, recognized.

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Education and Youth Affairs recommends to file this legislation, Senate Bill No. 20-33. There's an identical bill, Senate Bill No. 20-08 which was passed by the Senate and also the House; and I believe this legislation, Senate Bill No. 20-08 has become a Public Law. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Any further discussion? There being none. Those in favor of the adoption motion offered on Standing Committee Report 20-39 please say, "Aye." Those opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."



**President Palacios:** Motion carries. Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** We have no further on Standing Committee Reports.

**President Palacios:** We go down to agenda Item O, Resolution Calendar. I believe we have two and I now recognized the Floor Leader.

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move, again, to suspend pertinent Rules to place one Senate Resolution and one Commemorative Resolution on today Resolution Calendar, Senate Resolution No. 20-12 and Commemorative Resolution No. 20-03, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion is for the suspension and placement of two resolutions on our Resolution Calendars for action, Senate Commemorative Resolution 20-03 and Senate Resolution 20-12 has been offered and seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion offered by the Floor Leader say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

**President Palacios:** We now have placed these two resolutions under Resolution Calendar. Floor Leader, please proceed.

**Floor Leader Borja:** For the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-12, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion offered is for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-12, has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-12 please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

**President Palacios:** Motion carries. Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** For the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-03, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Motion offered is for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-03, has been seconded, discussion? No discussion. Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

**President Palacios**: Motion carries. We take five-minute recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:19 a.m.

### **RECESS**

The Senate reconvened at 11:29 a.m.

**President Palacios**: We are back to our session. We are down to agenda Item P, Bill Calendar. Floor Leader?

### **BILL CALENDAR**

**Floor Leader Borja**: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I want to suspend all pertinent Rules so that we can include House Bill No. 20-75, HD1, on the Bill Calendar for action.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Motion is for the suspension and placement of House Bill No. 20-75, HD1, relative to the Drug Court on today’s Bill Calendar, it has been made and seconded, discussion? Those in favor of that motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

**President Palacios**: Motion carries. House Bill No. 20-75 is hereby placed on the Bill Calendar for this morning session. Floor Leader, recognized.

**Floor Leader Borja**: Mr. President, for the passage of House Bill No. 20-75, HD1, on Final Reading, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-75, House Draft 1, is being offered and seconded, discussion on the motion? There been no discussion. Clerk, please call the roll for the passage.

**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	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Excused
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

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

**President Palacios:** With eight members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-75, House Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader, for the next bill please.

**Floor Leader Borja:** For the passage of House Bill No. 20-105, HD2, “To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2018; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-105, House Draft 2, it’s been offered and seconded, discussion on that motion? Now, I recognized Senator Hofschneider, Chairman of Fiscal Affairs.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning everyone. I hereby offer an Amendment in the form of Senate Draft 1, House Bill No. 20-105, HD2, SD1.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** The Chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Senator Hofschneider, is offering an Amendment to House Bill No. 20-105, HD2, in the form of, is that Senate Draft 1 or Senate Substitute?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Senate Draft 1.

**President Palacios:** Senate Draft 1, that motion has been seconded, discussion?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Mr. President?

**President Palacios:** Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. I’m pleased to report to you that your Committee upon House Bill No. 20-105, HD2, transmitting to the Senate, we commissioned a meeting over the last three weeks discussing the content of the house bill as well as made some substantive changes as

indicated in the narrative of the bill by way of an underline. I take the position and I want to express appreciation to the members because everyone partakes on the meetings that we called throughout and if not everything, most, of the content of the legislation in our draft has been bedded and discussed in its entirety leading up to today. If I may, Mr. President, the Senate upon the written request by the Secretary of Finance with respect to Public Law 19-83 referencing on the legislative salary increase, as everyone knows, the bill 20-105, HD2, incorporates that Public Law mandate. However, due to the situation whereby the courts says and the Secretary of Finance being the respondent of a lawsuit or now agreed certified question between the Secretary of Finance and the AG's Office to ask the Supreme Court to dispose of and qualify this Public Law, the members of the Senate took the position and blessed that and sanctioned that request made by the Secretary of Finance. Also, attached to it is a document from the court concurring that she agreed that she would not be disbursing of any funds in addition to what we have to date. So with that, there was at approximately at least 1.4 million dollars of funds that the Committee had distributed between agencies, instrumentalities, and also Senatorial District's, First, Second and Third. Additionally, Mr. President, the Committee sanctioned and adopted to ask and authorizes the Marianas Visitors Authority, under page 16 of the budget bill, to assist some of the critical needs of the agencies in the CNMI and some programs of the CNMI that is of critical needs moving forward with the government and also with programs that contained herein. I want to specifically mention that because of the urgent need of a pumper truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services your Committee had mandated or included in the budget \$450,000.00 to purchase a fire pumper truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services here in Saipan. Furthermore, probably on this particular item on item (b), I would defer and ask the good Vice Chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Senator Quitugua, to report on that. But also, upon request and sanction, and approved by the Committee on page 17, item (c) there's an allocation of \$250,000.00 to purchase four (4) additional Automated Passport Control (APC) units to provide support for our U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP) program at the Saipan International Airport, to help alleviate tourist arrival congestion and to expedites the entry process of eligible Visa Waiver Program international travelers by providing this particular device. Furthermore, Mr. President, there are some allocation of about \$300,000.00 to fund the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Cultural Center Feasibility Study and in that Feasibility Study to include the best an ideal location here in Saipan. Items (e), line15, up to \$200,000 to fund the Chamorro and Carolinian Cultures celebration activities in the CNMI during the month of September 2018, in coordination with the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Office of Carolinian Affairs. The funds should be distributed as follows: Saipan (\$100,000), Tinian (\$50,000) and Rota (\$50,000). Mr. President, I am going to yield for now to the good Vice Chair of the Committee, Senator Justo Quitugua, to share of some his recommendation on the bill.

**President Palacios:** Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. The Chair now recognize Senator Quitugua.

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Mr. President. With the instruction of our Chairman, on page 16, item (b); the \$69,435.00 that is being allocated to the Public School System for the Cooperative Education Program is derive from the difference of the MVA's budget submission and the earmarked funds for MVA. In other words, the \$69,435.00 is a surplus if we're going to follow the submission of MVA on how much they need for the Fiscal Year 2018. Therefore, this \$69,435.00, Mr. President, will really serve our students at PSS in the high schools to receive education and training on

Cooperative Education which will prepare them for entry jobs when they leave high school. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Igisomar, do you want to chime in on some of these amendments? No.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Mr. President?

**President Palacios:** Chairman Hofschneider, recognized.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Can I request for a brief recess? I just want to clarify some of the provisions here with the counsel and the Chairman for the Delegation of Rota.

**President Palacios:** Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:31 a.m.

**RECESS**

The Senate reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

**President Palacios:** We are back to our session. We left off with Senator Hofschneider. Senator Hofschneider, you still have the floor.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. If I may direct the attention of the members, so that I can continue reading out the amendments or the inclusion of HD2 of House Bill No. 20-105. On page 18, on the top line, item 1, items (f) and (g), allocates \$250,000 each for First and Second Senatorial Districts for the purchase of tractor with batwing mower attachment for the Office of the Mayor of Rota and Office of the Mayor of Tinian. Furthermore, Mr. President, on page 21, line 9, item (a), Except for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College, new and vacant positions budgeted in this Act that is not filled by March 31, 2017 shall be eliminated. The Notice of Personnel Action must be executed by the hiring agency and the candidate to fill the vacancy has been selected. Line 13, item (b), All the funds of the eliminated NOP's for FY 2018 shall be deposited into subaccount and reserved for deficit reduction; provided that the first \$250,000 shall be transferred to operations account of the Office of the Mayor of Rota. The Secretary of Finance shall be the expenditure authority of such funds and shall report to the legislative presiding officers the status of the subaccount within 30 days after each quarter. Line 19, item (c), The funds allocated for FY 2018 for vacant and new positions not filled pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose. At this time, Mr. President, if there is no objection from the Mayor, on page 22, I am going to yield to Senator Quitugua.

**President Palacios:** Senator Quitugua, recognized.

**Senator Quitugua:** Mr. President, can we go back to Section 602 (a), on line 3, just a technical error. I believe this is supposed to be March 31, 2018, and not 2017.

**President Palacios:** Make that technical error.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Senator Quitugua, for that recognition. For the record, Mr. President, if there is no objection from the members, I stand corrected. I apologized. Good catch from the members though.

**President Palacios:** Thank you.

**Senator Hofschneider:** I am going to yield again to Senator Quitugua to elaborate more on page 22, line 19.

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Chairman and Mr. President. On Section 604 (b), as we all know that the public corporation and autonomous government agencies are required by law to submit 1% of their annual budget for the Office of Public Auditor. On this legislation that 1% of public corporations and autonomous government agencies will be collected by Finance to pay the outstanding utility payments for the Commonwealth Health Corporation. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Senator Hofschneider, continue please.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you. Thank you, Senator Quitugua. Again, I would like to request the member's attention on page 23, line 5, under Section 605, this, Mr. President, is a template that we inserted in this year's Fiscal Year to carry over and it is adopted by the Committee with the exception of line 17, the administrator where it says, "budget administrator to not more than \$70,000.00." On line 22, Section 606, under "Solid Waste Revolving Fund" the Committee adopted to provide for a hazardous pay to all employees of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works in the CNMI, the First, Second and Third Senatorial Districts who are assigned to the designated sideways solid waste landfills facilities, dump sites and transfer stations. Item "(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the solid waste revolving funds shall not be reprogrammed." On "Section 607, CHCC Appropriated Funds. Out of the funds appropriated to the CHCC under Business Unit 1507 the CHCC show pay for the following: (a) Unless at least two Physicians are employed and stationed at the Tinian Health Center CHCC shall hire at least one Physician, and in addition, hire one mid-level practitioner, and one Dental Assistant II for the Tinian Health Center. And (b) Unless two Physicians are already employed and stationed at the Rota Health Center, CHCC show hire at least one Physician. In addition, CHCC shall hire one Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner unless there 2 Physicians are already employed and stationed in Rota. Furthermore, CHCC shall hire 1 Dental Assistant II for Rota Health Center. Item (c) Compensation of the positions indicated in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be pursuant to the adopted CHCC salary schedule. Page 25, line1, (d) Allocation of \$40,000.00 for Rota and Tinian taking it for testing rather than the patients paying such freight costs; and line 4, item (e) Allocation of \$75,000.00 for counseling services for alcohol and drug abuse clients in Rota and Tinian, and that the services shall be administered by Community Guidance Center. Section 608, under line 7, page 25, Tobacco Control Fund. The amount of \$1,000,000.00 from the Tobacco Control Funds shall be allocated to the PSS for its comprehensive school health education programs under the expenditure authority of the PSS Commissioner. The funds appropriated in this subsection shall not be reprogrammed for any other purposes. At this time, Mr. President, I'm going to yield to my good

colleague from Rota, the Chairman of the Delegation of Rota, the Vice President of the Senate, to read out this particular inclusion of the budget.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. I now recognize, Senator Mesngon.

**Senator Mesngon:** Thank you, Mr. President. On page 25, line 12, Section 609, (a) One vehicle to be purchased under Business Unit 1272 for the Rota Sports and Recreation; (b) one van vehicle to be purchased under Business Unit 1272 for the Rota Aging Office; (c) one vehicle to be purchased under Business Unit 1065 for the Rota Medical Referral-Saipan; (d) one vehicle to be purchased under Business Unit 1282 for the Department of Labor, Rota; (e) two vehicles to be purchased under Business Unit 1352 for the Rota Police patrol cars; (f) one brushed fire truck to be purchased under Business Unit 1353 for Rota Fire and EMS,” and that is on page 26, line (f). Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. These funds are already scheduled in?

**Senator Mesngon:** Yes, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Basically, you’re reiterating it in the administrative provision?

**Senator Mesngon:** Yes.

**President Palacios:** Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. Continue on, on page 26, line 3, item (g) One vehicle to be purchased under Business Unit 1568 for the use of the Northern Marians Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Section 610, Office of Grants Management. Out of the funds allocated under Business Unit 1043 and the Office of Grants Management administrative and indirect costs, for NOP’s shall be for the hiring of 1 Grants Specialist for Rota, 1 Grants Specialist for Tinian and 2 Grants Specialist for Saipan.

**President Palacios:** Are these reflected in the Worksheet or Schedule A?

**Senator Hofschneider:** That is correct, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Pretty much, there's no substantive changes on the remaining pages until we reach page 31, line 7, under item (b) out of Business Unit 1065, \$75,000.00 shall be used to pay for the improvement of the leeching field, septic tank and water reservoir at the Rota Medical Referral facility in Saipan (Valley Inn). And if I may at this time, Mr. President, we may allow the Clerk to make the correction on the “leeching field.” On page 33, I’m going to yield to Senator Quitugua to elaborate more on this particular amendment or inclusion.

**Senator Quitugua:** Thank you, Chairman Hofschneider and Mr. President. On the Section 709, under Other Programs, under (c) the underlined, this is a similar provision that is on 2017 budget

except that the amount for each of the activities has been increased so that it can promote Bilingual Bicultural Programs, printing of supplies, books and also to encourage competition of students between inter-islands and off-island, including sports and Bilingual Bicultural. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Senator Hofschneider, you still have the floor.

**Senator Hofschneider**: On page 35, line 20, (i) Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Incorporated (NMPASI) shall be as shown in Schedule A, and that is in reference to Section 710.

**President Palacios**: Continue.

**Senator Hofschneider**: On page 37, Section 713, line 7, shall read, “Provided that the funds allocated in this section pursuant to the original expenditure plan submitted and that such allocations shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.” This is referencing the Tobacco Settlement. Then further down on line 18 of same page, “Provided that the funds allocated in the subsection pursuant to the original expenditure plan submitted and that such allocation shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.” It’s referencing line item (b) Compact Impact. On page 38, under item (c) of the same section line 17, should read, “development for the Commonwealth. Prior to obligation and disbursement of funds, the NMC and NMTI shall developed and submit a plan on the expenditures of such funds. The funds shall not be used or reprogrammed for any other purpose other than what is specified pursuant to Public Law 110-229, Section 6.a.6. And this, Mr. President, is the Commonwealth Worker Fund that was authorized by Public Law 110-229, CW Fund. Right now, the Governor had requested to place that under the watch of the Scholarship Office and the underlined provisions they are simply a guidance for the recipients of NMTI, in this case NMTI and NMC on how to access those funds. Page 39, line 11, “Section 801. Judgment Against Government. The amount of \$1,000,000.00s under Business Unit 1623 shall be used to pay the final judgments and settlements based on the following: (a) Judgments and settlements in the amount of \$150,000.00 and below shall be paid in full, including the payment of \$13,563.44 balance owed to the Estate of Muna v. CNMI, Civ. No. 96-0769.” Nothing further, Mr. President, that concludes the narrative action of House Bill No. 20-105, HD2, and I yield for now. If I may before I yield the floor, Mr. President, accompanying is Schedule A has been handed out, I do want to request though that under Scheduled A, under the Boards and Commissions to include the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and in the same wave, to insert a dollar there. As you all know, this Commission the enabling statute allows for them not only to review any utilities in the CNMI but also they’re authorized to collect fees from them and they use that for their operations to a facility the program, to ensure that the rates that consumers are paying in the CNMI are fair and also will be able to have the agencies and the entities and the company's function with their daily needs and activities. At this time, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. We’re working on Senate Draft 1, the motion has been made and seconded. We are under discussion on SD1.

**Senator Hofschneider**: Yes.



**President Palacios:** Senator Igisomar, recognized.

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just have two items; one is, just to clarify that in the presentation of our Chairman for Fiscal Affairs with respect to CPUC that we can just state that it's a technical change, because currently, it's listed under Independent Programs but we just need to transfer it from Independent Programs under Schedule A to write it under the Boards and Commissions.

**President Palacios:** The Clerk will make those technical amendments.

**Senator Igisomar:** But on one, I would like to make a motion, Mr. President, to make a simple amendment, I think something we overlooked, under Schedule A along with the proper administrative provision by counsel to add 50 unfunded FTE's.

**President Palacios:** Senator Igisomar, let us dispose of SD1 and then we can go back and make that amendment.

**Senator Igisomar:** Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua:** Just minor technical amendments to SD1, and probably the legal counsel can work this out. On Section 608 on the Tobacco Control Fund, if the counsel can insert the phrase "Notwithstanding any law or regulation contrary, the amount of \$1,000,000.00."

**President Palacios:** Counsel, can you do that? Okay. We're discussing SD1, ready for the question? Senator Mangloña?

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. On SD1, I know the Chairman has made an amendment, on page 21, I have written copies here, I believe we've discussed this with the Chairman and other members, so I just like to offer an amendment to Senate Draft 1, that the Chairman is offering.

**President Palacios:** Let us take a short recess.

The Senate recessed at 12:02 p.m.

### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:04 p.m.

**President Palacios:** We are back to our session. Before we take a break Senator Mangloña submit a subsidiary amendment to Senate Draft 1. I believe he handed out the copy of the amendment that he's going to offer. I now recognized, Senator Mangloña. Senator Mangloña, are you ready to offer your amendments?

**Senator Mangloña:** I so offer the subsidiary amendment to SD1 that the Chairman offered earlier. Thank you.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. Motion has been seconded, discussion? Read? Those in favor of the subsidiary amendment motion offered by Senator Mangloña, please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

**President Palacios**: Motion carries. We are now on Senate Draft 2. Senator Igisomar, you may now offer your subsidiary for your amendment.

**Senator Igisomar**: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I would like to make a subsidiary motion to include into Schedule A, and for our legal counsel to provide the appropriate administrative language to add “50 NOPs’ number of positions to DPS, Department of Public Safety, of that 50; 30 will be for Saipan; 10 for Tinian; and 10 for Rota, but the 50 are unfunded,” so move. Thank you, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Motion is being offered by Senator Igisomar to increase the number of positions. Is this under the Governor's authority or under the departments, DPS?

**Senator Igisomar**: DPS.

**President Palacios**: Under the departments and number of positions for DPS, Department of Public Safety, from the present level adding additional 50 unfunded number of positions or FTE’s, specifically 30 for Saipan, 10 for Rota and 10 for Tinian, respectively. The motion has been second, discussion? The record will reflect that these NOP’s will be unfunded at this time. Ready for the question? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

**Senator Hofschneider**: Mr. President, if I'm in order, may ask the members to go back to page 19, Section 401.

**President Palacios**: Is this relevant to the issue? Can we dispose of that motion?

**Senator Hofschneider**: Certainly, I yield.

**President Palacios**: We are discussing the subsidiary motion for further amendment offered by Senator Igisomar, further discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt the subsidiary amendments offered by Senator Igisomar please say, “Aye.” Oppose say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, ‘Aye.’

**President Palacios:** Motion carries. We're now at Senate Draft 3. I now recognized, Senator Hofschneider.

**Senator Hofschneider:** Mr. President, I begged the indulgence of the members to go back to page 19, under Section 401, under Management of Funds, if you noted, Mr. President, it is bolded. This is very provision of this budget, simply, because the tracking of the funds expenditures and the operations of the budget that we're about to dispose of for next Fiscal Year. Everything is impleaded with exceptional of line 8, "30 calendar days at the end of each" it was supposed to be "each quarter" but it was stricken out and put "each month." And also on line 10, it reflects "monthly" reporting from the Secretary of Finance, and then on line 12, this is the additional provisions that was recommended an approved by the members. "The report must be accompanied by a narrative report explaining that activities of the expenditures. Additionally, the Secretary shall report on the fund balance of the earmarked fund accounts within 30 days after each month." Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Any comments on that statement made by Senator Hofschneider? Surely, it's a strong requirement, but at the end of the day, is this a requirement there is no consequences if we felt to do that, but maybe the Committee can consider that next time. If we're making it on quarterly basis vs. a monthly basis without no consequences to the reporting requirement that we can trust maybe the Secretary of Finance will abide by the requirement. Thank you, Senator Hofschneider, for pointing that out. Senator Igisomar?

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to add on to what our Chairman of Fiscal Affairs is stating. I think we did discuss that, there is nothing that would sanctioned for not following the position, but what we at least tried to elaborate on that particular Section because in the Budget Act a report is nothing more than a document with all the printout of accounts and numbers, but at least allow our Chairman to request for narrative reports so that we can hold proper meetings with the Secretary if such documents are not submitted. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. There will be no more amendments, I suppose. Ready? Are we absolutely ready for the passage of House Bill No. 20-105, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 3? 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	Excused
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

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

**President Palacios:** With all eight members voting “yes” the Senate hereby passes House Bill No. 20-105, House Draft 2, in the form of Senate Draft 3. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 12:11 p.m.

**RECESS**

*The following statement made by Senator Paul Mangloña during the recess has been reinstated into the recording session for official record.*

**Senator Mangloña:** I voted for that but now, I just want to make a comment, Mr. President, with the indulgence of the members. A very short comment. I just wanted to comment, Mr. President, that is good that you mentioned that. I just wanted to comment because I keep playing with the numbers in my head as far as the Public School System is concern. I just wanted to point out that there are Board of Education members that have indicated at least to me, that they will be taking this issue on the 25% earmarking for Judicial review and I am just quite not comfortable yet on the overall numbers. I know that the Chairman and the members have discussed this in the committee level, that you deduct the earmarking of funds from the \$236,000,000.00 and then that's the number base that is use as a basis for giving PSS 25%. I just have to raise this up because this will be brought up and at least the members are aware. For example, in today's session we gave earmarking based on page 13, we put numbers in there, and therefore, that has an impact on PSS 25%. An example would be the calculation for the solid Waste Revolving Fund and the Cancer Fund that was extensively discussed by the Committee, and the Committee assistance indicated that for example, we are giving them \$900,000.00 more than what is under the law based on earmarking. If you compute that \$900,000.00 that's about the \$225,000.00 that actually we should give PSS. I just want to point that out, I hope that the members will look into that because PSS is going to court for this matter. We need to know where we are on this so that we can be right of this. They are not even agreeing yet that they deduct the earmarks. They are saying, you shouldn't deduct the earmarks. But even if we deduct earmarks what my point today is that, we need to review not only on the Solid Waste and the Cancer Fund, we need to review other earmarks that are deducted from the total \$236,000,000.00, because we are going to be liable and we are going to come back and pay PSS for this, because I've noticed. Unless I'm mistake under Schedule A, PSS is only given \$36,500,000.00 approximately and that's already even lower than, I believe if you calculate base on the \$150,000,000.00 it should be around \$37.5. I don't want to purling the session. I am just saying that something the Committee and may be the Conference Committee need to be to look into because we don't want to be taken to court and find out that later on we need to put in more funding and we've already spend it or worse yet if the decision is to not deduct the earmarking of funds. Thank you, Mr. President.

**The Senate reconvened at 12:17 p.m.**

**President Palacios:** We are back to our session. We just passed House Bill No. 20-105, HD2, SD3. Certainly, I'm mindful and I think we are all mindful that the issue of earmarks vs. the total of general fund resources continues to be a question. But, at the end of the day, this body needs to move beyond that question until that question provide for the funding in the appropriations for the operations of this

government. I think despite the short period of time that we have before the end of the fiscal year, I think that we've moved beyond that at least at this time and hope that the House and the Senate can come together having anticipated perhaps that there might be some issues with the substantive amendments that the Senate made on the House version of the appropriation bill. The House would probably have to go into a session, will go into session to decide whether they're going to accept the Senate version or rejected it. But the Chair will put the members on notice, and if there is no objection if the House rejects the Senate version that there will be no objection from the members that the Chair can appoint members of the Conference Committee without going into session. Do I hear any objection to that?

There was no objection raised.

**Senator Igisomar**: The Chair or the President?

**President Palacios**: The President, the Chair.

**Senator Quitugua**: Mr. President?

**President Palacios**: Senator Quitugua?

**Senator Quitugua**: As the President, you have the authority to appoint the members without a session. We don't have to have a session for you to appoint the members of the Conference Committee.

**President Palacios**: Thank you for the reminding. But I just want to make sure that we're all going to be all good. We only have probably three members of this Conference Committee and I know that there might be some others that will be eagerly waiting to be appointed but the Chair having anticipation, I just want to make that clear. You know, it's been a long morning.

**Senator Mangloña**: Mr. President?

**President Palacios**: Yes.

**Senator Mangloña**: I believe we were in recess when I make my statements, and I wonder if the recording was on. If the recording was on, I want my statements to be part of the record. I want the Clerk –

**President Palacios**: We will make sure.

**Senator Mangloña**: I don't know if the recording was on, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Was the recording on?

CLERK: Yes, it is.

**Senator Mangloña**: Okay. Can you put my statements on record for official statements?

**President Palacios:** The Journal Clerk would make sure that it's in there.

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Senator Igisomar?

**Senator Igisomar:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to, as Senator Paul Mangloña, wanted to make sure that his statements are recorded, I wanted to also state that I appreciate our Senator's talking about PSS. But let us not forget that there's a lot of other departments outside of the 25%, *pot i hemplo*, CHCC, under Schedule A we only gave CHCC about \$700,000.00, yet, there was a lot of other earmarks outside of that \$700,000.00 and if we calculated it almost ends up to be less than \$100,000.00 appropriation. I just wanted to add that comment on board, that there is, it's not just PSS but other departments as well that will be inclusive in our review after the House. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. We will leave these bills on today's Order of Business we will take up until our next session. Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider:** Respectfully request, if we can just dispose of 20-33 to file so we can take it out of the Calendar?

**President Palacios:** Is that filed already?

CLERK: No. We need a separate voting on Filing.

**Senator Hofschneider:** I appreciated, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** So, clarified. We have to go back to the Bill Calendar. I thought by adopting the recommendation of the Committee Report, we automatically adopt and file it. But, we will go through the procedure on the motion here.

**Senator Hofschneider:** *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

**President Palacios:** This is the duplicative bill that you introduced, am I correct?

**Senator Hofschneider:** It is the bill to be filed.

**President Palacios:** Floor Leader, recognized.

**Floor Leader Borja:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move to file Senate Bill No. 20-33.

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios:** Motion is to file Senate Bill No. 20-33, has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Hofschneider:** I wish to thank, Senator Justo Quitugua, for pointing this out and I would also express appreciation to the Senate members of the House members. I believe it became law, it is a good bill for the advancement of our education opportunities for the CNMI primarily on the Health Care. *Si Yu’us ma’ase, Mr. President.*

**President Palacios:** Thank you. Further discussion? There being none. Clerk, please call the roll for the filing of the Senate Bill No. 20-33.

**CLERK** called the roll:

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

**CLERK:** Mr. President, seven (7) members voting “yes,” one (1) “abstain” and one (1) “absent.”

**President Palacios:** With seven members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-33, is hereby filed by the Senate. That’s it for our Bill Calendar, I believe. Floor Leader?

**Floor Leader Borja:** Yes, that is all the bills we will be acting on today.

**President Palacios:** We are down to Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications.

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

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-174 and 20-175.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. It is past lunch time, so, I am just going to give a very short miscellaneous.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**President Palacios:** I hope that we can n get together, because I know we still have a process in this appropriations legislation. Nevertheless, I want to thank the Committee in all due diligence to get this thing on the floor for deliberation and disposition by this body I wish to personally thanked the

Chairman for his patients and all the head aches and hard work that was put into this process. I will give your one last crack, Senator Quitugua, before we adjourn.

**Senator Quitugua:** Under Miscellaneous Business, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Proceed.

**Senator Quitugua:** This is just to clarify to Senator Paul Mangloña, why we filed Senate Bill No. 20-33. Senate Bill No. 20-33 was referred to the Education and Youth Affairs Committee and our Rules is specific that bills referred to a Committee, the Committee must take action on it. The same bill, Senate Bill No. 20-08 was introduced earlier by the same author, Senator Jude Hofschneider, and the Committee took action on it, the Senate passed it and the House accepted it without amendments. It went to the Governor and it became law. Senate Bill No. 20-08, became law so Senate Bill No. 20-33 which is a brother of Senate Bill No. 20-08 has to be put on file so that the Committee can accomplish what the Rules is calling for. Thank you.

**President Palacios:** Thank you. So, clarified.

**Senator Mangloña:** This is on another matter, Mr. President.

**President Palacios:** Recognized.

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. On miscellaneous, I just want to commend the Chairman Senator Justo Quitugua, for the August 22 letter to the Casino Commission. I just realized that in this letter we might have missed one item, which we requested during the Committee meeting and I wanted the Chairman to maybe on record, may be write a letter to whoever the concerned individual that has access to the report, the CPAC report. I remember, we discussed that and the Senate wants a copy of that report. There are already two reports pursuant to the casino license agreement that this report shall be given to the Governor. I don't know if the letter is to the Governor or the Casino Commission, but this report is very critical to the Committee because it tells us what are plans are and the scheduling of this casino development. I think that since we already establish a Gaming Committee here in the Senate and we should get that. I don't see that request in the letter, Mr. Chairman, so I respectfully ask if the Committee can ask for a copy of that report.

**President Palacios:** Senator Quitugua, you may respond.

**Senator Quitugua:** Yes. There's a separate letter because during our Committee meeting with the Casino Commission, they indicated that they themselves have to request for a report to the Governor. So, a separate letter is being send to the Chief of staff of the Governor, for a copy of the CPAC report. So, that will be forthcoming.

**Senator Mangloña:** Thank you, Mr. President. Very short comment to the Chairman. Maybe if we are going to file a bill, maybe the Committee can just vote on that, so, I guess we don't need to wait for a session to file. That is all, that's my idea. Thank you.



**President Palacios**: Thank you for your idea. Announcements.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Palacios**: Recognized, Senator Quitugua.

**Senator Quitugua**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, during the Gaming Committee meeting with the Casino Commission, some of the members requested if the Commission can schedule a tour with the Committee members including the entire Senate members. I got an e-mail from the Executive Director from the Casino Commission scheduling the tour of the IPI for September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Please be there on site so that we can fulfill the request of the Committee during the first meeting. Additionally, Mr. President, the Casino Commission is holding its regular meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The Executive Director is extending an invitation to the Gaming Committee members to attend; and if any of the Senate members have time to attend this regular meeting with the Casino Commission, it starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Thank you. For the last announcement.

**Senator Hofschneider**: Never mind because we are under Announcement, I though it's under Miscellaneous. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Palacios**: Floor Leader, for the adjournment, please.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion has been seconded.

**President Palacios**: Motion offered is for the adjournment subject to the call. Those in favor of that motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

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

The Senate adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat  
Senate Journal Clerk