

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



Senate
THIRD REGULAR SESSION – 2018

SJ 20-25

 First Special

 Thursday, January 18, 2018

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Acting Senate President, Steve K. Mesngon, issued a session call on January 16, 2018 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.

Acting President Mesngon: Good morning members and everyone in the gallery. The Marianas Variety is here, thank you, Cherrie. We are now going to proceed with our session today, before we proceed, I would like to announce that Senate President Palacios will not be in today I'm sitting as Acting President to preside in today's session.

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

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Special, Third Regular Session, on January 18, 2018, at 10:12 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll, eight members are "present" and one "excused."

Acting President Mesngon: With eight members "present" and one "absent," as I stated earlier, Senate President Palacios, currently not here but he is excused. Next on our agenda is Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting President Mesngon: Anyone in the gallery who wish to present any comment before us please come up to the chamber. If no one, Clerk, let the record reflect that there's none under Public Comment. Going down on our Agenda, Reading and Approval of Journal. Clerk?

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Clerk voiced, none.

Acting President Mesngon: Going down on Messages from the Governor, none; Communications from Judicial, none; Communication from Heads of Executive Departments, none; and none from the House. Communications from the Senate, none; Communications from the Washington Delegate, none; Item J, Unfinished Business, none. I would like to go to agenda Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions, none. Going down to agenda Item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

None

COMMUNICAITONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President?

Acting President Mesngon: Recognized, Senator Paul Mangloña.

Senator Mangloña: Under Introduction of Bills, I would like to formally introduce, “A Bill for an Act to authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to work with private business owners to install video surveillance cameras directed to a public right-of-way in support of the CNMI’s reporting system; and for other purposes.” This is a bill that was introduced in a different form several

months ago, but of questions regarding the appropriateness of it being introduced in the Senate, they have redrafted it. Our Legal Counsel have made the necessary amendment so that it is a proper Senate Bill, so, I am formally introducing that. Another bill, "To require the Department of Commerce to update the CNMI prevailing wage and workforce assessment study on an annual basis; and for other purposes," I introduce this morning. Thank you.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Paul Mangloña. Those introduces sufficiently, the clerk can make copies so we can distribute to the members. With that, while they're preparing the documents, I would like to move down to agenda Item M so we can entertain the Standing Committee Reports.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have one Standing Committee Report on the Calendar. Standing Committee Report No. 20-68, from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reporting on the appointment of Ms. Agida T. Quitugua to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors to represent Rota, so move for its adoption.

The motion has been seconded.

Acting President Mesngon: There's a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-68 and it's been seconded, discussion? I recognized, Chairman Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Agida T. Quitugua to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors to represent the island of Rota begs leave to report as follows. Pursuant to Public Law 11-15, Ms. Agida T. Quitugua was nominated by Acting Governor Victor B. Hocog on October 24, 2017 to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors to represent the island of Rota. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Ms. Agida T. Quitugua to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Agida T. Quitugua's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Ms. Agida T. Quitugua's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Ms. Agida T. Quitugua possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors. Your Committee concludes that the appointment of Ms. Agida T. Quitugua meets all the necessary requirement pursuant to Public Law 11-15. Furthermore, Ms. Agida T. Quitugua has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask the full members of this body to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-68. Thank you, Mr. President.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Any other members? I recognized, Senator Santos.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I regret missing Ms. Quitugua's public hearing when it was conducted in Rota, sometimes two weeks ago. I'd like to commend our honorable Governor and Lieutenant Governor for Ms. Quitugua's appointment and her acceptance to serve as a member to the MVA Board representing the First Senatorial District, which is Rota. I have reviewed and read her resume which speaks tremendously about her relationship with our community both the government and private sectors making her an outstanding selection to the MVA Board. Although again, as earlier I indicated that I was not in Rota when her public hearing was conducted but I have signed off the Committee Report endorsing her appointment because of the trust and confidence I have on her ability to perform her duty and responsibility as MVA Board. She also has an awesome personality, she's a people person with great commonsense including her competence to articulate on various issues. And so with this and without a doubt, Ms. Quitugua, can represent not only Rota the First Senatorial District but the entire Commonwealth as well as an MVA Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Santos. I would like to give also, Senator Paul Mangloña, as we came from the same Senatorial District, since he's not in the public hearing as well, so, I'll give him the opportunity also to have a comment on Ms. Agida T. Quitugua. I recognized, Senator Paul Mangloña.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. *Taya opottunidát para biahu famaisin question gi public hearing, ti member yo' gi kumite. Lao, guaha kuentos-hu yan si Agida esta. Hu'fafaisin para hufan macho'cho' yan i man'gachongña gi MVA, buenti yan man'mato hamyo Luta, inli'a' i situasion gi ekonomia giya Luta, mampos makat. Nisita maas ayudo gi marketing yan gi promotion efforts siha. Ya' i bandan charter flights, ta' tungo-ha' na guaha salape gi MVA, ta'na'i fanahan \$250,000.00 para charter flights promotion ya' kumo tima'atituyi etyu na fondu, malago' ha' un año, dos años ya' tima' usa etyo talo na' salape. Enague na hu' sa'sangan-ha guini kosaki siña lakkue ginen hita todos tafan ayuda' yata soyu maas i MVA as a body ya' humana'i effort nu etse. Siguru yo' na parehu-ha na situasion giya Tinian, ta'tungo-ha na mampos makat, ya' ta'tungo na ginen este na industria i tourist-ta, siña maas opottunidát cho'cho, siña maas i small business man'nina ayuda, ya' siña maas ana'lamaolek i kinalamten ekonomia giya tano mami. Si, Agida, hu'tungo na siña gai'sensia yan animo para este, ya'ta kontinua huma'ayuda i MVA.* Thank you, Mr. President.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Paul Mangloña, on your lightly comment and I noted that. Recognized, Senator Jude Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Also, signing off on the Committee Report from Chairman Cruz and his Committee, to also recognize the presence during the hearing, the presence of the Managing Director, Mr. Conception, during the hearing in Rota, as well as, the Chair of MVA Board, Ms. Cavanagh. They both testified in support of the nominee to represent the beautiful island of Luta. And for everyone's information, I brought up actually that particular issue that Senator Mangloña's alluding to about the location. The reason why I brought that up because it was the appropriate time to bring it up to that forum simply because Ms. Agida, I think this was her first

appointment to the state level representation in the board. And I ask the Managing Director to get the appointee up to speed knowing that the Senate is going to confirm her rather sooner. So, I just want to point that out. Thank you, Mr. President.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Jude Hofschneider. Any other member who wishes to comment, the floor is still open. Ready? Before we take the vote, I would just like to publicly announce that in the event of voting on the confirmation of Ms. Agida T. Quitugua to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors, if the Standing Committee Report is passed by the vote of the Senate the candidate deems to be confirmed. So, I just like to announce that. With that, I'd like to ask the Clerk to do the roll call, please.

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

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

Acting President Mesngon: With all eight members voting “yes” Ms. Agida T. Quitugua is hereby confirmed by the Senate. I would like to take a short recess for now. Just a quick recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:28 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

Acting President Mesngon: We are back from our recess. We are on agenda Item M. I would like to continue with our agenda and moved down to agenda Item N, Reports of Special/Conference Committee; none. Agenda Item O, Resolution Calendar. Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

Floor Leader Borja: We have none, Mr. President, as well as, Item P, Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

None

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Floor Leader. We go down to agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Communications, none. Agenda Item R, Miscellaneous Business.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Acting President Mesngon: Any member? I would like to recognized, Senator Paul Mangloña.

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. Today, I introduce a bill, it's been numbered now, Senate Bill No. 20-89, "To require the Department of Commerce to update the CNMI prevailing wage and workforce assessment study on an annual basis." And, I respectfully ask the Chairman and the committee, to please pickup on the bill that should accompany this legislation I introduced last year regarding the requirement for businesses to pay the workers the CNMI prevailing wage rate. We heard in the briefing by the Marianas Business group who were in Washington, DC, during the discussion that the prevailing wage was one of the few issue that they supported and recommended to the working group of the U.S. Congress regarding the CW that they recommend to be included in the legislation. So, without waiting for the U.S. Congress legislation, I think it's good for us to do it ourself. Also, we can go to Congress and say that we have emplace already a local law by the way and it shows that we are willing to pay our employees the prevailing wage in the CNMI. I mentioned in the House of Representatives Chamber that if you look at all the Territories of the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam for example, of those 3,000 CW that will not be approved under the CW, most of those categories are in the hospitality positions. And if you look at Puerto Rico, where the minimum wage is \$7.25 most of those positions are being paid at least \$1.00 or \$2.00 over the minimum wage so they are being paid at \$8.00 to \$9.00 for those positions per hour. In Guam, where the minimum wage was \$8.25 those positions were being paid \$9.00 or \$10.00 per hour. But in the CNMI, when the prevailing wage study was conducted in 2016 the minimum wage was \$6.55, most of those positions were being paid at \$6.55. So, it shows that if you don't have a prevailing wage requirement in a territory the business tend to pay the minimum wage. Prevailing wage requires them to get the mean or average salary for that particular position and that's the rate you pay the employees that you're hiring. This is something that the business community have recommended to U.S. Congress to incorporate in whatever CW legislation that comes out of the Congress. I think that we should do this here in the CNMI. I just want to encourage the members to please pickup on that legislation and if we can pass it, it is a plus for us, to show further to Congress that we don't want the CW just so that we can continue the cheap labor, prolong it as much as possible. We want them because even if we're paying salaries compatible with Guam our neighbor, we still don't have these workers and that is the kind of message I think that we should send to Congress in seeking their assistants. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Paul Mangloña. I would like to recognized, Senator Sixto Igisomar.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I have two things, but the first item, I would like to report to you as appointed by you and the Senate President, I was appointed to the Workforce Development Board. We had our first meeting today working on the workforce innovation an opportunity act and we have a state plan that we must put together our respect to our workforce and we have March 15 is our deadline. So, I'll be giving you more update as we go through this thick file here to create a state plan for the CNMI. The second item, I like to mention, Mr. President, I am not sure if it is a statement or question, but I think it's an issue that we must entertain or we must provide to our foreign workers that are here in CNMI. Meaning to say, we must have some sort of guidance or proactively from our department of labor or from our policymakers or from the employers themselves who is responsible for the workers and where do they go? What I mean by that, is specifically and most important in our CW1 workers, as you know, we have capped limitation and we have the new Federal Statute on unavailability of cap job classification 47-00, which is the construction extraction of occupation. There are lot of employees, I believe, and they are calling my office for support and assistance somehow they are left out there. USCIS is not approving and is declining a lot of CW1 petitions. People are getting news that they were expired days ago and then they were released, for example, today, with an expiration days ago because their petition was declined and are left out in the cold. I think. maybe for whatever the contract agreement between the employer, USCIS and that worker but in the CW1 permit, it is the employer's responsibility to pay reasonable transportation cost for these people to go back home. But I think there's a lot more to that, these people are stuck out there, they need food, they need money for food, money to pay shelter and they also have the CW2, which are the family members. I think there is got to be some kind of announcement out there to the public to reach out to these people on what guidance do they need to do? Do they have room to appeal or do they have an option to go to parole or what other classification? So that we can give them access, meaning to say, if the employer is not doing anything then we need to tell them where to go. Do they go to our Department of Labor? Otherwise, they will be calling each one of us and each one of us have different answers and response as to how to assist these foreign workers. So, I think it's important, Mr. President. Somehow, there should be a discussion to provide guidance to these foreign workers that may possibly be left out and not knowing what to do next if the petition has been cancelled or not approved by the USCIS. What do I do? Where do I go? Do I go and hide? What if I can't work? What else can I do? I understand our Governor and Congressman Kilili, they're all working hard with the U.S. Congress to try and solve this PL 110-229 issue. But in the meantime, there are people that are stocked on our islands and there are businesses that I am not sure whether they are just not being proactive or just ignoring the issue, but somebody has to care for these people for their well-being. In the meantime, may be the third item is that, we need to consider other alternative options aside of what the Joint Resolution will prepare for the President of United States and Congress with respect to PL 110-229. We have a real serious economic impact that approach. We have a lot of project infrastructure developments both amend businesses and in government requires labor, how long are we going to wait and find out when will our President be able to say, I think we do have a problem. I mean, there's a lot of alternative options out there. Do we sue the Federal Government and put stay on that PL 110-229? A Temporary Restraining Order and say, don't do this because you're going to kill our economy? Or do we tell the President to write an Executive Order to allow everybody with application that were denied to give you an opportunity so long that you do not commit crime and you do not provide a burden to the CNMI. You can stay

there and work, contribute, pay the taxes and be here continually until we figure out what to do. Because otherwise, there are these issues that are coming to my office with foreign workers looking for avenue. What do I do? My petition has been denied. My employer may have left me out. I don't know what to do? Who is right? Do I go hire a lawyer? So, this is a lot of expenses. *Un hasso-ha gi tiempon PL 110-229*? There was an Ombudsman Office when we issued an umbrella permit, that office came out and helped all these people trying to put them to right categories. But now, that we have a lot of people that are petitions being disapproved there's a lot of them out there that I think needs help. I just wanted to state that so it could be an issue that we tried to look for an immediate solution for them as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Sixto Igisomar. Senator Jude Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to expound little more with what Senator Igisomar was saying in reference to the potential blow back from the lack of direction or perhaps the lack of guidance that is currently affecting the CW that have workers that have received their denial to continue, you're right. I have also run into some that are calling the office or come to my attention, there's some of them that actually received their denial on December 27 and were given 10 days to leave the CNMI. That's pretty toll task to ask someone that is been around for the last 20 some years. But, I wanted to kind of bring us back not to be labor or to prolong the session, Mr. President, but I believe that as much as we don't want this CW issue to get consumed with the International Immigration Reform, fortunately, I think for us here that is our wish, but for the entire United States, State of the Union that's basically how it is. That is unfortunate, because back in 2012 we at least in the Senate, had a position whereby to alleviate some of the possible potential cap of the CW. We came up with serious of public hearings to see what we can do to the nonresident workers that have been here for over 10 years legally. But unfortunately, that was a fragmented approach because there was no unifier approach at the time. Fortunate, the House and the Executive Branch didn't see the same view as that of the Senate at the time. But we went ahead and we did it, we brought that particular recommendation compiling a series of public hearings in the CNMI and we presented to the Chair of the Committee at the time, it was Congressman Fleming, if I was not mistaken. Obviously, it didn't go anywhere but that particular option would have been recognized, at least move to the next step. Maybe we can alleviate some of those wiggle room or we have some wiggle room moving forward. So, fast forward to today, Senator Igisomar, you hit it right with your own point with your concerns, because you are actually right. You are not alone. There's many of them that are walking out there not knowing what is going to happen. But, I also wanted to point this out, it may be a little much similar but there are some also that are left without any direction. The former employees of the Tinian Dynasty, some of them were given a knocked-out, some of them took it, some say, no they're going to stay back, so some of those employees are still lingering around not knowing their fate. But that one is a different story, again, because they reached out to all directions from Department of Labor, used Department of Labor, but unfortunately, they have a case that is before them right now, that is kind of a different take. But, to get back into the issue right now, you're right. The Northern Marianas Business Alliance came to us last couple weeks, pretty much giving us an overview of the positions on the business sector and also what is the drop date months of the CNMI to actually have some sort of guidance on how we are going to approach this 2019 deadline. I am pleased to see, although, I don't really take off on newspaper articles, but, that's a form of communication that there are some things that are happening. May be a light at the other side of the tunnel. The Governor's working very hard with a lot of his alliance and everyone else that is having the opportunity to go over

to Washington, DC, to work with the U.S. Senate to see if they can provide a provision that is perhaps realistic and equitable and something that can give us guidance or at least the businesses and the community with respect to this CW program. I think this CW issue is front and center. It's front and center and basically, what all of us in here, all of us in the CNMI should be concerned because that is the vehicle to determine to what extent or how far our most recent successes in the business in the GDP? How far is that going to be sustain with this issue? And this is a determination of how far this thing can go? How far can we go as far as our economic successes moving forward? So, it is not just you, Senator, I appreciate you bring this up but, I am also grateful, that you are part of that development board and must take it to the next step. Please consider also having state law that whereby, we really need to pinpoint which categories of employment or CW that can be. Department of Labor have to be in the forefront of this as well so they can be part of the certification process whereby if it's a hard to fill and it's a technical and requires x number of years to acquire that. Let us say for example, a Chef or a Chief Engineer, you know how long it takes for somebody to become a Chief Engineer of a hotel here or a Chef, in that way we don't get mixed with entry level positions vs. that particular hard to fill positions almost like a professional level. The entry level should be reserved solely for our entry level folks here. I am not saying that our people don't have the inability to build their experience or further education but I am just saying, I think what USCIS or what they're seeing is that we keep giving CW's to cashiers, we keep giving CW's to gas attendants, shouldn't be part of that. We need to condense it down to say that the CNMI government is working towards segregating what really is true need to carry forth this hotel and hospitality industry and other service industry to complement the economy here. So, Mr. President, I don't mean to take up most of the time of the members here, I know it is a special session, but last but not least, it is also important for Senator Igisomar to include the quota for Tinian and Rota, because we do have developments down there as well. Some of them are saying the \$18,000 was borne, because \$1500 goes to Tinian, \$1500 goes to Rota, which actually is \$15,000.00. Maybe that's something that your committee or your organization can really look into the direction we want to continue supporting because all of us here supported the Joint Resolution sponsored by Congressman Angel Demapan to support the Governor and the MVA's position. Thank you, Mr. President.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Jude Hofschneider. I would like to recognize again, Senator Sixto Igisomar, for deliberate comment from Senator Jude Hofschneider. Recognized, Senator Igisomar.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to clarify, first of all, the two issues just for clarification, are separate with respect to that we owe the State Board planned and the concern with the CW1. They are separate, however, it is balancing. I also want to clarify that the Workforce Board is actually a Task Force by our Governor through the Labor Department, our Secretary Benavente, and making sure that it is a private partnership with the private companies and that of course, the Chairman for these whole operation for the planning entity, is Ms. Josephine Mesta, from Hyatt, so, it is to be led by. I also want to state that in the meeting, today, the idea is we need planning document for the workforce by March 15 submission. We all understood, that in the past, I think everybody has just been rubber stamping rubber stamping whatever the plan is. But we made clear today that we need to provide the proper vision through the leadership of our Chairwoman and all the Vice Chairs, to make sure we have a vision an ambition that will respond to our current crisis with respect to our assets, our workers in the CNMI, U.S. citizens, on how to move them forward and placed them in jobs. But all those things will come out later, Mr. President, but at the same time, there is a balancing we

need to do which is making sure we respond to the foreign worker need that we need for our economy and that to make sure we have a proper guidance for those people that may have been left out, also, I want to drag in so that I make sure that my statement is in line with our special session. That it is true, what Senator Paul Mangloña is saying, an introduction with the prevailing wage, just ask, the Federal Law mandates that anybody who brings in an H1, H2 worker, the prevailing wage must be the salary for those people and that was before the creation of CW1 for CNMI only. So, I believe that it is understood that a CW1 employee must be paid prevailing wage too, but, if nobody's wanting to understand it because they make more money and more profits, then I'm very happy that, Senator Paul Mangloña, is introducing this bill. To make sure that these people, if you are going to bring in foreign workers you must pay prevailing wage as to make sure and then at the same time, if these worker loses its job you must be responsible for them. So, I'm thinking that yes, I am in agreement with what Senator Paul Mangloña is saying with prevailing wage and this whole discussion we need to develop our workforce and that's why the Governor has this Task Force with WIA. And then, at the same time, we need to make sure that businesses would whatever terms and conditions they have they are responsible to take care of these people that are foreign to our lands whether they've been here 10 years or not. Can you imagine if they're left out and they are not able to work at all? Even them to go back home, how can they go back home things have changed back home. I may no longer be in something if I go there, it is all that, it is just balancing, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Sixto Igisomar. Recognized, Senator Paul Mangloña.

Senator Mangloña: Yes. So, I guess on Senator Sixto Igisomar's concern, Mr. President, I am going to recommend that maybe our Legal Counsel and our Legislative Assistants work on a letter for the President's signature to the Department of Labor. I am concern, also because, the people that Senator Sixto Igisomar is referring to consist of more than I guess 5000 people because when you consider 3000 CW non-renewal plus their independents plus their dependents, you are talking about roughly 5000 people out there that the tendency is to hide under ground because they are now illegal they are not going to go and say, hey, can I ask you about my situation? Because, they're not to be known that they are part of this group. So, we need to maybe write a letter to the Department of Labor to put out on their website frequently asked question website. For example, if your petition is not approved how can you appeal it? For example, if you have dependents that are U.S. citizens and then you have to go back, where do you go to get help? What are your options? And also, the status of pending U.S. legislation, I think this is important because there's a lot of people out there calling all of us, so, maybe, a letter to the Department of Labor saying, can you please put on your website the frequently asks question response for the following? Because nobody's doing that, I don't think. That's why we're all getting call out there, you meet people, businesses are closing, we read about JC's Café in Tinian, they are shutting down. On Rota, there is this one company with 27 CW's in hardware, restaurant, hotel businesses, they are all not renewed. They are all feeling helpless they don't know who to ask and they are asking us, can you guys hold a meeting, a hearing so we can all come and ask you? So, I think some kind of a letter, Mr. President, to the Department of Labor saying, we want you to do all this in a website so people can go there and read about it and maybe even be able to ask questions on the website. That is a recommendation I am asking. And finally, Mr. President, again, as I always mentioned in many meetings in the past is of important for this body, as well as, the House of Representatives, never mind the criticism in the media, pack your luggage and go to Washington, DC. I think we need to meet with Department of Interior, we need to get them out be more vocal because

we met with them for the 902, right? They know all our issues we don't see them campaigning our cost, we need to meet with USCIS, we need to meet with the members of U.S. Congress, with their staff specially. The staff level there, Mr. President, can go a long way in helping us while they have a working committee that doesn't mean that we cannot work with other members of the U. S. Congress. There are States there that have similar issues with us as far as labor. And I know that there are Representatives who like to hear from us and give us their support. Under the Abramov time, we have members that are still there. Congressmen Rohrabacher, for example, I understand is very close to President Trump. Some people don't like him but he understands our issue. We need to knock on his door. So, I recommend that we take turns, we fly to Washington, DC, and continued to lobby. *Ennao-ha si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

Acting President Mesngon: Thank you, Senator Paul Mangloña. That is highly noted situation. At one point, you are referring back in couple of sessions with the President and I think we need to stand tall on this. I will relay the message to the President. It is time for us to unite since this issue is being going around, especially, those issues that Senator Jude Hofschneider and Senator Igisomar, stated out about our situation of our CW out there that are in this place right now. It is very hard to hear that this people are still stranded out there looking for jobs. But like, Senator Paul Mangloña, stated as well, that maybe these people don't like to be in the eye of the public because they're known that their probably, they call it "illegally" because there's no renewal of their CW's and that is an issue. Properly, Senator Paul Mangloña, stated that, it is time for us also to stand tall with the Legislature and knock some of the Washington, DC, offices and stated also our position of what's happening here on our islands. That is duly noted, Senator Paul Mangloña. I will be discussing that with the President, as well, to see what action the members can unite and see what can we do about it? Before, I moved down to the other Item, Clerk, just noted that the two bills that Senator Paul Mangloña, just introduced please do proper for the Floor Leader to dispose that to the proper committee so immediately the Committee can take action on it. Most urgent area here is the prevailing wage, which I think it is an issue that everybody has concern with the membership here today. So, please Floor Leader, take note for proper disposal for committee referral. With that, I would like to move down to agenda Item S, Announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Acting President Mesngon: Any member like to make any announcement? Ready? We are down to agenda Item T, Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting President Mesngon: I would like to recognized the Floor Leader to make a motion for adjournment for today's special session.

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

The motion has been seconded.

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

All members voiced, "Aye."

Acting President Mesngon: Motion carries. The special session is hereby adjourned. Thank you.

The Senate adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk