



# FIFTEENTH CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS

FIRST REGULAR 2015

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

YCJ No. 15-01

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1st Day, Organizational Meeting

Saturday, April 18, 2015

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*The Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Youth Congress convened its First Day, First Regular Session on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at 10:05 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

### OPENING OF THE CEREMONY

Master of Ceremony: Good morning and welcome to the Legislature. I call upon the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort the Presiding Officers of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero and Senate President Victor B. Hocog to the platform.

Master of Ceremony: Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you the Youth Senators-elect of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress representing the respective private and public high schools:

Representing Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School: Senator-elect Catherine Cabrera Manglona;  
Representing Grace Christian Academy: Senator-elect William Philip Hinson;  
Representing Kagman High School: Senator-elect Kayjon Bradley Torres Boadi;  
Representing Marianas Baptist Academy: Senator-elect Henry Kyle Babauta Hofschneider;  
Representing Marians High School: Senator-elect Roselyn Baluyut Tanghal;  
Representing Mount Carmel School: Senator-elect Thomas Lee Atalig Manglona II  
Representing Saipan Southern High School: Senator-elect Reynafe Naol Aniga; and  
Representing Tinian Jr./Sr. High School: Senator-elect Gerald King Crisostomo Jr.

Master of Ceremony: At this time, I would like to request the Saipan Southern High School JROTC and Ms. Cassandra Tate Royal for the posting of the Colors and to lead us in the singing of the U.S. National and the Commonwealth Anthems.

### INVOCATION

Master of Ceremony: Thank you, Saipan Southern High School and Ms. Royal. I ask everyone to please remain standing and I call upon the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort Father James to the podium to offer the Invocation.

Father James: Good and gracious god, on this day we offer you our thanksgiving for the gift of our lives our families and our friends and this wonderful community gathered here in this present moment. We likewise give thanks for the young people gathered here members of the CNMI Youth Congress continue to pour out your love and blessings upon these young women and men grant them the wisdom to know and make good decisions the courage and patience to endure the hardships of life and the joy that comes from service the sharing of their gifts and talents and selfless love. Bless too their parents and all parents throughout our lands that they maybe guardians and supporters of their children making the family a sanctuary of peace, learning and life, bless our time together, O' God and keep us always in your love, we make this prayer in your name, amen.

### WELCOMING REMARKS

Master of Ceremony: Thank you, Father James. Please be seated. Ladies and gentlemen it is with distinct honor that I welcome you all to this Inauguration Ceremony of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. To witness this monumental event, we are privileged with the presence of, The Honorable Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres; the Honorable Alexandro C. Castro and our Honorable House and Senate members along with the dignitaries present with us today our friends, families and most especially the proud parents of the Youth Senators-elect, I welcome you all to the Legislative branch. On behalf of the members of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and the staff of the Legislative Bureau, congratulations to the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I call upon Speaker Pro Tem, the Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, to officially call this Organizational Session of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress to order. Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero, please.

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you MC, and before I call this Organizational Session to order also I would like to echo the welcome from the MC, welcome our dignitaries, Lt. Governor, Chief Justice, Father James, members of both Houses, to our Senators-elect and to parents, welcome again and I am sure the Senate President joins me in welcoming all of you and with that at this time. The Organizational session of the Fifteenth Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress is hereby call to order. I have received the certifications of all the Senators-Elect to the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. However, the Youth Congress shall be the judge of the selection and qualification of its own members. With the consensus of the members of the Youth Congress, I hereby appoint Senator-Elect Roselyn B. Tanghal as Floor Leader Pro Tem until the position of the Floor Leader is elected. I now ask the Clerk to call the roll, please.

### ROLL CALL

*The Clerk called the roll and all eight senators-elect were present.*

**APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS AND ADOPTION OF CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. Pursuant to the roll call, all Senators-elect are present this morning a quorum is established to proceed forward with the Organizational Session of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. The first order of business is to appoint the Credentials Committee to review the credentials of the Youth Congress Senators-Elect. I hereby appoint **Senator-Elect Catherine C. Manglona** to Chair the Credentials Committee. To serve as members of the committee, I shall appoint **Senators-Elect, Reynafe N. Aniga, Roselyn B. Tanghal, and Thomas Lee A. Manglona II**. At this point, I declare the Youth Congress in recess until such time that the Credentials Committee is ready to report back to this body. Will take a short recess.

*RECESS*

*The Youth Congress recessed at 10:23 a.m.*

*The Youth Congress reconvened at 10:25 a.m.*

Speaker Pro Tem Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time this Organizational Session is call back to order. Thank you, Youth Congress. I now recognize Senator-Elect Catherine C. Manglona, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee.

Senator-Elect Catherine C. Manglona : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero. Your Credentials Committee begs to leave to report that upon duly reviewing the pertinent credentials of Senators-elect Catherine Cabrera Manglona, William Philip Hinson, Kayjon Bradley Torres Boadi, Henry Kyle Babauta Hofschneider, Roselyn Baluyut Tanghal, Thomas Lee Atalig Manglona II, Reynafe Naol Aniga and Gerald King Crisostomo Jr., your Credentials Committee finds that each of the aforementioned senators-elect have been duly elected and meet the requirements of Public Law 17-22 and specifically, 1CMC § 1611 of the CNMI Youth Congress Reform Act of 2010, which states that the “youth congress shall be the judge of the selection and qualification of its members.”

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chair. May I request for a motion for the adoption of the Credentials Committee Report? I now recognize Senator-elect Catherine C. Manglona.

Senator-Elect Catherine C. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I move for the adoption of the Credentials Committee Report No. 15-01.

*The motion was seconded*

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, a motion has been offered and has been seconded. Any discussion? A motion for the adoption of the Credentials Committee Report No. 15-01 has been made and seconded. "All in favor of the motion please say "AYE" those opposed, please say "NAY." Motion carries and Credentials Committee Report 15-01 is adopted.

### **SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS**

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: We shall continue with the Order of Business. Under item 4 of today's agenda, we are privileged and honored to have the presence of the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court, the Honorable Alexandro Castro, to administer the Oath of Office. I now ask the Senators-Elect to please rise and I ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Chief Justice Castro to the podium.

Chief Justice Castro: Will the future of this Commonwealth the Fifteenth Youth Congress, please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

*All Youth Senators-Elect recited the following:*

"I do solemnly swear, that I will support and defend The Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the applicable provisions of the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States of America, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a duly elected Senator, to the fifteenth Youth Congress to the best of my ability and that I will conduct myself with dignity and civility and show respect toward my colleagues, staff and all other persons, so help me God."

Chief Justice Castro: Congratulations.

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Thank you again Chief Justice. Senators please sign and hand over your forms to the Sergeant-At-Arms.

### **ADOPTION OF CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS RULES**

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Please be seated, and Congratulations one more round of applause. At this time, the Chair will entertain a motion for the adoption of the CNMI Youth Congress Rules of Procedure. I now recognize Floor Leader Pro Tem Roselyn B. Tanghal.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Roselyn B. Tanghal: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I would like to introduce Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-01, "A Youth Congress Resolution to officially adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress." At the same time, I would like to move for the adoption of the resolution.

*The motion was seconded*

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. The Floor Leader Pro Tem has just introduced Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-01 and at the same time offered a motion for its adoption. The motion has been seconded. Is there any discussion? Thank you. All in favor of the motion to adopt Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-01, please say "AYE." Oppose, please say "NAY." Motion carries. Youth Congress Resolution No. 15-01 is hereby adopted.

### **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: My favorite part. We now move to the next item of the Order of Business, and that is for the Election of the Speaker. The floor is now open for nominations. I recognize Senator Crisostomo.

Senator Crisostomo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem; I nominate Senator Thomas Lee A. Manglona II to the Office of the Speaker for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress.

*The motion was seconded*

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Nomination has been made and has been seconded for Senator Thomas Lee A. Manglona II to the Office of the Speaker for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Any discussion? Is there any other nomination? I recognize Senator Crisostomo.

Senator Crisostomo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero. I move to close nomination.

Speaker Pro Tem Deleon Guerrero: Thank you Senator. A motion has been made to close nomination, and has been seconded, all in favor of that motion say "aye". Oppose say "nay". There is only one nomination on the floor for the Office of the Speaker. The nominee is Senator Thomas Lee A. Manglona II. There being no other nominee, Senator Thomas Lee A. Manglona II is hereby elected by acclamation to serve as the Speaker for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Congratulations Senator Manglona.

I now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the newly elected Speaker to preside over this Inaugural Session.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-SPEAKER**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you very much for your vote of confidence to serve as your Speaker for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Let us move on with our Order of Business. The Floor is now open for the nomination for the Office of the Vice Speaker. Senator Aniga, you are recognized.

Senator Reynafe N. Aniga: Thank you. Mr. Speaker; I nominate Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal to the Office of the Vice Speaker for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress.

*The motion was seconded*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: A motion has been made to close nomination, and has been seconded, all in favor of that motion please say “aye”. Oppose say “nay: There is only one nomination on the floor for the Office of the Vice Speaker. The nominee is Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal. There being no other nominee, Senator Tanghal is hereby elected by acclamation to serve as a Vice-Speaker for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Congratulations Senator Tanghal.

### **ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: The Floor is now open for the nomination for the Office of the Floor Leader. Senator Hinson, you are recognized.

Senator William P. Hinson: Thank you. Mr. Speaker; I nominate Senator Kayjon T. Boadi to the Office of the Floor Leader for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress.

*The motion was seconded*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: There is a nomination on the floor nominating Senator Kayjon T. Boadi to the Office of the Floor Leader, and has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? Senator Hinson you are recognized.

Senator William P. Hinson: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move to close nomination.

*The motion was seconded*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: A motion has been made to close nomination, and has been seconded, all in favor of that motion please say “aye”. Oppose say “nay”. There is only one nomination on the floor for the Office of the Floor Leader. The nominee is Senator Kayjon T. Boadi. There being no other nominee, Senator Boadi is hereby elected by acclamation to serve as the Floor Leader for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Congratulations Floor Leader Boadi.

### **ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: We now move on to the election of Legislative Secretary. Senator Tanghal, you are recognized.

Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I nominate Senator Reynafe N. Aniga to the Office of the Legislative Secretary for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress.

*The motion was seconded*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: There is a nomination on the floor nomination Senator Reynafe N. Aniga to the office of the Legislative Secretary, and has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? I recognized Senator Tanghal.

Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to close nomination.

*The motion was seconded*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: A motion has been made to close nomination, and has been seconded, all in favor of that motion please say “aye”. Oppose say “nay”. There is only one nomination on the floor for the Office of the Legislative Secretary. The nominee is Senator Reynafe N. Aniga. There being no other nominee, Senator Reynafe N. Aniga is hereby elected by acclamation to serve as the Legislative Secretary for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Congratulations Senator Aniga. Fellow Senators, we have elected our leadership for this Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. Once again, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your confidence. I, together with the newly elected officers, look forward to serving you and our peers in the best way we can.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: I now would like to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Youth Congress Standing Committees.

1. For the Committee on Ways & Means: I appoint Senator Catherine C. Manglona to chair the Committee and Senator Gerald K. Crisostomo Jr. as Vice-Chair.
2. Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Tourism: I appoint Senator Reynafe N. Aniga to Chair the Committee and Senator William P. Hinson as Vice-Chair.
3. Committee on Health & Welfare: I appoint Senator Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider to Chair the Committee and Senator Kayjon T. Boadi as Vice-Chair.
4. Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations: I appoint Senator Gerald K. Crisostomo Jr. to Chair the Committee and Senator Catherine C. Manglona as Vice-Chair
5. Committee on Summit and Activities: I appoint Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal to Chair the Committee and Senator Reynafe N. Aniga as Vice-Chair.
6. Committee on Education, Sports & Recreation: I appoint Senator William P. Hinson to Chair the Committee and Senator Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider as Vice-Chair.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you members. I am confident in your ability to effectively carry out your responsibilities of your respective committees.

**NOTIFICATION TO GOVERNOR AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE  
LEGISLATURE**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II : At this time, I would like to appoint Senator Hinson and Senator Hofschneider to notify the Governor and the Presiding Officers of the Nineteenth Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature that the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress is duly organized and ready to conduct business. We will take a short recess to allow the Senators time to formally notify the Lt. Governor and the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Branch.

*RECESS*

*The Youth Congress recessed at 10:42 a.m.*

*The Youth Congress reconvened at 10:44 a.m.*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: We are back in session. May I please request Senator Hinson and Senator Hofschneider to report to the full body?

Senator William P. Hinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Hofschneider and I have officially notified the Governor and the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Branch that we are duly organized and ready to conduct business.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senators Hinson and Hofschneider. At this time, I ask our clerk if there is any communication addressed to the Youth Congress.

YC Clerk: None at this time Mr. Speaker.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Madame Clerk.

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS**

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Moving on with our Order of Business, we will have statement of members at this time, and I would like to begin with Senator Reynafe N. Aniga.

Senator Reynafe N. Aniga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Deciding whether or not to run for this term's youth congress election was not easy for me to do. I was hesitant at first, but because of the people around me, I stand before all of you here today representing Saipan Southern High School. There are many people that I want to thank for helping me get to where I am now but first and foremost, I would like to thank the Lord our God for giving me strength and courage in everything that I do. My greatest gratitude and honor goes to my loving and supportive parents, Fe and Rey Aniga, who always guides me and provide the things I need for every activity that I



participate in. I love you both! To my sister, Merari, who would somehow always make me happy with her playful jokes and comedic stance after a long day at school; thank you for putting a smile on my face. I love you, Merari! I would like to acknowledge my dear friends Cornessa Dela Cruz, Jd Faye Pascua and Mariol Joy Lopez for motivating me to submit my application for youth congress. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have the confidence to represent my school. I am much obliged to Mrs. Borja, one of our school counselors, for escorting me to the Legislative office to drop off my application. Special thanks to Manny Ray Villagomez, Mary Jane Pepito, Joanna Garcia, Richard Pizarro, and to many more of my peers for always believing in me and reminding me of my worth. I appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Aniga. And now I recognize Senator Boadi to deliver his remarks.

Senator Kayjon T. Boadi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Hello and thank you to all our guests who took time off to come here today. It means a lot not only to me, but I can surely say to my fellow youth senators as well. I would like to thank my family for their unwavering support and to my school, Kagman High, for offering such an amazing opportunity to me and cheering me on to do better. These two benefactors are what propelled me to try out for youth congress and because of that decision, I'm able to face you all here today with great pride and honor. Of course, I would not forget to thank our coordinator, Ms. Chris Castro, for answering my endless amount of questions that prepared me for this day. It was because of her, that I'm able to rest at ease knowing that I have someone to guide and help me during these two years. And finally, I would like to give my advanced thanks to my fellow youth senators, because I know I will have two amazing and worthwhile years to work with them. I'm looking forward to my term as a youth congress senator. Once again, thank you.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Boadi. And now Senator Crisostomo will deliver his remarks.

Senator Gerald K. Crisostomo, Jr: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It was somewhat difficult to put into words how grateful I am for the people who have supported me, my decisions and have stood by my side since day one. So although it is short, I hope its meaning resonates. Mom, Dad, Mary and Craig. You have all contributed to shaping me into the person I am today. To my mom, I thank her for being the fierce protector and momma hen that she has always been and I have no doubt always will be. To my dad, thank you for teaching me right from wrong and for providing the influence that led me to become the hard worker that I am today. To my sister Mary, Thank you for being and continuing to be the motivation that I needed in order to make something of my life. Finally, to my brother Craig, if it weren't for you I would not have learned how to be a good role model and most especially a good older brother. I would also like to thank the many family members and friends that I have for simply standing by my side and giving me support when I need it. In addition, I give thanks to Ms. Christine Castro, the LB staff and all those individuals because without them none of this would have been possible. Thank you.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Crisostomo. Now Senator Hinson.

Senator William P. Hinson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good morning, first I would like to thank everyone who is present here today, for coming out and showing your support for the CNMI

Youth Congress. Second I would like to thank the student body at Grace Christian Academy and selected staff members for their continuous support throughout the school year. Next I would like to thank our school principal, Ms. Beth Nunez, for working closely with me and helping me with get the resources I need to serve my Youth Senate term. And mostly I would like to thank God for blessing me with another great opportunity, and for surrounding me with loving friends, my parents, and other family members for their everlasting support. I look forward to be serving in the CNMI Youth Congress and to be working closely with my fellow Senate members. I vow to do my best for the benefit of the CNMI, and to strongly serve the communities of the Commonwealth to the best of my ability. Thank you.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Hinson. I recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First off, I want to thank all of you who have showed up today to this special inauguration ceremony for the 15th CNMI Youth Congress. I would like to thank my friends who have prompted me to take advantage of this opportunity. My friends have taken off so much stress. They have relieved my nervousness and replaced it with assurance and confidence. So a special thanks to Gary Camacho, Kyle Chua, Fritz Trinidad, and all others who I have not mentioned. I would like to thank you for the encouragement. I would like to thank my principle, Mr. Ramiro Trinidad. I don't think you know how much you've done for me. You were the one encouraging me to run for youth congress. Whenever I feel down, you throw me a joke and you liven up my day. For today, you may just be my principle but hopefully when I end my years at Marianas Baptist Academy, we can remain friends. You have always looked out for me and have taken care of me, and for that, I offer you my sincerest thanks. Thank you Pastor Trinidad. Next, I would like to thank my loving parents, Henry and Elena Hofschneider. I know that we may not see eye to eye all the time but when we do, it's inspirational to me. You two have told me to be the best I can be, you have told me to jump on every opportunity that came my way, you have told me to be outgoing and explore and I'm sorry that I haven't listened to you until now. You two have sacrificed so much for my sisters and me. And yet we fail to level the same sacrifices. You two have always been there for me. I know that all you do for us is out of love. And we have done nothing but taken it for granted. But, today is a brighter day, today is a day of celebration and I want you to know that everything I just said is out of my love for you. Thank you and I love you and I hope that you're proud of your baby boy. Finally, I have to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The sacrifices he has made for me, is beyond all compare. The life of a king was laid down for the life of a wretch so that, that wretch may be given the opportunity of everlasting life. He has given me the opportunity to glorify His holy name, and with said opportunity, so shall I do. If not for The Lord, I would not be here, none of us would be here but thankfully we are. We are here celebrating. So through this celebration, may God's name be glorified in everything we do. With all these sacrifices and encouragement, I have finally decided to jump on this opportunity. I want to get involved in today's society. I want to provide the youth with a location of security and comfort. A place that provides relief from the very terrors that I have suffered from. I have visions for my time in office, and as difficult as it may seem, I will work towards my goals with my full effort and ability. Difficulties are inevitable. Struggle and toil will always plague the purpose of the righteous. As difficult as it may be to find a solution to said difficulties, it does not mean that it is impossible; it merely means that more commitment and effort is required. I am honored to say that I am willing to take the responsibility of commitment and effort. I also look forward to

bonding with my colleagues. I can't wait to see the day when we all gather in a room and there isn't a hint of awkwardness. I look forward to growing in friendship with one another. I look forward to the laughs we will share as well as the struggle we will undergo, serving in the 15th CNMI Youth Congress. I'm thankful for the laughs we've shared so far and I look towards a brighter future. Thank you all for your support. I ask for you to please pray for the members of the Youth Congress to be led diligently and to make wise judgments and decisions. Thank you and God bless.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. I recognize Senator Catherine Manglona.

Senator Catherine C. Manglona: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to thank everyone gathered here today and our diligent staff who have been working tirelessly in order to help polish my colleagues and I for this special event. First of all, I would like to thank the lord above who has given me the strength to overcome vast obstacles in my life and most especially my family who have encouraged me since the beginning to always do my best and stay focus on my purpose, without them I would not be standing here today. At a moment like this there's no way for a daughter to properly thank her parents for all they've done for her. They made me the person I am. I want to sincerely thank my fellow classmates, even though they could not be here who has vested me with the title of Youth Senator for the next two years. But, I also have lifelong titles that I am proud of, myself. I am a Daughter. A Sister; a Niece; a Student, and a most especially a Youth. These titles have shaped the values and visions that I will bring to this seat. I want to especially thank the staff of the Legislative Bureau and our obliged and determined Youth Congress Coordinator Ms. Chris Castro. She has been immensely humble and her untiring dedication to this program has flourished and due to her unbreakable commitment she has inspired me to give my best in representing our youth today. It is with great humility and high honor to assume the seat of senator-elect to the 15<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress. To the current Youth Congress members, congratulations. I look forward to working with you for the youth of the CNMI. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone here especially our essential guests, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives and to all the exceptional members of the Government. I am well aware of the authority and privileges that come with this seat, but they're insignificant in comparison to the obligation to always live up to our youth's trust. I vow to our youth that I will listen, I will learn, and I will lead. Thank you and God bless you all and God bless the youth of the CNMI.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Catherine Manglona. I recognize Senator Tanghal.

Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to congratulate my fellow senators here with me today. A new chapter of lives dedicated to serving our youth is now ahead of us. I'd like to thank God and my family for their endless support in my endeavors. I would like to especially thank my mother and she is the person I dedicate all my achievements and success to. I would also like to thank my fellow Dolphins at Marianas High School, who had voted for me, petitioned for me, and now entrusted me the title of Youth Congress Senator. Without their support and trust, I would not be able to speak to each and every one of you today. I would also like to say thank you to the staff of the Legislative Bureau, our legal counsel, and most especially, our Youth Congress Coordinator, Ms. Chris Castro. They have prepared for this

special event and I cannot be more grateful for organizing such a beautiful ceremony. And last but certainly not the least; I'd like to thank all our distinguished guests for being present here today, members from the House of Representatives and the Senate, and members of the Government. As a Youth Congress Senator, one of the goals during my term is centered on education. As a student myself, I would like to reach out to my peers and instill in them the importance of education. I believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to strive for the best in school. It does not matter what ethnicity you are or where you come from. It is the one aspect you will be able to hold up high and be proud of. Education lets students find their true potential, shapes them to become leaders, and opens a variety of pathways to success. I will do my very best to keep in mind the interests of the people and the youth I represent when making decisions. Everyone deserves a chance to voice out their opinion and I would like to give everyone the opportunity to do so. I promise that I fulfill my duties to the best of my abilities. Martin Luther King, Jr. says that "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" I have my mother with me today. And she is the most hardworking person I know as she provides my sister and I with everything we want and need. So she's doing something for others. Father James is here today. Priests guide and teach others about the Catholic faith. He's doing something for others. Everyone here is doing something for others, whether it's serving as our Lt. Governor to make the best decisions for our islands or serving as a court judge to interpret the laws. But I ask myself and my fellow senators this, "what are we doing for others?" This question I definitely hope we can answer during our terms. Thank you.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Thank you, Senator Tanghal. Good morning to you all. I would like to start by first thanking all my fellow Senators for all their remarks and especially Mount Carmel School for electing me to a second term in this Youth Congress. You have placed your trust in me to serve you for 2 more years, and I am grateful for your support. I also want to thank my family Bill and Nicole, Prudencio, Uncle John and especially my dad, for trusting the airlines and making it on the ground safely. Dad, don't be surprised if you are here for a few more days. A huge thank you to my teachers who are in the audience, Youth Congress' community partner agencies, DYS and the coalition against domestic and sexual violence and really everyone in this room for coming. Your support does not go unnoticed. As you've heard from my fellow youth senators, today's youth face tremendous odds. We play a key role in solving the critical issues facing our GREATEST ASSET – our youth. I truly believe that how we reach a concrete solution to the issues teens face is threefold: it takes **child, parent, and community**. It is my mission as the Speaker to guide the youth and ensure they get more than just 25 percent. Because we all know that we just can't give 25 percent. We need to mean a 100% of every word spoken and action taken by this congress and community as a whole. We give a 100 percent with this new and fresh congress for the kid on Rota who goes to work to earn money before doing his English homework, we give 100% of ourselves for the tutor in AmeriCorps who spends her weekends and after school time instilling a love of reading and vocabulary in her students or even the mother on Tinian who comes home late after work to cook dinner for her children, worrying if she'll have enough money for the next CUC bill. We serve for the Marianas High School students, and countless others, who walked into the office of the Saipan Tribune and delivered dozens of letters to the editor DEMANDING that PSS puts students FIRST! With all of this, we are then faced with the questions: *What needs to happen? How do we make it happen?* We must look past the picturesque tourist sites, pristine beaches, and lavish casinos. The life of a girl and boy in the islands is difficult, involves struggle, and a lot of hard work. The whole purpose of Youth Congress is to create ladders of opportunity for our peers.

And that's where youth, in the solution, comes into place. But these ladders can only be placed when youth are accountable for their actions and when they do their part. This is why, I am announcing, that the first draft of legislation this youth congress will pass, will be mandatory service hours for all students to fulfill before they graduate. Civic engagement in today's youth is of paramount importance. Whether it is running a lap at the March against Cancer in two weeks, tutoring grade school students at AmeriCorps or walking with the American Red Cross. Youth need to embrace the principle of service by educating the youth in civic virtue; we make them conscious of their mission and weld them into unity. This unity can only occur with a consistent support system back at home. The saying that learning starts at home is not light weight. Parents are an integral part of every child's path. Those in this room are not strangers to our youth. You are parent representatives at school, you volunteer on weekend competitions, and help children with their homework and projects. Let's continue this pattern and translate conversation into action. Because we can hold all the luncheons, church meetings, and PTA conferences, but if our youth, months and years later, still feel unsafe and have crumbling classroom floors and ripped up textbooks - then nothing speaks louder than that. Nothing Communities and public servants are just as important. We cannot support systems and businesses that bring in violence, crime, and drugs, especially ICE. Our youth is sacred and innocent and youth congress is ready to partner with you, there presentatives, to fight the good fight. You probably have heard that we, the young, are visual learners. Please keep in mind that youth watch the way adults behave, how you make decisions, and the way you lead. So let us see more good things for our youth to emulate. As youth Congress Senators, we will work vigorously to identify and address every issue possible. You'll be hearing a lot from this youth congress. This not going to be a do nothing congress. This will be a working congress. In order to be more accessible, the plans of creating Twitter, Face book, Instagram, and YouTube are already in place. On these pages you can find the activities of this youth congress and monthly statements from the respective school representatives. And, in addition to this, a state of the commonwealth from a youth perspective will also be delivered. My fellow senators and I are ready to stand up, speak out AND champion every obstacle. This is my passion, my mission, and this is personal. Because the opportunities available to one child here are vastly different than what a child is given in another island, or even another village down the road. This is a moral obligation - our islands will be judged by our commitment to our next generation. By that measure, can we truly say that as an island community, we are doing enough? We ought to be able to. Thank you.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Are there any announcements to be made? If none, I would like to announce that immediately after our session, I would like to request the Youth Congress Senators to assemble up here for an official photo taking. On behalf of the Legislative Bureau and the Youth Congress we like to thank the 19<sup>th</sup> House and Senate for gracing us for your presence and we are inviting all of you to please join us for lunch in front of the building. Thank you all for coming to witness our inaugural ceremony.

#### ADJOURNMENT

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: Floor Leader Boadi, you are recognized.

*The motion was seconded*

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: The motion on the floor is for the adjournment of the Organizational Session of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress, and has been seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the motion say “aye”, those oppose say, “nay”.

YC Speaker Thomas Lee A. Manglona II: The motion is carried. This Organizational Session for the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress is hereby adjourned.

### **BENEDICTION**

Master of Ceremony: Thank you, congratulations Mr. Manglona. At this time, I request the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Father James to the podium to deliver the Benediction and I ask everyone to please rise.


Father James: Al mighty God we ask your blessing upon our young people gathered here. You have gifted each one of them in a special and unique way may they come to know and share the wonder and all that lives within them as they grow in wisdom, knowledge and understanding, guide and sustain them as they respond to your invitation to service bless their openness and enthusiasm and allow their questions to livened and challenge us as a community to do your will, strengthen and support them many good works they do, challenge and provoke them along their journey of life so they may help lead the youth of today and the local community into the possibilities tomorrow. In all these things we ask your blessing upon them this day and upon all of us the families in the CNMI we make this prayer in your name, Amen.

### **CLOSING OF INAUGURAL CEREMONY**

Master of Ceremony: Thank you, Father James. Ladies and gentlemen this concludes the inaugural ceremony of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress. On behalf of the members of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress, the members of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and the staff of the Legislative Bureau, thank you all for your presence to witness this monumental event.

*The Youth Congress adjourned at 11:30 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christine Castro  
Youth Congress Clerk