

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

**ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION**

Mistress of Ceremony: Good morning everyone, and welcome, Father Tenorio, Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, Reverend Raymond Kinsella, distinguished guests, family, friends, supporters, Representatives-elect, Speaker and Members of the Youth Congress, ladies and gentlemen. Before this inaugural ceremony is officially called to order, I would like to recognize the presence of our dignitaries, Lieutenant Governor Jesus R. Sablan and Mrs. Annie Tenorio Sablan, Washington Representative Juan N. Babauta, Mrs. Susana T. Mafnas, Mayor of Saipan, Jose C. Sablan, former Governor Carlos S. Camacho, and Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero representing Speaker Antonio Umpingco from the Territory of Guam. At this time, I would like to ask everyone to please rise and join Ms. Lindy Joe Pangelinan in singing the national anthem.

The National Anthem was sung.

Mistress of Ceremony: Thank you. Now, to officially call this organizational session to order, I have the privilege of turning over the remainder of the session to the Speaker Pro Tem, the Honorable Benigno Repeki Fitial.

Speaker Pro Tem: Please be seated. Before I call this organizational session to order, I would like to recognize the following and also ask them to serve in acting capacity, Acting House Clerk, Ms. Evelyn Fleming, Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Peter Towai, and Acting Floor Leader, Representative-elect Oscar Babauta.

**CALL TO ORDER**

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands, the House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature on its Organizational Session was called to order on Monday, January 10, 2000, at 10:18 a.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker Pro Tem, presided.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Pursuant to Article II, Section 13 of the CNMI Constitution, I hereby call this organizational session of the Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature to order. At this time, I would like for everybody to rise and ask Reverend Roger Tenorio to give us the invocation.

Everybody rose, and Reverend Father Roger Tenorio administered the invocation.

## OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Father Roger Tenorio: We are all in the presence of God, who is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. My dear friends in Christ, as we witness the inauguration of the Twelfth NMI Commonwealth Legislature in this new millennium, we remember with gratitude a progress toward peace that has been made in our islands and in our world today. Admitting that we have not yet reached the fullness of God's peace and justice, we are grateful for even the small steps that have been taken, filled with gratitude for the wonders of Christ's presence in our midst. We present ourselves to the God who is the origin of all human progress. We hear from the Book of Ecclesiastes, everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting, and the time for pulling out, the time for killing and the time for shooting, the time for tearing down and the time for building. He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy, the time for morning and the time for dancing, and the time for making love and the time for not making love, the time for kissing and the time for not kissing. He sets the time for finding and the time for losing, the time for saving and the time for throwing away, the time for tearing and the time for mending, the time for silence and the time for talk. He sets the time for love and the time for hate, the time for war and the time for peace. Oh, God, you are the inspiration of our every action and the spring from which we grow wisdom and strength. Without you, we can do nothing. Without your aide, we can never build cities of justice and peace. Our intentions are frown to shifting and sometimes we lack vision. To point out to us the past of the righteousness, you send Jesus to show your mercy. This day, we give you heartfelt thanks for even the small waves that your peace breaks out. To our laws and efforts that not yet match your will, we are grateful for the spirit of your wisdom who has helped us to measure our life by your loving, true loves with gratitude this day for the gifts of ingenuity and wisdom that inspire people to make progress towards justice and peace. Accept our thanksgiving and build us up each day and night into the people that you call your own. We ask this through Christ of the Holy Spirit with you, one God forever and ever. Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: At this time, I would like to ask the Acting House Clerk, Ms. Evelyn Fleming, to call the roll of the members, Representatives-elect by Election Districts.

## CALL OF THE ROLL

The Clerk called the roll by election districts. All eighteen Representatives-elect were present.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Thank you. I now ask all the Representatives-elect to rise and I call now upon the Associate Justice, the Honorable Alex Castro of the CNMI Supreme Court to administer the Oath of Office.

### **SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS**

Associate Justice Castro: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

(The following was repeated by all the representatives-elect.)

“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 Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature, to the best of my ability, so help me God.”

Associate Justice Castro: Congratulations. (Applause)

### **ADOPTION OF INTERIM RULES**

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: I now recognize the Acting Floor Leader, Representative Oscar Babauta for the introduction of the House Rules.

Acting Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members, I am please to introduce House Resolution No. 12-1, for the adoption of the House Rules of the Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature. And with this, Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt.

**H. R. NO. 12-1**: “To adopt rules for the House of Representatives; to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review the interim rules and to suggest changes thereto, if necessary; and for other purposes.”

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Discussion on the adoption motion?

Rep. Attao: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: State your privilege Representative Attao.

Rep. Attao: Can we have about five minutes recess so that we can review the resolution?

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: The Chair now calls for five minutes recess for the review of the proposed rules.

The House recessed at 10:28 a.m.

**RECESS**

The House reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: We are back to the plenary session. Further discussion on the adoption motion?

Acting Floor Leader Babauta: Move to end debate.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: It has been moved and seconded that we end debate on the discussion of the adoption motion.

Acting Floor Leader Babauta: Ready for the question.

The motion to end debate was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Motion carried.

Rep. Hofschneider: Division, roll call.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: That is my prerogative.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, out of order. We have not adopted the rules.

Speaker Pro Tem: I am the rule.

Rep. Hofschneider: No. You are not the rule.

Speaker Pro Tem: So, I would like to ask the Clerk to call the roll on the motion to adopt the House Rules.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-1 as follows:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Representative Martin B. Ada                | no  |
| Representative David M. Apatang             | no  |
| Representative Jesus T. Attao               | no  |
| Representative Antonio M. Camacho           | yes |
| Representative Rosiky F. Camacho            | yes |
| Representative Oscar M. Babauta             | yes |
| Representative Diego T. Benavente           | no  |
| Representative Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Benigno R. Fitial            | yes |
| Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider        | no  |

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Representative Brigida DLG. Ichihara  | yes |
| Representative Dino M. Jones          | yes |
| Representative Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr. | yes |
| Representative Norman S. Palacios     | yes |
| Representative Thomas B. Pangelinan   | no  |
| Representative Maria “Malua” T. Peter | yes |
| Representative Stanley T. Torres      | no  |
| Representative William S. Torres      | no  |

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: The motion to adopt the rules is hereby adopted. We now move on to Item 7 of our Order of Business, Election of Speaker.

### **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

The Chair recognized Rep. Jones.

Rep. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. At this time, I would like to nominate Representative-elect Benigno Repeki Fitial as Speaker for the House of Representatives, Twelfth Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature.

Several members seconded the nomination.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Further nomination? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. It is indeed my privilege and honor to nominate for the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Twelfth Congress, the Honorable Representative Heinz Sablan Hofschneider.

Several members seconded the nomination.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Further nomination?

Acting Floor Leader Babauta: Move to close nomination.

The motion to close nomination was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: We will now be voting on the main motion and that is to elect the Speaker for the House of Representatives of the Twelfth CNMI Legislature. We have two nominations so the first nomination will be voted on first. If you don't understand...

Rep. Hofschneider: Clarification, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Clarification.

Rep. Hofschneider: I think it is easier and will facilitate things if we just go down the roll and just say “Fitial” or “Hofschneider”.

Rep. Jones: Mr. Speaker, privilege. In order not to perhaps confuse the members, I prefer that we go on the election of the two candidates and not simultaneously. I understand colleague Hofschneider that the proceeding is that, Hofschneider, Fitial, Hofschneider, Fitial.

Rep. Hofschneider: No. When they call your name, you state who tally you are going to vote for, “Fitial” or “Hofschneider”. That is easier for the Clerk to tally it up.

Speaker Pro Tem Fitial: Let us proceed. Clerk, please call the roll. As your name is called, you vote for either “Fitial” or “Hofschneider”. You cannot vote for both.

The Clerk called the roll for the election of the Speaker as follows:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Representative Martin B. Ada                | Hofschneider |
| Representative David M. Apatang             | Hofschneider |
| Representative Jesus T. Attao               | Hofschneider |
| Representative Antonio M. Camacho           | Fitial       |
| Representative Rosiky F. Camacho            | Fitial       |
| Representative Oscar M. Babauta             | Fitial       |
| Representative Diego T. Benavente           | Hofschneider |
| Representative Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero | Fitial       |
| Representative Benigno R. Fitial            | myself       |
| Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider        | myself       |
| Representative Brigida DLG. Ichihara        | Fitial       |
| Representative Dino M. Jones                | Fitial       |
| Representative Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.       | Fitial       |
| Representative Norman S. Palacios           | Fitial       |
| Representative Thomas B. Pangelinan         | Hofschneider |
| Representative Maria “Malua” T. Peter       | Fitial       |
| Representative Stanley T. Torres            | Hofschneider |
| Representative William S. Torres            | Hofschneider |

(Applause was given to the newly elected Speaker, the Honorable Benigno Repeki Fitial)

Speaker Fitial: We move on to the next Item on the Agenda, the Election of the Vice Speaker.

## ELECTION OF VICE SPEAKER

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honored to nominate Representative Alejo Mendiola from Rota, for the Office of the Vice Speaker.

Several members seconded the nomination.

Speaker Fitial: Further nomination? Representative Apatang?

Rep. Apatang: I am honored to nominate Representative Diego T. Benavente for Vice Speaker.

Several members seconded the nomination.

Speaker Fitial: Further nomination?

Acting Floor Leader Babauta: Move to close nomination, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: Again, we will be voting for two nominees for the Office of Vice Speaker, namely, Representative Alejo Mendiola and Representative Diego Benavente. So, as your name is called upon, please signify by stating the name of the person for whom you are voting. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll for the election of the Vice Speaker as follows:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Representative Martin B. Ada                | Benavente |
| Representative David M. Apatang             | Benavente |
| Representative Jesus T. Attao               | Benavente |
| Representative Antonio M. Camacho           | Mendiola  |
| Representative Rosiky F. Camacho            | Mendiola  |
| Representative Oscar M. Babauta             | Mendiola  |
| Representative Diego T. Benavente           | Benavente |
| Representative Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero | Mendiola  |
| Representative Benigno R. Fitial            | Mendiola  |
| Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider        | Benavente |
| Representative Brigida DLG. Ichihara        | Mendiola  |
| Representative Dino M. Jones                | Mendiola  |
| Representative Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.       | myself    |
| Representative Norman S. Palacios           | Mendiola  |
| Representative Thomas B. Pangelinan         | Benavente |
| Representative Maria "Malua" T. Peter       | Mendiola  |
| Representative Stanley T. Torres            | Benavente |

Representative William S. Torres

Benavente

Speaker Fitial: The Vice Speaker is Alejo Mendiola, Jr. (Applause) We move to the next Item on the Agenda, Election of the Floor Leader.

### **ELECTION OF THE FLOOR LEADER**

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud and honored to nominate for the Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature for the Floor Leader of the Twelfth, the Honorable Oscar Babauta.

Several members seconded the nomination.

Speaker Fitial: Further nomination? Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, I nominate Representative Jesus Attao for Floor Leader.

Speaker Fitial: Further nomination?

Acting Floor Leader Babauta: Move to close nomination, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: We are now voting on the two nominees for Floor Leader. Again, state the name of the nominee to whom you are voting. House Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll for the election of the Floor Leader as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Representative Martin B. Ada                | Attao   |
| Representative David M. Apatang             | Attao   |
| Representative Jesus T. Attao               | Attao   |
| Representative Antonio M. Camacho           | Babauta |
| Representative Rosiky F. Camacho            | Babauta |
| Representative Oscar M. Babauta             | myself  |
| Representative Diego T. Benavente           | Attao   |
| Representative Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero | Babauta |
| Representative Benigno R. Fitial            | Babauta |
| Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider        | Attao   |
| Representative Brigida DLG. Ichihara        | Babauta |
| Representative Dino M. Jones                | Babauta |
| Representative Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.       | Babauta |
| Representative Norman S. Palacios           | Babauta |

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Representative Thomas B. Pangelinan   | Attao   |
| Representative Maria “Malua” T. Peter | Babauta |
| Representative Stanley T. Torres      | Attao   |
| Representative William S. Torres      | Attao   |

Speaker Fitial: The Floor Leader is, Representative Oscar M. Babauta. (Applause)

### **NOTIFICATION OF SENATE AND GOVERNOR**

Speaker Fitial: I now appoint the following members to notify the Senate and also the Governor that the House of Representatives, Twelfth CNMI Legislature is fully organized. For the notification of the Senate, I appoint Representative Bobby Deleon Guerrero and Representative Norman Palacios. Notification for the Governor, Representative Brigid Ichihara and Representative Malua T. Peter. I now recognize the Floor Leader for a motion.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move to recess so that the appointees can notify the Governor and the Senate. I so move.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 10:56 a.m.

### **RECESS**

The House reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: Will be addressing the House shortly after the notification from the Senate. At this time, I would like to recognize and welcome the delegation from the upper house, the Honorable Senator Cing from Tinian, Senator Adriano from Tinian and Senator Ramon Guerrero from Saipan.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I guess we have Senator Atalig, he is at the back too.

Speaker Fitial: I am sorry, Senator Rick Atalig from Rota, welcome honorable.

Senator Cing: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, Senator Guerrero and I are here to inform you that the Senate is duly organized and ready to transact business. Our President for the Twelfth Legislature is Senate President Paul Mangloña from Rota. (Applause) Our Vice President is Thomas P. Villagomez from Saipan. (Applause) Our Floor Leader is Senator Pete Reyes from Saipan. (Applause) And, our Secretary is Senator Joaquin G. Adriano from Tinian. Thank you. (Applause)

Senator Adriano: At the same time, I would like to take this privilege and honor to report to the Governor that the Twelfth Senate have duly organized and ready to transact business. And as Senator Cing stated, that is the leadership now in the Senate. Thank you, Governor. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: I now call upon the Governor of the Commonwealth, the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio, to give his very brief remarks.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, we are still under recess unless you wish to go back into session.

Speaker Fitial: No, I already reconvened the session, so we are in session.

Floor Leader Babauta: My apology, Mr. Speaker.

Governor Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Father Roger, Reverend Kinsella, Associate Justice Alex Castro, Members of the Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature and family, honored guests, and friends. I appreciate your invitation to join you on this special day. On behalf of our people, the Lieutenant Governor and I offer our congratulations to all the Members of the House of Representatives. Today, I pledge to you the full support and cooperation of the Administration. My office and members of my staff are available to work with you to achieve our common goal. Let us begin this new millennium by putting together all our efforts to continue to provide brighter public service to our community. Again, on behalf of the people of the CNMI, our special congratulations and best wishes to each and every one of you. Our Administration look forward to working closely with you on issues that will improve the livelihood of our people, especially during this challenging period. Again, my special congratulations and rest is assured that we will work closely with the Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature for the benefit of our community. *Si yu'us ma'ase todus hamyo*. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Thank you, Governor. At this time, I would like to take you down to Item 12 of the Order of Business.

### STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Speaker Fitial: I ask any member who wishes to make or deliver a statement to do so at this time. Before, I recognize any member for delivery of statements, I would like that we excuse the Governor because he also has previous engagements that he would like to attend to. So, thank you very much, Governor, for joining us this morning. (Applause)

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: We'll proceed with the statements of the members, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Floor Leader Babauta: I move to suspend Rule V, Section 1 of Rules so that we may receive the statements of the Members.

Several members seconded the motion.

Speaker Fitial: The motion is to suspend Rule V, Section 1. Rule V, Section 1, is to allow members to speak in vernacular and for the delivery of such statement to be recorded in our journal. So, I now recognize any member. Representative Martin Ada?

Rep. Ada: Thank you Mr. Speaker. *Para todus hamyo, finénina baihu congratulate hao Mr. Speaker, Vice Speaker yan i Floor Leader, pot i manmana'e hamyo ni puesto. Puedi ha' ta namagahet este na sinentin taotao guine huyong ya ta po'lu i politikat yan i difirensiata ya tafan macho'cho' para i minauleg i taotao todú mo'na. Humalum yo' na esta i taotao man matto guenno, esta man'menhalom pot i politikat ya estague magagagao giya hita. Malago yo' baihu ekstendi congratulation para todú i membros, si yu'us ma'ase para i komiteh, na para baihu ma ilihí, todus hamyo ni man matto pago', supottadot siha, familia yan i man'atungo', enao'ha Mr. Speaker. Si yu'us ma'ase.* (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Representative Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: *Buenas dias para hamyo todus ni manmatto. Congratulation Mr. Speaker Fitial. Gof sentidu este sa parehu hit ha ma'ilihí ginen i Precinct III, parehu ha na familia tumatittiyi hit, bumisinu hit, kada dia unupus ha me'nan pottan gima hu, hulo' yan papa'. Enlugat, Mr. Speaker, ta nega i diferensia gi esta alacha na dos mesis. Ta' chachagi todú i dos kumonduse i membros para sapotasion gi siya, demokrasia ta praktitika, munga hit etyo siha na kuentos i ta huhungok duranten este na mes annai te'uk etyi i para i siyan i speaker. Bula familia man pinacha sa parehu'ha guaha ramas-mu guaha ramas-hu gihalom este na pisu. Kon respetu tagagagao, enao ha' malago-niha i publiko, i guaha inakomprendi yan respetu para uno yan otro guini gi pisu. Afañe'los yan membrus, guahu unakusa na malago-yo para baihu adingane-hamyo, ya kalan konsehu, na'atrasao este i minimu, na'atrasao este i inachakli'e, na'atrasao este i banida yan ambentoria. Taya mas Speaker yan membrus i manñge na sinenti gi halom este na puesto yangen man a'asapotta mo'na para i benefisio interamenti publikun Marianas. Este ha i tano-ta giya Saipan, pot hemplo, sinkuenta ochu mit, Mr. Speaker, na taotao hiyong guaha. Trentai sinku mit piku ha' na prifektu sududanun Marianas, ya guaha man ma'enplepleha taotao-ta. Dinanchi hao, Mr. Speaker, ni planu-mu anai un konduduse todus i membrus para un masapotta ni planu-mu pot i ekonomia. Ya' yangen ti tana kalamten i ekonomia siguru-yo' na sigi mo'na, manchatsaga ninala-niha espisiatmenti atyu siha i man'chatsaga ninala'niha, espisiatmenti etyu siha i sisiña-ha manmañoda cho'cho'. Lao, estague para baihu yama atension-miyu. Hamyo ni publiko, para manu chiña ni para tana'adilantu tano-ta guihe anai mismo tiempo megaiña ha' muhuyong fenkas. Mismo tiempo, mas bumubula taotao-hiyong gi tano-ta, gi'mismo*

*tiempo ma'empleleha taotao. Sinkuentai-ochu mit na taotao-sanhiyong man gaiche'cho, rason na mangaige, manma pitmiti para ufan halom Marianas sa' man gaiche'cho' esta. Ya este i taotao-ta manman aliligao ha', makat manmañodda. I otro na elementu, Mr. Speaker yan membrus, kadda unu, i saina hana'e hit ninasiñata, men'halom-ta, yan kapisidat-ta ya ni unu ni otro tisiña hakompara sino ha chanda. Ta fan arespeta gi pisu kadda unu yangen ti ha komprende, na kekomprende, yangen ti hanasiña, ta'ayuda. Si difuntu Mafnas, unu na tatan-politika mas dumanchi, antes di hu dinguhit annai ilekña, "mungga mafa'unketungu i ti'huntungu, ke tungu finénina i ti'un tungu, kosaki siña un tungu." Gai tinadidong etyo, Mr. Speaker yan membrus fundamentoña. Sa meggai basis na, anai un asuma este na siya dumangkulu ulu-ta, mungga-hit umekungok esta i pumo'lu-hit halom. Para baihu uchom este, Mr. Speaker, kadda inauguration, estague mina' singku ni en pega yo' halom, ya dangkulu na si yu'us m'aase ginen i familia-ku pot i konfiansa. Lao, estague para baihu dinguh hamyo, humorous-ha, Mr. Speaker, ti malicious este sino malisiosu. Ilegku na an munhayan este meseha agupa ta familia todupapa gi etyi welding shop, etyi sagan fabrikan-luluk, para man soda tafan ma midi todulu-ta ya tafan mafatinasi tuhong luluk. Ya kadda tres mesis ta pegga, kao e'etyu-ha minidong ilu-ta yanggen ti omlat asesan maisa-hao, sino faisen maisa-hao sa hafa na dumangkulu ilu-mu. Siña-ha ti ta lipapara, sa hu susedi, petsonatmienti, anai pago ma'ilihi yo', guahu ha mas dinanchi, guahu malati, guahu mas pairi. Lao i publiku gi hiyung, manmalateña ki hita, manpaireña ki hita. Ginen enao na, once in a while, fino' Amerikanu, faisen maisa-hao. Yaggen gagaige-ha i saina-mu, bisisita, sa este i nana gi gima gof pairi para manhala papa yanggen esta ma mahya-hao gi hilo tano, gof pairi. Kinindusi-hao guato gi gima ya' sinangani-hao, "dispasio ihu pat iha sa esta kulan hagu ha esta pairi." Ekungok i taotao-mu, ekungok i pinadesin-niha, ekungok i chinatsagan-niha, toduhit ha muna' siña guini man'introdusi hafa ni para u benefisio. Ya, yaggen para ta chuli gi korason-ta yan i konsiensiyata na pot i guaha chat-ina komprende este tinituhon este mina'dosse, mamadesi talo i publiku. Estague unu na mensahi malago yo' na hu klaru sa enague mas binenu. Este para baihu sangan, ya ningai'an na baihu petmiti este, este para unfachalek i taotao, este para unfasangan, este para unfamaliciosu konsensiamu yan korason-mu gi taotao, fuera di isao gi finanaguen Katoliku na rilihon ni toduhit ni mangahulo', lao binenu para i familia. Pot hemplo yaggen masgani hao na si maching, sino chiwawa... si difuntu Santiago Tenorio yan si Rita Villagomez Tenorio 'Morgen', tumatpangi yo' gaigi gi Kanoniku na'an-hu, ti si maching. Kumomfitma yo', i fumañagu yo', etyu i biha ni tisiña matto magi pago, gaige ha gi hulo' gi lugatña, Oksu Robak, si Primitava Hofschneider. Eytogue fumañagu yo'. Hafañagu si Heinz Sablan Hofschneider, ti si maching. Munga-hit kumontinua ennao siha na minala'et, Mr. Speaker yan membrus, sa mungga na u bendabat i madision ya' addetña i tatatte ki mo'fo'na. Si yu'us ma'ase. (Applause)*

Speaker Fitial: Representative Apatang?

Rep. Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to congratulate you and the new leadership. Good morning honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am privileged and honored to have you here with us today to witness the organizational session of the 12th Commonwealth Legislature. This is going to be my third term and I believe I have done more than I anticipated. Although I was away for a short while this past year due to

medical reason, I am well again, ready and able to continue to serve the people of the Commonwealth and to join my colleagues in making this new millennium better for our future generation. I intend to work harder to deliver my campaign platform the best way I can. This new Legislature has many challenges and I promise to work towards improving our economy so that we would generate more revenues to our children and get their scholarship money or grants. Qualified government employees and those who have resigned or retired are given their retroactive pay pursuant to Public Law 7-31 so that land owner's are compensated for land acquisitions. This and many other important projects and issues are waiting to be acted upon through legislation. The deliberation on other legislative process may be the cause of delay for immediate passage. However, I will assure you that I will give my full support to any issue that will benefit the Commonwealth and not personal interest. I would like to give special thanks to our dear Lord for my being here today and special thanks to my wife and children for being patient with me in my trying days, my family and friends for their love and prayers. Last but not least *un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase* to my constituents and supporters from other precincts for their loyalty and trust for bringing me back to the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I also want to thank my Committee to re-elect David M Apatang, our precinct club Chairman, Jose Reyes, and also our Republican Party for all their help and assistance they have given us and me during our campaign. Thank you and *dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase*. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Representative Diego Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also congratulations to you. First of all, I would to welcome everyone who is here this morning to join us in this inaugural session, most especially, my friends and supporters from Precinct II, our Chairman, Dino Palacios, officers and the Committee to Re-elect Benavente and Babauta. This is my sixth term and in ten years, I've served as part of the majority. I've never really had the opportunity to work or being a member of the Legislature as a member of the minority and I don't know what that is going to be like. But I do know one thing, that I have been re-elected to the Twelfth Legislature for the sixth time. And I believe it is because of what I do up here as a member of the Legislature. And I'll tell you, I do know one thing and that is, to continue to do what I have been doing. To all of my supporters in Precinct II, the people of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe and the people of the Commonwealth, rest be assured that I will continue what I have been doing in the past ten years be it from the smaller office in the minority side. I want to take this time also on behalf of my wife, Vicky and our children and our family to again, thank the people for the opportunity to serve as the Speaker of the House for the last three terms. I look forward to serve in the Twelfth Legislature. Thank you. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pale Roger, Speaker Fitial, Associate Justice Castro, Reverend Kinsella, good morning my fellow colleagues, distinguished guests, likewise, constituents, family members, friends, relatives, ladies and gentlemen. Today marks an important era of our history, an era of challenge, federal takeover, sacrifice and

economic downfall. Let us all hope that the new millennium will bring a brighter future, more prosperity, for all, better health, physically, mentally and spiritually, better control of our labor and immigration and minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, as we begin our Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature let us be mindful of the promises many of us have campaigned during the last election. The time has come now to act promptly and confidently to make determination, conviction and decision, and may comprise our political affiliation for and in the best interest of our general public. The economic downfall has created greater responsibility for all of us to undertake to improve our economic outlets. We must continue to establish greater partnership with our business community, as they are the backbone of our government. Economic stability provides greater flexibility to accommodate improvement of vital program as well as establishment of new and needed programs. The need for sacrifices has become evident each and every day and this Legislature is confronted to make sound decisions thereof. I will be introducing legislation that will provide greater funding for the Medical Referral Program, for our educational system, for the Department of Public Health and the Department of Public Safety, the need to increase scholarship and NMC funding has and continue to be my commitment of the Twelfth Legislature. The enactment of an appropriation to fully implement the intent and purpose of Public Law 7-31. For information and for the record, Mr. Speaker, I was the one who authored the Salary Act in 1991, became Public Law 7-31. As it reached states, we must resolve this issue once and for all before a lawsuit is filed. Further, we must take immediate action to settle land compensation issue. This thing has been going on for almost ten years today. I ask for cooperation for the new leadership to support any appropriation dealing with the land compensation issue so that we can settle this and give the rightful owners their money. I am asking for your help, Mr. Speaker, and new leadership. The frozen steps in our Salary Act must be revisited and amend it to accommodate fairness among our employees. They deserve certain degrees of annual salary increase to stimulate greater incentive and motivation to enhance efficient and effective delivery of public service. Also the need for a united retirement system has continued to be a major concern among our government employees. United retirement system will provide fairness and employment opportunity for new employees. I know, Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues that this approach will definitely invite criticism and controversy from our Retirement Fund Program. The tasks ahead of us are innumerable and that we must take precautionary measures to prevent unnecessary hardship on our people. Debates and controversies will be the music of this Legislature and believe me, we must fight for what we feel it is right, but we must be prepared to compromise for and in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth. My wife, Mona, my children, family, friends and supporters join me in extending our sincere heartfelt congratulation to each and everyone of you on this special occasion. And also, special congratulations extended to the House Leadership as they prepare the chart to navigate the Commonwealth throughout its federal bombardment on federal takeover and economic discovery. Let us work together to make our Commonwealth a place to work and live in. *Para hamyo todus mangachong-hu, pago na ha'ane ta matka i tinituhon i Twelfth Legislature. Hu gagagao hamyo para en nasuha i politika ya maila ya tafan a'ayuda uno yan otro. Hu sen komprendi ha' na guaha na biahie disision mayoria ti ma ekungok i minoria. Lao, tisiña kumalamten mona' para minalaeg publiku yangen ti man a'ayuda-hit mo'na gi mina Dosse na Kongressu. Maila*

*ya' tana li'e' i publikon Marianas enteramenti i Dosse na Kongressu, mauleg yan probecho para todus hit parehu ha', palao'an, lahi, patgon, amko, todus. Ginen este, maila ya tafan macho'cho' parehu, Mr. Speaker, para i minauleg-ta guine gi Commonwealth. Si yu'us ma'ase para todus hamyo. (Applause)*

Speaker Fitial: Representative Pangelinan?

Rep. Pangelinan: *Congratulation, Mr. Speaker. Malago yo' baihu note ha' este papa' na estague primet biahe ni kumentos yo' guine gi Legislature. Para todus etyo sumupota hu, si yu'us ma'ase. Dos ha' guine na agenda para baihu focus i yoku attention, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Este ha a couple of minutes, antes di baihu ma inaugurate, trentai dos años ni hu sietbe i Public School System. Pago, hu aksepta este un onru na para baihu facho'cho' i taotao Northern Marianas. Gi halom i dos años ni tetmino-ku guine, para guahu ha este, either I do something worth of my time or die with it. There are two issues: one is education and the other one is environment. Hu tungo ha' este scholarship na number one issue. Lao ta atan gi dos chalan ya hu encourage siha i iyoku colleagues na ta atan gi hunesto na manera. I famaguon-ta ni man magraduha gi high school, guaha nai 15% at the most man hanao man eskuela college. Ta hasso gi otro banda ni 85% of high school graduates mañaga, man espipiha checho'-niha debi lökkue ta hasso. Ti hu kokontra i scholarship lao obligasion-ta ni legislators ta espilha empeñu ta provide este na famaguon-ta training program kosaki giguon ha ma gradua gi high school, esta they are ready for employment yangen ma disidi na ti para ufan hanao para ufan eskuela college. Guaha esta pago gi este i last year na high school graduates ti man mañõoda checho'-niha. Ha na' klaru-ha si Representative Hofschneider, hafa enao ya' na'piniti este. Kada ta li'e un prohimu gi huyong gi chalan, ti macho'cho'cho' ha afefekta ekonomia-ta, ha afefekta-hit todus. Todu ma susesedi Saipan ha afefekta-hit direktamenti. Tano-ta este. Basta-hit ni para tafan ma disponi hafa taimano ni para ta gobietnan maisa-hit. We should all take that challenge and just do it. Like Nike always say, "just do it". Este edukasion my fellow colleagues, ta atan hafa mas ni siña ta adilantu edukasion. Ya un dia ya man magradua i famaguon-ta maseha gi high school, maseha gi college ya manmatto magi, hamyo ni esta para en fan retire, fan retire ya tana' halom este siha i famaguon-ta. I otro, klemata, environment, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. We often take this for granted, lao let me tell you, the CNMI as far as now's concern, is not able, is not capable to manage its own dumping ground. To me, it is an embarrassment. Yangen tisiña esta ta manage i basula-ta gi gima, problema teniki i familia, problema. Pues todus este edukasion, I'm encouraging everybody, let us take an active role, ta supotta edukasion, ta protehi lökkue klemata, iyota environment. Ta estudiaye hafa taimano ni mas tana' gatbo i Northern Mariana Islands. Ta espilha empeñio este i yota natural resources, ta protehi mano siña kosake un dia i patgon-ta ya' finaisen hao petsonat na kwestona, "Daddy/Momma, hafa bidamo ni para un protehi i iyota environment?" Hafa para un answer? Taya, pat hungan, sumaonao yo' guihi na movement i clean-up, as minute as that. Let us all contribute and let us all take this challenge and clean up our own mess for our kids, and for our kids' generation for all of us. Este-ha, Mr. Speaker. Congratulation, Speaker Fitial, Floor Leader Babauta, Vice Speaker Alejo Mendiola. Si yu'us ma'ase para todus hamyo. Talo un biahe, para i*

*kumite ni ma supotta yo' si Chairman Greg Kachuma, un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase.*  
(Applause)

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize Representative Stanley Torres.

Rep. S. Torres: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Associate Justice Alex Castro, Mayor Jose Sablan, Father Roger and Reverend Kinsella, my wife Arlene and my Aunt Lill, friends and children, honored guest from our neighboring island of Guam and the rest of the Commonwealth, ladies and gentlemen. It is an honor to be here today to see many people in the gallery to witness the organizational of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I say thank you to my constituents from Precinct III, and our friends from other precincts who have supported me. *Si yu'us ma'ase pot botun konfiansa ni en na'e yo'*. Mr. Speaker, I now make my formal statement, my congratulation to you, Mr. Speaker Fitial, fellow Congressmen, Congresswomen. Today marks an historic day for us, as we become the first legislature of the new century. We have an opportunity to do great things. In fact, it is our fiduciary duty to do our best. Let us not let the next two years pass only to regret that we didn't do enough. I would like the Twelfth Legislature to go down in the history books as the hardest working Legislature in our brief history. We can make it happen. No excuses. As they say, action speaks louder than words. We as elected leaders should invest our time and energy to make this Legislature work. Let's do it more like a real business, simply put, we are all the Board of Directors of a Commonwealth Corporation and all of our citizens are the shareholders. This Corporation belongs to the people and it is up to us to steer it in the right direction. Attendance at session, committee meetings and public hearings is so important it should go without mention. Sadly, however, I note from past experience, some members have not taken attendance all that seriously. I hope the Twelfth Legislature breaks all of the attendance records. Let us roll up our sleeves and get to work. Members with sudden emergency such as death in the family or a funeral should be excused. When the Speaker is absent, the Vice-Speaker should carry on the business. We are not a Legislature where when one person is excused, than everything has to stop and stop around us. We are a body of many arms and legs and heads. Let's put them all the good use to make this House of the people a dynamic place, one for serious business. Let us be more effective and speed up the legislative process. In business, time is money, in this Hall, time and money belongs to the people. Let us take that attitude. Let us not drag our feet on legislation. Our priority has to be the exploration of new economic ideas. Fresh and creative ideas are the way out of our economic doldrums. Let's not be afraid of independent voices. Ideas and voices may be different, but if we put them together, they will be sound great. I hope the Twelfth Legislature will be the busiest, hardest working, and most efficient of them all, and for my part, I pledge to uphold that goal to my daily actions. Thank you, *si yu'us ma'ase, todus hamyo.* (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize Representative Lee Torres.

Rep. W. Torres: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my family from Saipan, Mrs. Rosa Torres, my wife Prescilla and my children, my family from Rota, Mr. and Mrs. Prudencio Mangloña, I would like also to extend my congratulations to you, Speaker

Fitial, Vice Speaker Mendiola, Floor Leader Babauta, and the entire membership of this August Body. This isn't my first experience in legislative activities in a formal session. I have been a member of the Second Constitutional Convention and it was quite an experience to say the least. As a new member in the new millennium, I would like to say that, I think we need to reinvent this government. To reinvent it, we need to thoroughly consider our ideas, our goals and objectives for those thousand years to come. I believe that the government has to be reinvented in the sense that there has to be a more cooperative relationship between the public and the private sector and not for the public to try to stop or tamper with the progress in the private sector. I totally believe that without the private sector the government wouldn't work. We wouldn't have a government that will provide services to the people. So, it is the private sector that, in my mind, is the backbone to our government and for that reason, I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, that you immediately establish a committee to do just that. To see way in which we can make this government more efficient, more effective, and specially to be responsive to the needs of the Commonwealth in general and the needs of the respective precincts. It is understood that the economy is such that we are suffering from the effects external from the CNMI. But, I am of the opinion that it is, us here in this body, along with the members of the community, business community and the greater community that must contribute to upgrading the well-being of this Commonwealth. And, I am ready to extend my expertise, my experience in this area, be it in the area of economics, in the area of government and specific areas in my precinct. Like the others, I, too, would like to see a focused priority and not just in words but in deeds, a focused priority in education. I have been in education -- retired from education -- I know what it needs. And, I am so glad that there are four educators here, myself, Representative Ichihara, Representative Pangelinan and Representative Ada that truly understand the needs of education, public education. Not just in the elementary, preschool, secondary, but in the post-secondary level. I would like to see that we all work, the four of us together, to achieve the goal that we have been striving for for the longest time, for the longest time. Let us give education a chance. Let us make the necessary investment in education and let us hope for the best. But, instead of just hoping for the best, let us make it work. And, within the two years that I have here, I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, that in the first hundred days I would like to challenge ourselves to focus on education. Number two, I also would like to be a contributing partner in the area of economic revitalization. There are a lot in our laws that I think needs reexamination. I am sure all of you agree that we need to reexamine what we have that seems to be an impediment to investment in the CNMI. By investment in the CNMI, I'm not necessarily referring exclusively to outside investment. I think we have enough potential within us, within the Commonwealth, to develop internally and we should look at ourselves and ask ourselves what is it that is hindering us from developing our economy the way we want it internally within our means. Of course, I don't want to sound insular by saying that we can develop internally without the assistance of external economies. I would like, Mr. Speaker, to ask this body and especially you, Mr. Speaker, to seek all the necessary assistance from the United States because I think there are still a lot out there that we need to ask for assistance. We need to attract investments and investors from the United States. I would like to see the Commonwealth be a place where U.S. made products are exported to Asia. As it stands now, we see a lot of U.S. made products in the CNMI, exported to the United States. I think in order for us to

pacify and to encourage also those that are against the Commonwealth, we can also play a partner in assisting the economy of the United States, by using the Commonwealth as a place where we make products made in the U.S.A and exported to Asia so that we can assist the United States. We can assist the United States. This small rock, this small Commonwealth can assist the United States in its balance of trade situation. I'm very encourage to read in the newspaper for example that the Clinton Administration has a huge surplus. Boy, would I like to know how he does that. So, Mr. Speaker, I pledge myself to work closely with this August Body and your leadership to reinvent government, so that we can be more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of this Commonwealth. Thank you. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize Representative Rosiky Camacho.

Rep. R. Camacho: *Si yu'us ma'ase, Mr. Speaker. Malago yo' biahu famatinas un kuestona sa este ha' ni siña baihu satba i hafa i mamaila. Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, este na kuestona ni para baihu kuestona yo' este pago esta otimon Dosse Legislaturan Marianas i hafa siña baihu tulaika giya guahu? Estague siempre baihu popolu gi halom tadodong gi korason-hu. Pues ginen enao, Mr. Speaker, hu ekstetendi un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase para taotao Marianas, espisiatmenti taotao Precinct One. Enao, siempre baihu fafaisen yo' talo i hafa siña baihu tulaika giya guahu. I komite, hu ekstetendi un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase, i familia-ku... en tungo-ha na tadong gi korason gi kada uno, espesiatmenti guahu yan humasagua-hu, humasagua yo' gi as Winnie Cabrera Camacho, estague-ha guato. Un dankulu na si yu'us ma'ase ginen i familia, familiar mame ni fumañago yo' as Luisa Flores Camacho. Hu ekstetendi un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase sa guahu dos patte giya guahu gi familia-ku. Familiar Cabrera, ti baihu malefa yangen ha hatsa si Rosiky i telephone, sino mamokat gi chalan ya i bisita ilekña, kiñadu hu munga nina uyo, chogue-ha i checho. I familiako gi Camacho, yangen tumatanges yo guato sa kalan timana'e yo ni ayuda, ilekniha, munga nina uyo', guaha ha' mas, guaha mas, etyo na mas, hu fafaisen yo' ta'lo, hafa siña hu tulaika giya guaho? I asaguaho ti atmaman ha' ni ilekña, adaihe na un malefa nu etyo na palabra "fanaitai", etyo gi fino English "prayer". Hu atan i tutuhoña etyo na prayer, ilekñaiI lektran i prayer, "P". Mampos popular etyo ilekña "public purpose". Man malefa-hit na guaha ha' magahet public purpose na gagaige ha', ta satba. I otro gi halom etyo ha' na prayer ilekña otro na letra ilekña "God". Para baihu hahasso-hun, "remember" teniki baihu hasso. Lao, ilelekña lakkue na yangen para public purpose ya' para baihu hasso debi na baihu aksepta etyogue i prayer. Lao, guaha otimo gi halom etyo i prayer, etyo i "Y". Etyo na, an humahanao hit gi chalan ya guaha ni ilkeña, you, Rosiky, patgon Luisa yan Mannet Camacho, atan. Atan enao i espehus ni mahanao mo'na gi kareta, atan enao espehus gi ilomu ha' sa todo un u'upos esta eniposhao. Enao impottante para guahu. Mr. Speaker, congratulation yan todudu i leadership. Baihu po'lu este na kuestona giya guahu ta'lo, hafa siña hu tulaika giya guahu? Enao-ha, Mr. Speaker, yan si yu'us ma'ase. (Applause)*

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize Representative Ton Camacho.

Rep. A. Camacho: *Si yu'us ma'ase, Mr. Speaker. Pale Roger, Reverend Kinsella, Associate Justice Castro, mañelu-hu yan mañaina-hu, man gaige hit pago guine ya man 'li'e sa mangaige ni hanai hit i publiko ni konfiansa. Guahu gumaige yo' guine sa pot i iyoku platform ni para baihu ekungok i taotao-hu gi sengsong. Mangaige ham pago guine gi pisun kongresu. Baihu baba talaña-hu baihu ekungok hamyo, baihu na' siguru na in egkungok teniki uma asisa ya ta po'lu mo'na ya ta ayuda publiku-ta para i mamaila na tiempo. Bula ma sangan esta pot para ta bisita tatte education, para ta bisista tatte i retirement fund, yan bula siha na programa. Teniki ginen este siha na en ekongok-ta bisita ya ta na'e i publiko ni dinanchi na aktu yan sitbisio. Este-ha, Mr. Speaker, si yu'us ma'ase. (Applause)*

Speaker Fitial: Representative Bobbie Deleon Guerrero?

Rep. Deleon Guerrero: *Thank you, Mr. Speaker yan membrun i Dosse na Lehislatura. Mr. Speaker, guahu lokkue uno primet biahe yo' ni baihu fatachong guine gi Lehislatura. Hunggan hu fatinas disision hu anai sigi mo'na gi karera, ya ilekhu na esta kapas yo' para baihu fatachong, baihu fan ayuda para i minauleg i binifision i publiko. Yan, hu a'atan siha hafa na binifisio ni siña tana' fan man'ayuda para i publiko, Mr. Speaker, yan membrus. Hu a'atan na i iyota ekonomia, hungan, inirat este maseha manu. Dangkulu este na challenge ya ilelekhu na siña guenao na manera na dangkulu ayuduhu. Yangen ta atan an kumahulo i ekonomia guine sino manu na banda, ta tungo-ha' na teniki bula para ta ofresi i publiko giya Marianas. Pues, Mr. Speaker, hu gagagao lokkue un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase pot i publiko ni ha na'e yo' ni botun konfiansan-niha ni para baihu gaige guine na dia, espisiatmenti mas i familiahu, yan mas primet na familiakhu, i asaguahu, i famaguon-hu, i mañaina-ña, yan otro siha na mañelu-ña. Mr. Speaker, taya mas yumaoyao lokkue gi kuentos siha pago lao ya hu sa masangan hafa para ta konsigi ya tafan macho'cho'. Dinanche etyo, Mr. Speaker, yangen manmacho'cho' hit kabales ya manhita sensiña ha' bula mas masusedi yan unu ha lokkue yangen sigiha hit mo'na ta atan este siha na direcho ni para i publiko. Enague primet hu a'atan na todo hafa ta cho'gue guine halom para i publiku, para i minaulek-ta. Pues hu yaoyao este siha i membrun Dosse na Lehislatura na tana' fan guaha koprasion ya basta hit nui etyo ni fino' miyo ha ta'lo, hagu este muna' lache pat hafa. Makat este para tafan a'fana pues para otro klase para ta sesenti gi sanhalom sa ti yahu lokkue. Yangen siña hit, fino' miyo, tafan ablanko kuentos pago na ora, pues maila ta konsigi ya an makpo nihi ya ta gimen hanom na dos. Taya mas, Mr. Speaker, hu gagagao na tafan hita mo'na ya ta busbussi este, ta facho'cho'i i publiku. Hu yaoyao lokkue un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase para todus i publiko ni sumupotta yo' pago yan hamyo ni manhita guine gi Twelfth Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause)*

Speaker Fitial: Representative Malua Peter?

Rep. Peter: *Olomwaay ngáluugh, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations ngáluugh me Vice Speaker Mendiola, Floor Leader Oscar Babuata. Imweschel bwe ibwe ghommwal ngalleey Luugh tomwóghaal olomwaay reel yaal ke tepángiyáy lóschagh mwal bwe ibwe mwal bwe ipwaal sefaliti igha imwaat iyey bwele ibwe tepángiyir aramas, aramasal wal falúw. Imweschel ippwal ngalleey alongeer kumite, olomwaay, familia, schóoka bwi, lei,*

*me David, schóóliimwey, reel alongaal yaal kke tepángiyáy llól mwaghutka imwuschel ibwe feri bwe ghatchúl aramasal falúwka falúwasch llól Northern Marianas. Imwuschel ipwal congratulate liir alongeer schóóka schóóluwash reel igha ausiabwal ppwungol mwaat fengáll igheey bwe ausibwe auschuu mángimángish ausibwe mweteló mwal ausibwe setbiir aramasal publiku. Ausia takal itoowow akkabwas ngeliir aramas, sa ángeliir meta mángimángish, ighila nge ebwe posibleschagh milel ngare ausia schoo alongalschey milika elo lool mángimángish bwe ausibwe tarabwaagho fengáll, ilaschagh mille emmwel sibwe ghatchulomwal yaasch lolo reel. Ippwal tingóreey Samalap reel yaal kke tepángighisch lo'mmwal reel yaal kke ngalleeyghish ebwe awelala mmwal aal kka sikke mwetelo lol bwele ghatchúl aramasal mwe wol falúw. Ippwal kke tingór bwe ausisabw ayúúló reel yaasch kke yaategh bwe ebwe ghatch auyaasch mwóghut fengáll llól Twelfth Legislature. Olomwaay ngálighami alongamischeey. Buenas tades para todus hamyo, un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase pot mangaige hamyo guine pot para tafan hita guine espisiat yan prisiso na aktibidat guine ni manafan hula'-hit talo, guaha nuebu yan guaha hagas ha' man gaige guine ya makontinua pot i hinengin publiko nu'siha. Fine'nina malago yo' na baihu na'e i Saina un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase yan agradesimento pot todo ayuduña nu guaho, i bendisionña pot para baihu kontinua sumetbi taotaña guine gi tano'. Dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase pot todo i supotadot gi Precinct III, yan pumalo siha na lugat, i botadot, i komite, i familiakhu, espisiamenti famaguon-hu yan asagua-hu ni minesgon-niha pot para uma tatiye i minalagohu na baihu kontinua manietbe gi publiko. Malago yo' na baihu congratulate todus hit niman gaige guine pot i successful minalagota para tafan hita ya ta sietbe publiko. Hu diseseha na ta kontinua manmacho'cho' parehu mo'na komu uno ya ta sietbe parehu taotao-ta etyo ha na siña kumabales hafa guinifita para i taotao siha. Esta man monhayan hit man campaign, ta sangane todo taotao ni guinifita nu siha ni hafa para ta ayudaye siha. Manma hungok todo este siha. Esta pago matto tiempo ni tafan dañá' todo i hinasota, i guinifita ya tafan hita man parehu mo'na, man macho'cho' mo'na parehu para i minauleg i publiko guine giya Northern Marianas. Mas prisiso i mangaige guine gi kanaita siha i faturan i famaguon-ta, i famaguon, yan I famaguon-niha. Talo, u na'na'e i Saina un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase pot ha derihi yo' mo'na gi todo minapot ya hu gagagao na tafan hita mo'na komuntinua manayuyot ya tagagao i Saina ya hu'na'e hit minetgot, i ina'famauleg, pas, yan inagofli'e guine ni tafafana siha na bulan problema guine gi tano ta. Si yu'us ma'ase. Good afternoon... I'm sorry I am not finish... the Honorable colleagues from the House of Representatives from the Twelfth Legislature, visitors, supporters, friends and families. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for our heavenly Father for his guidance and many blessings to our supporters, voters, and committee to re-elect, and their families, to my children, my loving and understanding husband, Mr. David Peter, for all the untiring effort and time and commitment to allow me to return to this House and to continue to work for our people of the CNMI. I congratulate all of you colleagues on your successful bid. May we continue to work together realizing that only as a team can we truly serve our people and be successful. The campaign is done and over with promises heard. Now, it is time to put ourselves together and work collectively. It is in us, in our hands that lay the future of our people and most specially our children. Again, I thank the Almighty God that we have overcome many of our trials. I pray that he continue to give us the strength to face our challenges and the wisdom to do right for our people in this new millennium in this*

Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature, House of Representatives. *Si yu'us ma'ase, olomwaay and thank you. (Applause)*

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize Representative Ichihara.

Rep. Ichihara: *Si yu'os ma'ase' Speaker Fitial. Buenas tades Reverend Ray Kinsella, Father Roger, Associate Judge Alex Castro and my fellow colleagues for the Twelfth CNMI Legislature. Todos hamyo ni manggaige guini na ogga'an ni manprisenti, dangkulo na si yu'os ma'ase' ni man hita para ta atiendi este na okasion annai manhalom ham kumu i representanten-miyu gi Sampapa' na Guma'. Lokkue', dangkulo na si yu'os ma'ase' para i asagua-hu, i familia-ku, yan i famagu'on-hu pot i supottasion-niha pot este i primet na biahe ni malagu yu' annai hu disidi para baihu fanietbe taotao-ta Marianas. Yan lokkue' para i iyo-ku committee, i Chairman as Jose Santos, Vice Chairperson as Pedro Arriola, Secretary as Mario Taisacan, Treasurer as Bobbie Macduff yan i Advisor as Pedro C. Arriola, si yu'os ma'ase' pot todú i ayudon-miyu. Lokkue', para este na gurupu, ha gef baba yan ha papacha yu' siha i kuentos ni manmasusesedi pa'go i para tafan danña. Respetu para todos. Hagas yu' yan ritirao yu' na educator, taimanu ha' ilek-ña si Representative William Torres, yan si Tom lokkue', hunggan gaige gi taddong i koranson-hu i famagu'on-ta guini giya Marianas. Hunggan annai makpo' i eleksion, kada hu atan i taotao-ta giya Marianas ti hu lili'e kao Democrat pat Republican, lao sabidios, manmasusesedi. Unu na eksperensia ni hu susedi ya muna' hu toma padaset para baihu fan ayuda gi pinalao'an-hu, yan i dinikike'-hu, yan i pineble-ku, yan i bulan famagu'on-hu pot i esta yu' o'son humungok eskusu na ti siña manmana'e sa' hafa siha na problema, ti hu tungo'. Pa'go ni humalom yu', magof yu' manayuda ya puedi ha' ta fan hananao mo'na. Ya' puedi ha' ti bai in fan machatli'e' sa' Democrat, sa' taotao Marianas yu', yan hunggan bula kuentos. Si Rosiky hagag hu check ni guiya manggagana gi Precinct I. Ti siña manma'ayuda sa' Democrat. Hu lalatde. Ilek-hu, "Hafa na klasse ennao?" E'yagu'e na humalom yu' sa guahu taya' ti hu chachanda Republican, hu guaguaiya, hu kuentutusi ha'. Taya' na ilek-hu ti yahu siha i Republican, tiya hu siha i Democrat pat Independent, lao a'annok na este na leadership mandadanna' todú, desde Republican, Democrat, Idependent sa' manma'agredesi hami pot fin lokkue'. Ya' puedi ha' ginen este na sensia ni guaha mas respetu para unu yan otro ya ta fan hanao mo'na para a famagu'on-ta guine gi islas Marianas. Ti biahu sangan mas pot ekonomia sa' esta todos hit ha' tumungo' ekonomia problema, taya' salape'. Ti baihu fan na'e mas sa' ti riku yu', taya' business-hu. Lao hu tungo' mananom, yan hu tungo' manrega pugua' para sina mambende gi manmamaaila' siha na tiempo. I famagu'on-hu, bulan biahe ni hu yuyute' ha' sais na patgon sa' pot para baihu sietbe i eskuela anai taya' salape'-ña. I man ritirao esta pa'go ti man areklaolao sa' i sistema problema. In tingo' ha' na mana'e salape' lao ti kababales ha' esta pa'go. Guaha mangabales, guaha ti mangabales. Enague' siha na discrepancy. Medical referral, guaha ayu munisisita mamedical referral, popble, taya' salape'-na, ma dulalak, taya', manfundraising. Hafa na para u sigi ha' este siha na problema? Ya hunggan ginen i sinenten un popble, guahu ti hu nanangga para baihu halom guini gi dangkulon ofisina ya baihu fata'chong. In li'e ha' na kana' popodong yu' guini na siya sa' mampos dangkulu este na siya para i dikike'-hu. Lao, si yu'os ma'ase' sa' estague' siyan kongresu buente. Lao, ahe' ti bai na dangkulo ilu-hu. Para hamyo guennoo para*

*baihu representa i manotdinariu na taotao ya estague' na kuetpo taimanu ha' para baihu ma'asiste baihu asiste gi manu ninasiña-hu ya magof yu' baihu tattiye gurupu ni sina magahet u guaha tinulaika guini na millennium, sa' sina possible, yanggen todus hit... yanggen siña ta alok ni manma'ilihhi na sina ta na' odda didide' i papakesta guihi huyong sa' hunggan bula basula. Manmalalagu i turista sa' ni hita mismo ti ya-ta umatan chalan-ta sa' puru ha' plastic bag yan fache'. Siña ha' ta arekkla ennao gi mamala' siha na tiempo. Si yu'os ma'ase', Mr. Speaker, ya ola mohon na ta konsigi manmacho'cho' mo'na parehu. Si yu'os ma'ase'. (Applause)*

Rep. Fitial: Recognized, Representative Palacios.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and congratulation. Good afternoon honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed a privilege and a great honor to be a member of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Legislature to serve as a Congressman for the Second Senatorial District, representative the wonderful people of Tinian. As I stand here today to start my first term in the House of Representatives, I am fascinate aware of many great Chamorros, Carolinian leaders who have joined us today to share this very special moment. Over the past twenty years, these great local leaders have built the foundation and structure of our government and economy and now it rests upon the Twelfth CNMI Legislature to enact laws, improve public services to ensure that the people of the CNMI have better and more prosperous future. As the newest member of the Tinian Delegation, it gives me a great pleasure to join Mayor Francisco Borja, Senator Joaquin Adriano, Senator David Cing plan our island's future. As each island is need in the development of our local economy, I would like to thank Governor Tenorio for all his assistances he had extended to Tinian over the past two years, and I would like to ask the Administration and the new House Leadership to continue to extend their full support to the municipal government to further develop eco-tourism in Rota and the casino industry in Tinian. I firmly believe that by highlighting, and developing hidden treasures of each island, we'll be able to better package to promote the CNMI as a premier tourist destination and let it be known to the world that the CNMI is truly the jewel of the pacific. This is without a doubt that we have many challenges ahead of us, and there will be many obstacles to overcome. As Tinian's sole voice in the House of Representative, I am fully aware of the magnitude of my world and the importance of my participation. Wherever we delivered on the budget deficit or the federal take over, I am aware that each and every issue is critical to the welfare of our people and the future of our island. Aside from supporting laws to entice and attract foreign investment, I look forward to working closely with the House Leadership to prioritize and revitalize our economy. In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the people of Tinian for having the confidence and trusting me to serve as your Representative in the CNMI Legislature. Thank you. *Si yu'us ma'ase.* (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize Representative Jones.

Rep. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Baihu gagao ya baihu nangga todus ya u fanguentos.*

Speaker Fitial: Vice Speaker Mendiola?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make a quick statement *sa i bisita-ta manñalang lokkue pues maila ya ta nafan kadada eyto iyota speech yan si colleague*. Good morning, Father Roger, Reverend Kinsella, Associate Justice Castro, good morning distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to thank my loving wife Geraldine for her endless and untiring support of my ever endeavor, to my father, and my stepmother Alejo Senior and Flori and my parents-in-law, Julian and Lydia Calvo for their continued support and encouragement. I will most especially thank the people of Rota for electing me once again to serve them in this capacity as their Congressman. During my Eleventh Legislature, we feel our economy stability forcing the government to cut back on various essential services to the people. The decline in revenues and services has affected us in every way. We all feel the hardship and it is our duty to not let this continue. Let it be our eminent that in this Twelfth Legislature we will work in harmony for the benefit of every man, woman, and child under this promising the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We owe it to our children and generations to come to rectify this economic set back. Once again, I would like to thank all my supporters for their untimely assistance and I will assure you that I will continue to serve and protect our people of the Northern Marianas and the most especially to my dear people Rota. *Un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase, yan buenas dias para hamyo todus*. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Mr. Speaker, ti mefgot na ha'ane yan i manmamala siha na tiempo. Lao sinenbatgo, magof yo' lokkue para baihu chule este na opotunidad para biahu na'e hao, congratulations ginen i taotao-mame Chalan Kanoa yan Susupe, yan lokkue ginen i familiakhu ni man presente pago na talo'ane. Ya hu na baihu ekstendi lokkue un kumitdi yan sinsero yan ginefli'e para todo i taotao ni man presente pago na ha'ane guine na inauguration. Si yu'us ma'ase todus nu i ayudon miyo yan supotasion miyo gi alacha siha na tiempo yan mamaila siha. Sinenbatgo, pot i tatfina i ora, baihu na'e hao, Mr. Speaker, ni i podium yan i tetehnan ni para ufanguentos sa' ta tungo ha na bula bisita-ta mananangga ni para amoksan talo'ane ni munhayan ma pripara para todus-hit. Este ha, si yu'us ma'ase. Olomway remi*. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Representative Jones?

Rep. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and congratulation from my family, friends, relatives and especially the people of Precinct IV, which covers Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag, As Mahetog, Capitol Hill, As Teo, Santa Lourdes, yan Kagman. *Lokkue, si yu'us ma'ase* Father and Reverend, and Associate Justice for your participation this morning. As part of our custom, I would like to welcome also our guests, and distinguished guests from abroad starting with the island of Rota, Tinian, Guam, Hawaii and the United States and those who are from Asian countries. I already submitted to the Clerk my four pages remark [**see appendix "A"**]. Rather than reading

the entire remarks, I will only highlight the important points, I personally feel is important to consider as we undertake the function and tasks of this Twelfth Legislature and they are as follows: Number 1, is to pass the year 2000 budget as early as possible time so that our government can continue to maintain in a responsive and responsible delivery of public services throughout the CNMI. Number 2, the economy is important that we enact pro-business, laws, promulgate pro-business regulations that cannot entice and attract investors. But before going further down, I would like to make a note that on the budget passage we focus on the three most essential services to the public, namely, education, health and public safety. Federal take over, I believe that we should invest our time, open and continue a positive relationship to the United States Government particularly the Congress so that we can at least achieve some greater points particularly in the areas of the suspension or the waiver of enacting funds. PCB, this is a nightmare for our people in Precinct IV, particularly our people in Tanapag and the military dump site for our people in Tanapag, San Roque and Marpi. Employment, I agree that we must work cooperatively and find solutions on how best we can review the 14% unemployment rate. To achieve this it is very essential that we must review the existing employment office which main task is to provide the opportunity of the local labor force in the Northern Marianas, opportunity for employment in the private sector particularly in supervisory, managerial, and skill jobs. Water, we must find all possible means and alternatives to ensure that funding is and can be made available so that we can produce quantity and quality of water. Secondary roads, such as those roads in the villages and those roads that we have seen here in Capitol Hill down to As Teo, we need to find remedy and stop the band aide type of road repair. We need a permanent and safe road urgently particularly in this area in Precinct IV. The environment, we must work collectively to ensure that we enact laws to protect our land, air and sea. We know that these natural resources are beyond our ability and capability to make but at least we should try our best to protect for our future generation. The homestead program, it is very important that we work cooperatively with the Board of Public Lands and its administration in expediting the issuance of homestead to our people. They are in need of houses. And as we all know, the part of what a family needs aside from the daily food and clothing, is shelter to ensure that the livelihood of every member in the family is well-protected in good and bad times. I pledge to work cooperatively with all members, not only the House of Representatives, but also the Senate, and the Governor and his staff in the Administration, the courts, the Public School System, and other autonomous agencies. Yes, Mr. former Vice Speaker Attao, my good friend, I agree with you that we should find money to respond to P. L. 7-31. I also appreciate the noble statement made by my good colleague Hofschneider, but unfortunately, I cannot march down to Public Works to get an iron helmet, because we all know that life is part of natural process where we begin from small to big and then back to small. It is beyond our control. Yes, my colleague, Representative Pangelinan, I will work with you very closely in environment and education. So as my colleague Representative Apatang in those areas you see it is important, education, health and others. Representative Ada, I certainly agree with you that we must put aside politics because election is over and now it is the people's turn to be helped. And, my good colleague Representative Bill Torres, I will work with you to find ways and means to move and motivate the economy and the educational system. And my colleague, Representative Stanley Torres, I will work with

you also in ensuring that what is deserve to the public should be responded responsively. And also the rest of the remarks presented by this side of the Chamber, the Leadership, as we all know, we will work cooperatively, as now, we are the true representatives of the people of the CNMI. And with this, Mr. Speaker, before I end, I would like to congratulate you for your successful bid in this morning's election for the position of Speaker. Thank you. (Applause)

Speaker Fitial: Father Roger, Reverend Ray Kinsella and Associate Justice Alex Castro, before I deliver my remark, the plan I would like to recognize the presence of some important people in my life. First, my wife, Josie, and our two children -- Tintin and Patrick and also my children from my first wife back in the gallery. My best friend from the island of Guam, the former Governor Joseph Ada, my sister who came this morning just to witness this special day, Gregoria, my sister-in-law and mentor Kina Rabauliman, and most especially my election committee members who are all seated outside and inside the gallery, thank you. Thank you all for coming to this special occasion. The CNMI faces serious challenges today. The once vibrant economy is slumping like all others in Asia. The Federal Government remains bent on legislation that will turn that slump into a dive and that discourages new investments. Yet, it would be a tragedy if the CNMI were to concentrate on its present difficulties to the exclusion of a vision for a better tomorrow. The CNMI's problem will only turn grimmer if its people fail to come together to set a course forward. No one else knows where the CNMI wants to go and how it is going to get there. Not the Department of Interior, not outside groups and certainly not the media. Our critics are good at telling us what they don't like but when it comes to digging out of the hole they want to put us in, we are on our own. We must fashion our own future. Being responsible for our own destiny may be difficult and sometimes lonely at times but it is something we should cherish. We may need help along the way but we should decide where we are going and at what pace. That way, these islands will truly remain our society, not that imposed upon us by Washington. Most importantly the future we seek will be our choice and our success. We have done it before and we can do it again. There are four elements to the approached we should take. And I want you all to think of them as the four "E's", the Economy, Education, Environment and Essentials. Each of these four pillars must be as strong and enduring as Taga Stones. Together, they will support the future we all want for our children and ourselves. The first Taga Stone is the economy, here must first preserve the poor businesses that have failed or have filled our past rise in prosperity. That means maintaining productive industries, like tourism and garment for as long as they are buyable. It also means expanding those sectors where possible. In the area of tourism, we should increase the customer base we now attract to our hotels and beaches. We should explore new and ecologically friendly opportunities, such as more ecotourism sites, retirement villages and time serve vacation locations. We should explore new fisheries and aquaculture within our water, emphasizing razing, harvesting and processing our catch right here in the Marianas with local workers. By managing such enterprises ourselves, we can preserve and renew resources that will sustain many future generations. To secure such opportunity, we will need to retain those key covenant authorities upon which past growth has been based. Namely, local immigration and minimum wage control, to expand our small work force, low taxes to attract new hotels

and investors, duty-free treatment for garment. We all know this will be a fight but it is a battle worth waging. The price is nothing less than the strong self-government and local self-determination we bargain hard for in pre-covenant days and we intend not to surrender to bureaucrats in Washington. Our leadership team is dedicated. There will be no federal take-over of this island. The next Taga Stone of our future is education it is not the second pillar because this pillar is as important as the other. In education we face a clear challenge, invest now in order to reap later. Our investment will be in new generations of local workers who can take on the challenges of the 21st century. Our aim should be in nothing less than a state of the art educational system that takes full advantage of modern telecommunications and internet technology. We must invest new resources in teachers, in technology and in teaching aides. We must improve existing facilities, we must explore co-op programs with local and regional businesses to provide the managers for tomorrow's businesses. In particular, we must make our local college a center of educational excellence for the region and center of research into matters in which we can claim knowledge and opportunities. We sit on the edge of the deepest ocean trench on the planet, like our neighbors in Micronesia, we are surrounded by a fragile tropical reefs and fisheries of great promise. We should be specializing and investing in areas like oceanography, small island ecology, fisheries management and seamanship that will make the Marianas a magnet for learning in the region and for cooperative research with other universities and centers of learning. The third Taga Stone for a bright future will be obvious to all. We must live on a small island in the midst of the vast ocean this is the environment. We must not fail to protect the sometimes over strained ecosystem which we live. That means we must become serious about pollution reduction in waste in the air and in the precious water of which we have to live in. It also means serious attention to cleaning up those areas where we know the environment has been harmed at Puerto Rico and in those sites where dangerous carcinogens were intentionally buried without our knowledge. We should use every resource at our disposal in terms of technology and in legal action, if necessary, to make our small ecological system safe. For the long term that means resource conservation and resource development in conjunction with smart economic growth. There will be costs associated with these policies if we are serious in pursuing them, but these costs will pale by comparison to what we will have to pay if we do not begin to act sensibly and carefully now. The final Taga Stone of the new CNMI is by no means the last and important is essential. In preparing for a new century and a different future, we will have to preserve the essence of our island society. Keeping our culture means strengthening the community through tougher criminal justice. We will have to work harder at eradicating drugs and eliminating outside criminal influence. By investing in education we can help preserve the communities, Chamorro and Carolinian heritage. Preserving our island way of life also means maintaining quality of life. We need to build and maintain our roads, we must invest in our ports and airports, we must set a goal of improving water quality and the availability so that no longer will we suffer dry faucets and no potable drinking water. The same applies to energy of which we must assure adequate future supply for economic growth. These changes will all require investment. These changes, we should plan and commit to on a careful schedule to match predictable needs. And, all these efforts of preserving and enriching our culture must aim not only at improving our comforts and our culture but our opportunities as well. Local employment

in good well-being jobs shall be our underlined goal. One of the most important things about culture is, knowing who you are and why that is important. We know about our problems today and we know what is wrong with our society. What we must strive to do is rediscover the greatness and the promise of our small society. To do that, we will build on the essential that have helped us persevere over the centuries and since the Covenant. We will not dwell on the distance from our mother opportunity. We will not dwell on the ill that Washington seeks to do today but how to harness that negative energy towards our positive goals and aspirations. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the vision of our leadership team. There are the four Taga Stones upon which this vision is built. The four "E's": Economy, Education, Environment and Essentials. And when you combine this vision with the relationships we have with our friends in Washington D.C., there is nothing we cannot accomplish. I ask you to embrace this vision. I ask all of you to stand together with our friends in Washington. I ask you to dream about why these things are possible instead of dreaming up reasons why are they not. In the name of God and for the future well-being of our people we must work together -- for more opportunities, a healthier ecosystem, a vibrant economy, and a better standard of living for all. I firmly believe that if we all work together -- regardless of our past -- we can build a brighter future on these islands. That, ladies and gentlemen, is our future and that is where I, and the members of the new leadership will lead us. Thank you very much. (Applause) At this time, I would like extend an invitation to all of you on behalf of my colleagues in the House to join us for lunch right outside the building right after the adjournment. I would like to call upon Reverend Raymond Kinsella to give us the benediction, and I ask all of you to please rise.

Everybody rose for the benediction.

### **BENEDICTION**

Reverend Kinsella: Let's begin our prayer. Heavenly Father, we thank you, Lord, for your presence here, we thank you Lord God for these elected leaders, Father, the authorities whom you have Lord bestow. They carry the trust of Lord, the community and Lord God they come desiring to serve their community. You given each one of them Lord a vision and you have given them Lord each one a desire Lord to do good for all their dreams. We ask Oh God that you'll bring the unit that Lord each one has appealed and each one has mentioned. That, Lord you will bring, Lord one heart and one mind in the midst of adversity and the midst Lord God, of all their differences. And, the midst of everything Father, God that will pull against and I pray that you will bring Lord them to one heart and one mind and one vision. I pray also Lord God that you will give each one the courage to stand on what they know is right and Father, when there is opposition, that Lord will bring a illusioning of their conviction. I pray that you will give them the courage to stand and not be the other way. I pray also Lord God that you will give each one the wisdom, Lord to know the best and the means of all different options available to able to see through Lord all these options and Lord with humility to come Lord to the very best decision that will benefit Lord most people on this island. And, I also pray Oh God for the leadership that Lord you have bestowed on Speaker Ben Fitial, Vice Speaker Alejo Mendiola and Floor Leader Oscar Babauta. I pray God that you will give them the

wisdom they will need. That you will give them the humility that they will need, that you will give them Oh God the vision that they will need to provide Oh God the direction for the Commonwealth in the next two years and beyond. There are many challenges Lord that have been raised, many Lord bring real complexes but Father with you at the center of their hearts and their minds, with you Lord God and your love that Lord rest in their hearts and motivates them to make this decisions for the benefit of their people. I pray Oh God that they will be able to accomplish that which all have said to do. And I pray above all of us that in every deliberation, the one thought of your honor and your glory be resting Lord in each one of their hearts. And, I pray your blessings, as we start today and the rest of the next two years, Blessed Lord, I pray for the Twelfth CNMI Legislature. We ask it all in Jesus name. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Speaker Fitial: I now recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment motion.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for adjournment subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The organizational session of the Twelfth Commonwealth Legislature is hereby adjourned. Thank you very much.

The House adjourned at 1:03 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives