

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2000

NINETEENTH DAY

September 8, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Nineteenth Day, Second Regular Session, on Friday, September 8, 2000, at 11:13 a.m., in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker of the House presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), seventeen members were present and Representative Norman S. Palacios was excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Nineteenth Day of our Second Regular Session. Representative Norman Palacios is excused. That is the reason why the scheduled Joint Session for this morning was postponed is because the Tinian Senators and some of the Rota Senators were not able to take the flight to Saipan this morning. And as a result, a call for a rescheduled Joint Session has been issued and distributed to all the members. So, the Joint Session is now rescheduled for Monday at 1:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-81: A House Resolution to express our condolences to the family and friends of the late Albert “Bobbing” Sablan Camacho, who was laid to his eternal rest August 30, 2000.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and seventeen others

Speaker Fitial: Anymore resolution for introductions? If none, I would like to ask for the unanimous consent to place the resolution introduced by Representative Peter on today's Resolution Calendar.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: Okay. Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: So move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 12-164, reference to House Resolution No. 12-78.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 12-164: Reporting on House Resolution No. 12-78, entitled, "Urging the President of the United States and the U. S. Congress to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), particularly Part B (Grants to States)." *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends adoption in the form of HR 12-78, HD1.*

There was no discussion raised.

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 12-164 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Resolution Calendar.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I so move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-78, Committee Draft 1.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-78, CD1: A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE U. S. CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA), PARTICULARLY PART B (GRANTS TO STATES).

Speaker Fitial: Discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Just a technical change or probably a typo on the Committee Report page 2, it should read “CD1” instead of “HD1”, take note please. Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Okay.

The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-78, Committee Draft 1, was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: I so move for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 9, so that we may adopt House Resolution No. 12-81 on today’s Calendar.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Adoption?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-81.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-81: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE ALBERT “BOBBING:” SABLAN CAMACHO, WHO WAS LAID TO HIS ETERNAL REST AUGUST 30, 2000.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is no objection from the author, I ask that House Resolution No. 12-81 be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

Rep. Peter: No objection.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered. Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Floor Amendment to offer?

Speaker Fitial: Is that a written or oral?

Rep. Peter: Oral.

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, for the suspension of Rule IX, Section 11 so that Representative Peter can offer her oral amendment.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Representative Peter, proceed.

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After line 7, we add another paragraph of “WHEREAS” and it reads, “WHEREAS, “Bobbing” was elected by the people of Saipan during the Navy Administration shortly after the World War II to served in the Saipan Municipal Council”, and the rest follows. Last, Mr. Speaker, there is a typographical error on line 14, “building on” should be “building one of the most successful construction...” and the last one is on line 24, “certified copies to Rosario Simon Camacho, Bobbing’s children, and Governor Pedro P. Tenorio.”, and delete the “and the local media”. That is the Amendment. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: On line 24, did you say, “Rosario Simon Camacho” what happen to Arriola?

Rep. Benavente: She is not Arriola.

Speaker Fitial: She is not Arriola?

Rep. Benavente: She is Simon.

Speaker Fitial: Only Simon... – *ya hafa si Otbit yan si Jesus na Arriola?*

Rep. Ichihara: *Ahe, i first wife ya Arriola, pues i second wife talo, Arriola.*

Speaker Fitial: Can we get a clarification because I know Jesse is older than Charu?

Floor Leader Babauta: Short recess, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:20 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. It has been clarified that the name “Rosario Simon Camacho” should be “Rosario Simon Arriola Camacho”. Okay. The oral Floor Amendment has been seconded. Discussion on the oral Floor Amendment? None?

The motion to adopt the oral Floor Amendment offered by Representative Peter was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Further discussion? We are now voting on the adoption motion on House Resolution No. 12-81, House Draft 1.

The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-81, House Draft 1, was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution No. 12-81, House Draft 1, is adopted.

BILL CALENDAR

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Fitial: I just want to clarify the concern raised by Representative Benavente yesterday. This is a standard operating procedure under inclement weather whenever we have storm or typhoon. Whenever the Governor declares Typhoon Condition II, all government offices, including the Legislature and the Judiciary are supposed to be closed, there will be no work. Storm condition is not typhoon condition. So, unless we collectively decide to close the offices of the Legislature, everybody is expected to show up to work or when there is a session call. That is a standard operating procedure that whenever the Governor declares Typhoon Condition II, all government offices remain closed. So, just to prevent further confusion in the event that we have another inclement weather.

Rep. Benavente: Clarification, Mr. Speaker. I think we need to check that because I understand that Tropical Storm Condition II, at the very least only essential workers before and I even believe schools close down on Tropical Storm Condition II. But again, you can check that and make further announcement on it and I will certainly check it myself.

Speaker Fitial: I already checked this and this is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for inclement weather. Only when the Governor declares Typhoon Condition II, all government

offices shall remain closed. And like I said, unless we collectively decide that our offices will be closed during tropical storm, everybody is expected to report to work or for us whenever we have a scheduled session to attend the session. Okay. Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

Chairwoman Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the members to join you at 3:00 p.m. to present the Resolution to the family at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Before 3:00 p.m. I will be letting the family know that the members of the House of Representatives will be there to present the Resolution to them. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I believe the body has been moved from morgue this morning at eight o'clock to the Cathedral. Representative Jones?

Chairman Jones: Thank you. The Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Natural Resources scheduled Public Hearing for this afternoon at 2:00 has been postponed as a result of the calls from the expected witnesses. They cannot make it due to the unexpected weather in the past two days. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I would like to apologize to the Chairman on PUTC because he had already scheduled his Public Hearing for Monday. Before the Joint Session was postponed, I beg your indulgence Chairman Rosiky Camacho to reschedule the PUTC Public Hearing. It won't take long when we come in on Monday for the Joint Session at 1:00 p.m. We would only consider the Joint Session Resolution for SC Corporation.

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Chairman Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Thank you. It is just a matter of chances, I don't like to take this risk, but it is advisable to take a risk. On Monday, if there will be no quorum from the Senate because I have discussed this with the author of the Bill and he is willing to take that chances to go ahead with 1:30 p.m. The people from Rota and Tinian might not be coming in because of other matters, is it safe to say that I will go ahead and call the Public Hearing at 1:30 scheduled or...?

Speaker Fitial: The Senate would be here on Monday. I was with the President this morning when he was talking to the Senators off-island from Tinian and they assured the President that they would be here on Monday for the Joint Session.

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: So be it, Mr. Speaker, I will reschedule the particular Public Hearing for another day, likely, Tuesday. So ordered.

Speaker Fitial: By Monday, I would like to get the names of those members and staffs who wish to participate in the upcoming APIL meeting in Palau. We have to fax in the latest roster. I encourage all of you to consider attending because Palau is an ideal place to meet. Further Announcements? Chairwoman Ichihara?

Chairwoman Ichihara: The Education Committee meeting is on next Tuesday, at 8:30 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: You know the SEDC (Strategic Economic Development Council) has been very active so since the last meeting, the council will be calling meetings more frequently than before. So, I encourage all of you who have time to participate in these meetings. The Legislature is lacking in terms of representation and participation in that council.

Rep. Hofschneider: Do they have plan statements, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Yes. Because they have established various standing committees, the Aviation Committee will be meeting at the Governor's Conference on Monday at 9:30 a.m. So, those of you who wish to participate, Bob Jones is the Chairperson of that particular committee. And then on Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m., and this goes from morning to even afternoon. The SEDC will meet at Aqua Resort from 9:00 a.m. to whenever they finish their business. So, I encourage all of you if you have time to participate in this meeting.

Chairwoman Peter: Which committee is meeting on Tuesday?

Speaker Fitial: The whole committee, the entire SEDC. Last meeting, I was the only one from the House and Senator Villagomez was the only one from the Senate. Right now they are looking at House Bill No. 12-199, the Tax Incentive Bill. Tony Leon Guerrero from Guam, President of Bank of Guam, was the Administrator of EDA for Guam for eight years. He is the Chairman of that special committee assigned to just review the House Bill and submits comments to the Legislature. Chairman Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to the urgency of this Joint Session and also other meetings that have been set, I would like to announce that the regular scheduled meeting for those Mondays would be move to the 13th of September, at 1:30 p.m. Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, and Public Lands – the situation of the traffic of the CNMI will be having a meeting at 1:30 p.m. the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications. And then on September 14, at 1:30 p.m., House Bill No. 12-226 and House Bill No. 12-250 will be set for the Public Hearing, reschedule and by today this will be confirmed by my secretary to call these respective departments and individuals. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Peter?

Chairman Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask Chairman Rosiky Camacho, before I schedule Health and Welfare meeting, does he still needs Tuesday afternoon for his Hearing?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: No. Everything moved to Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Chairwoman Peter: So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call for the Committee on Health and Welfare meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Also for information, this morning when we decided to rescheduled the Joint Session, it was suggested and the Laulau Corporation representatives agreed to provide in the Joint Resolution a provision that would make them responsible for providing landscaping not only for elementary school, but all the school facilities that will be constructed in that area. No further Announcement? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, to recess until Monday for the Joint Session at 1:00 p.m.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The House stands recess until Monday at 1:00 p.m.

The House recessed at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives