



**SEVENTEENTH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2010

---

---

**First Day**

**Monday, January 11, 2010**

---

---

*Mistress of Ceremony Clarissa D. Sablan: Hafa Adai, Tirow Woomi*, good morning, and welcome to the House of Representatives. We will now begin the House of Representatives' installation ceremony of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Before I introduce the members-elect I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court and Reverend Father Jesse Reyes, to the dais. (Pause.) I am honored to present to you the Representatives-elect of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Representing Election Precinct 1 are Representative-elect Diego Tenorio Benavente, Representative-elect Eliceo Diaz Cabrera, Representative-elect Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero, Representative-elect Joseph Mafnas Palacios, Representative-elect Antonio Pangelinan Sablan. Representing Election Precinct 2 Representative-elect Raphael Sablan Demapan and Representative-elect Raymond Demapan Palacios. Representing Election Precinct 3: Representative-elect Francisco Santos Dela Cruz, Representative-elect Ramon Angailen Tebuteb, Representative-elect Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres, Representative-elect Edmund Sablan Villagomez, Representative-elect Ray Naraja Yumul. Representing Election Precinct 4: Representative-elect Sylvestre Iguel Ilo. Representing Election Precinct 5: Representative-elect Ramon Sablan Basa, Representative-elect Fredrick Peter Deleon Guerrero. Representing Election Precinct 6, from the island of Tinian and Aguiguan, Representative-elect Trenton Brian Connor. Representing Election Precinct 7, from the Island of Rota, Representative-elect Teresita Apatang Santos. Representing Election Precinct 1: Representative-elect Froilan Cruz Tenorio. Representing Election Precinct 3: Representative-elect Felicidad Taman Ogumoro. Representing Election Precinct 4: Representative-elect George Norita Camacho. Please be seated. Along with our Honorable and distinguished guests, present with us today the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the CNMI Delegate to United States Congress, the Honorable Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam and First Lady Camacho, President of the Republic of Palau, His Excellency Johnson Toribiong, from the US Department of Interior, Mr. Nicolao Pula, Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, and Mr. Jeff Schorr, CNMI Field Representative, the Honorable Tsutomu Higuchi, Consul of Japan, the Honorable member of the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Council, Councilman-elect Mr. Estevan P. Cabrera, we are also honored with the presence of the Honorable Donald P. Flores, Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, The Commissioner of Education: Dr. Rita A. Sablan, and from the 12<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress: Vice Speaker Seong Bin Lee and Floor Leader Sunny Frank Aldan, former Senator Herman R. Guerrero, Former Congressman Oscar M. Babauta, Former Mayor of Saipan, Juan B. Tudela, Former Congresswoman Ana S. Teregeyo, Former Congresswoman Malua T. Peter . I would also like to recognize the honorable former Representatives Ana Teregeyo and accompanying the Governor, we have Department Secretaries and Directors. Families, friends, and supporters of our members-elect, I welcome all of you to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature, House of Representatives. I will now recognize Representative-elect Eliceo Diaz Cabrera.

Representative-elect Cabrera: Good morning, *Hafa Adai, Tirow Woomi*, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the House Chamber. I am very pleased and honored to announce that it is the consensus of the Representatives-elect of the 17<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives that Representative-elect Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres shall be the Speaker Pro Tem and Representative-elect George Norita

Camacho as the Floor Leader Pro Tem of the First Organizational Session of the House until the election of the Speaker and the Floor Leader.

*Mistress of Ceremony Clarissa D. Sablan:* Thank you Representative-elect Cabrera. Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Speaker Pro Tem, Representative-elect Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres and Floor Leader Pro Tem, Representative-elect George Norita Camacho for this Organizational Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature. And now I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the Speaker Pro Tem up to his throne.

(Speaker Pro Tem was escorted to the Dais).

*Mistress of Ceremony Clarissa D. Sablan:* Please all rise. I now call upon the Marianas High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Color Guards for the posting of the Colors, and I also call upon the Marianas High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Cadets to lead us sing the United States National and the Commonwealth Anthems.

*(National & Commonwealth Anthems were sung)*

*Mistress of Ceremony Clarissa D. Sablan:* Please remain standing as I call upon Reverend Father Jesse Reyes for the Invocation.

*(Reverend Father Reyes gave the Invocation)*

*Mistress of Ceremony Clarissa D. Sablan:* Please be seated. Thank you, Father Jesse. It is with great honor and pleasure that I call on Speaker Pro Tem, Representative-Elect Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres, to officially call the House of Representatives' Organizational Session of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Speaker Pro Tem, please.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

*The House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature was called to order in its First Day, First Regular Session on the eleventh day of January the year two thousand and ten at 10:36 a.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Thank you Mistress of Ceremony. Before I call the session to order, I would like to make a short speech. *Buenas Dias, Tirow and Good Morning*, to the Honorable Governor Benigno Repeki Fitial, Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Eloy Inos, if the Bishop is present to, his Excellency Bishop Tomas Camacho, Chief Justice Miguel Sablan Demapan, Pale Jesse Reyes, honored guests from the US mainland, Mr. Pula and Congressman Greg "Kilili" Camacho Sablan, Governor Camacho from Guam, Governor Toribiong from the Republic of Palau, Consulate of the Republic of the Philippines, Consulate of Japan, Mayor Flores, honored guests. To my colleagues, Honorable members of this august body, I am taking this opportunity to make this short privilege statement from this chair so that none amongst you will question why I am up here. First, I asserted that I would be also again be designated the Speaker Pro Tempore for the second consecutive Inauguration among the twelve majority of coalition – you know who they are and which none of has objected to it and if anyone thinks it is unconstitutional I say, let it be. I therefore, inform all of you that I will also proclaim myself the rule and I will overrule anyone who would not agree with me sitting up here – even if Mr. Harry Blalock is still listening. Honorable members of this Body, again, our guests, family members and friends and supporters, I Speaker Pro Tem Stanley Torres also known as Stanley Tudela McGinnis-Torres, officially calls this Organizational Session on this Eleventh Day, of January the year two thousand and ten of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Please all rise for a short of legislative prayer. All representatives-elect please repeat after me: Lord

Jesus Christ, grant us the wisdom and courage to do what is right and good for our people. Hail Mary, Mother of our Lord, pray for us. Amen. Before I call on the House Clerk, I need to organize the House in order to legally conduct this session. I hereby make the following appointments: For Senior Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Peter Olopai Towai, for Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, Sylvestre R. Sablan, for House Clerk, Ms. Evelyn Castro Fleming, for House Lead Counsel, Ms. Antonette Ramon Villagomez and her Associate Legal Counsel Joey P. San Nicolas. Now that this House is in order and secured, House Clerk, please call the attendance of the representatives-elect.

***CALL OF THE ROLL BY ELECTION PRECINCTS***

The Clerk called the roll in numerical order by election Precincts.

**Election District 1**

Representative-elect Diego Tenorio Benavente	Present
Representative-elect Eliceo Diaz Cabrera	Present
Representative-elect Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero	Present
Representative-elect Joseph Mafnas Palacios	Present
Representative-elect Antonio Pangelinan Sablan	Present
Representative-elect Froilan Cruz Tenorio	Present

**Election District 2**

Representative-elect Rafael Sablan Demapan	Present
Representative-elect Raymond Demapan Palacios	Present

**Election District 3**

Representative-elect Francisco Santos Dela Cruz	Present
Representative-elect Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	Present
Representative-elect Ramon Angailen Tebuteb	Present
Representative-elect Stanley Tudela McGinnis-Torres	Present
Representative-elect Edmund Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative-elect Ray Naraja Yumul	Present

**Election District 4**

Representative-elect George Norita Camacho	Present
Representative-elect Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	Present

**Election District 5**

Representative-elect Ramon Sablan Basa	Present
Representative-elect Fredrick Peters Deleon Guerrero	Present

**Election District 6**

Representative-elect Trenton Brian Connor	Present
-------------------------------------------	---------

**Election District 7**

Representative-elect Teresita Apatang Santos	Present
----------------------------------------------	---------

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Thank you, House Clerk Fleming. Let the record show that all 20 representatives-elect are present and constitutes a complete House and ready for official business.

***SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS***

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Representatives-elect and spouses, please rise for our swearing in for the Office of House of Representatives of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, please administer the Oath of Office.

*Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan*: 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 to the best of my ability, so help me God.”

*Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan*: Congratulations. (Applause)

### ***INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE HOUSE RULES***

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley Torres recognized Floor Leader Pro Tem George N. Camacho.

Floor Leader Pro Tem George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. I respectfully submit to this August Body H. R. NO. 17-1, “A House Resolution to adopt the Rules of the House of Representatives attached herewith as appendix A; to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Rules and for other purposes.”, also Mr. Speaker Pro Tem move for its adoption.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley Torres: Discussion?

Members voiced “ready”

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley Torres: I will call on the Clerk to call the roll.

The House Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt H. R. NO. 17-1:

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Froilan C. Tenorio	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez                    yes  
Representative Ray N. Yumul                                            yes

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: House Resolution 17-1 is now legally adopted in this Organizational Session. This House is now legally under its Interim House Rules and Procedure.

Representative Tebuteb: Privilege, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: State your privilege, Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem and members. I have immediate family matter that requires my presence if there is no objections from this Body I would like to be excused for the remainder of the Organizational Session. Thank you.

There were no objections raised on the floor.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: There being no objections, Representative Tebuteb is excused. Let us now proceed for the election of the Speaker.

***ELECTION OF SPEAKER***

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley Torres recognizes Representative Rafael Demapan.

Representative Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. It is my privilege to nominate my colleague from Precinct I Representative Froilan Cruz Tenorio to be the Speaker of the House for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature by acclamation.

The nomination of Representative Froilan Cruz Tenorio for the Speaker of the House was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: I now, recognize Representative Cabrera.

Representative Cabrera: Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, I would move to close the nomination.

The motion to move to close nomination was seconded.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: It has been seconded and there is no objection. Do the members object to the calling of the roll for the Speaker? I recognize, Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Thank you. At this point since there is only one nominee that we just move by acclamation.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Like I said that I would rule and overrule – for the record I call on the Clerk to Call the Roll

The Clerk called the roll on the election of the Honorable Froilan Cruz Tenorio to the Office of the Speaker of the House for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

Representative Ramon S. Basa                                            yes

Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	aye
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent (during voting excused)
Representative Froilan C. Tenorio	abstained
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Now, it shows that the duly elected Speaker, Representative Froilan Cruz Tenorio is Speaker for this Seventeenth Commonwealth Northern Marianas Legislature.

(Applause)

Representative Benavente: Clarification, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: State your clarification, Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: I do not dispute the outcome of the election of the Speaker, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, as a matter of fact, I voted yes on the nomination, but it is rather odd and inappropriate that our elected Speaker did not vote for himself or did not vote for the position of the Speaker. I just wonder should there be any clarification that goes with that decision, if not then I rest at this time.

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Representative Froilan Cruz Tenorio, would you cast your “yes” vote please for the record.

(Laughter)

Representative Froilan Cruz Tenorio: My vote is “yes”.

(Applause)

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Well, it is an honor for me as Speaker Pro Tem to upon the newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Sergeant-at-Arms Towai, please escort our new Speaker to the Dais.

(Applause)

Speaker Pro Tem Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Please, give us your short acceptance speech and when you are done I will hand the gavel to the new Speaker.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: A very short one, thank you, colleagues for the honor.

(Applause)

*Sergeant-at-arms Towai escorted the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial up to the dais at 10:55 a.m.*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: It is an honor, Governor, for you to be here with us this morning.

***ELECTION OF VICE-SPEAKER***

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: So we move on to the Election of the Vice Speaker. I recognize Representative Ramon Sablan Basa.

Representative Basa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it gives me distinct pleasure to nominate my colleague, Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro for the position of the Vice Speaker.

The motion was seconded by several others.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Are there any other nominations? I recognize, Representative Fredrick Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero: I move to close nomination.

The motion was seconded by several others.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Those in favor of Representative Felicidad Ogumoro for Vice Speaker, say “aye” those oppose say “no”. The Clerk will now call for the Roll in alphabetical order.

The Clerk called the roll on the election of the Honorable Felicidad Taman Ogumoro to the Office of the Vice Speaker of the House for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	aye
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent (during voting excused)
Representative Froilan C. Tenorio	yes

Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: The “ayes” have it, Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro is elected Vice Speaker. We move to the Election of Floor Leader.

(Applause)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: We move to the Election of Floor Leader.

***ELECTION OF THE FLOOR LEADER***

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: The floor is now open for nomination of Floor Leader. I recognize, Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel.

Representative Iguel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to nominate my fellow colleague of Precinct IV, the Honorable George N. Camacho for the position of Floor Leader.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Are there anymore nominations? I recognize, Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera.

Representative Cabrera: I move to close nominations, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Those in favor of Representative George Norita Camacho for Floor Leader, say “aye” those oppose say “no”. The Clerk will now call for the Roll in alphabetical order.

The Clerk called the roll on the election of the Honorable George Norita Camacho to the Office of the Floor Leader of the House for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	aye
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	absent (during voting excused)
Representative Froilan C. Tenorio	yes



Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: The “ayes” have it, Representative George Norita Camacho is elected Floor Leader.

(Applause)

*The Honorable Eloy S. Inos was escorted up to the dais.*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Lieutenant Governor Eloy Inos, thank you for the honor. Next item on our Agenda is the Notification of the Senate and the Governor

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

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Under the Notification of the Senate and the Governor, I now appoint Representatives Teresita Apatang Santos and Edmund Sablan Villagomez to inform the Senate that the Seventeenth House of Representatives is organized and ready to conduct official business. And I appoint Representatives Raymond Demapan Palacios and Eliceo Diaz Cabrera to advise the Governor that the Seventeenth House of Representatives organized and ready to conduct official business.

Representative Raymond D. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, privilege.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Under privilege, I recognize Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond D. Palacios: Are we going to be out of order if we are not to inform the Governor’s Office because both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are here onsite. Do we need to go ahead and inform them?

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Yes, I would like for the two Representatives that I just appointed to come up to the dais and inform them. I recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Can we take a short recess while we wait for the two appointed members to return and I understand that the Senate members are right outside the door and are waiting to approach you.

There were no objections.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio:: This session is now on recess.

*The House recessed at 10:55 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 10:59 a.m.*

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: This House is back in session. I wish to inform you that the Senate has notified that they have organized themselves and which are ready to conduct official business.

Representative Benavente: Point of information, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Benavente: You were saying that the Senate has informed us of their organization and I would like to ask at this time if you would please announce to all the members the officers of the Senate.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: I am sorry Representative Benavente, the Senate has not conveyed any message to me. I wish to also announce that the Eleventh Saipan Municipal Council has also organized itself and ready to conduct official business, the Chairman of the Council is, Mr. Ramon B. Camacho and the Vice Chairman and Secretary is, Mr. Eric D. Diaz. There are only two members. The Chair recognizes, Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, the Mayor of Saipan is present in the gallery, perhaps we could ask that question as to the third member and also to inform us as well.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: We move on to Communications.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: We are now under Communications. Are there any communications? The Chair now recognizes, Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, under Communications, I wish to inform you and the members of the Seventeenth Legislature that the Minority Office has met and I have been given the honor and elected as the Minority Leader for the Seventeenth House of Representatives.

(Applause)

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio: Let us now move on to the Statement of Members.

### **STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS**

*The Chair announced that the floor is open for statements of members which will be conducted in alphabetical order, at which the Speaker called upon House Clerk Evelyn Fleming with the calling of the roll in alphabetical order:*

Representative Basa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to express my humble and sincere gratitude to everyone of you for being here today to partake in this momentous occasion in honor of the Seventeenth Legislature...*(digital recording failure)*

*Due to digital recording failure statements of members were not recorded along with, announcements and the adjournment of the Organizational Session as well as the benediction followed by the closing remarks of the Mistress of Ceremony, Ms. Clarissa Sablan.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

*No announcements were made*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The Inaugural Session of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature adjourned at 1:00 p.m.*

**BENEDICTION**

*(Reverend Jesse Reyes gave the Benediction.)*

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Linda B. Muña, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives

Seventeenth Legislature  
2010 House Inaugural Speech  
January 11, 2010

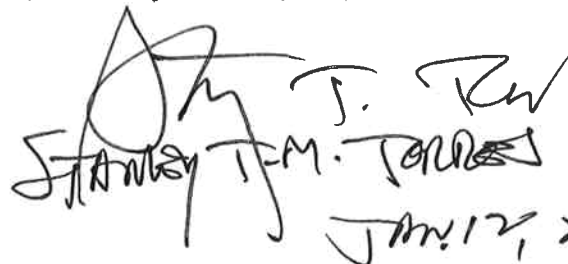
Good Morning, The Honorable Governor Benigno Repeki Fitial, The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Eloy Songao Inos, Chief Justice Miguel Sablan Demapan, Pale Jesse Reyes, Honorable Guest and Visitors, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The people have spoken with their votes on the election. Congratulations to our re-elected Governor Benigno Repeki Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy Songao Inos as they have earned the public trust and confidence. Yet they cannot do the job alone. They need this Legislative support to accomplish the mandate of the people of the Commonwealth, and to that end, I pledged my full cooperation and assistance. Congratulations to everyone of you who was voted to the Seventeenth Legislature which is at a turning point in the history of the Commonwealth. I look forward to a term of productivity and honest effort by all.

To my supporters, friends and families from Precinct III who have given me their trust and confidence to return to the Seventeenth Legislature, I pledge to continue guarding your rights and benefits and for more projects of major improvements in our Precinct.

To my best and longest friend for almost 48 years, my beautiful wife, Arlene who always stood by my side with all her support and endurance, she still cook my meals 3 times daily, washing my clothes, blessed with 5 healthy grown, adult children, with their families. Thank you, my wife, and special thanks you to Auntie Chai Salalila and her children for their support. To former Congressman Jesus T. Attao and his family for their support.

Si Yu'us Ma'asi, Gili'sow, Salamat'po, Thank you everybody.

  
Stanley J. Torres  
JAN 12, 2010

**Tiroow wami and Hafa Adai. Welcome to all my family, friends and our dignitaries present. Over 30 years ago this month, I was humbled to be a part of the 1<sup>st</sup>, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Legislatures, helping to create the laws of our newborn government. Today, 32 years later, as I enter my third term, I look around me and I see much change in our community. Change can be good and it can be bad, but what it really is, is a matter of perception. We can look at how far we have come, and choose our state of mind –it’s much easier to be negative, to blame someone else, to complain. I prefer to be thankful and positive. I am thankful for family and friends, for our wonderful island community. I am positive for the future, for the virtues and the values that we instill in our children as they grow to become contributing members of our community. Our Commonwealth is at a pivotal moment in its short history. It will require leadership and teamwork to meet the challenges we are faced with, and work towards creating opportunities that will benefit not just a few, but as many of our people as possible.**

**My mission this term is focused on two things:**

**Number 1 - To safeguard the right to govern ourselves. No one except us knows what is best for us. If we make mistakes along the way, we can learn from them. I have confidence that we as a people CAN do it. We**

**were doing it before World War II, before the Germans, and even before the Spanish landed on our shores. No one else but us cares for our community, our people, our Manamko, our children. I can guarantee you that.**

**And Number 2 – To work to improve the quality of life for our people. This term, I would like to work with my colleagues towards strengthening our basic infrastructures, and helping to ensure that our people all have access to the basics – adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Let’s focus on poverty in our community – what is causing it, and how we can reduce it.**

**I am thankful and humbled for the confidence my colleagues have in electing me Vice Speaker. As a strong advocate of the active participation of women in the development of our islands, I believe this position will allow me to do my part in furthering that goal.**

**Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my husband Cisco, my mother Estefania, and my brother Joe. While they cannot be here today, I know that they are sitting up there with Jesus, chewing betelnut and smiling down on us. Have a wonderful and blessed day everyone, and thank you again for your presence. To the voters of**

**Precinct 3, without your vote of confidence, I would not be standing  
here today. Ghilisoow yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase.**

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hafa Adai, Tirow, and Good Morning,

I want to take this moment to express my humble and sincere gratitude to every one of you for being here today to partake in this momentous occasion in honor of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

To our honorable governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, all the cabinet members and top officials in both the executive and judicial, and all the visiting dignitaries-thank you for your presence.

I wish to also recognize and passionately thank my Wife “OFING”, children as well as a handful members of my “clan” who are also here with us for their unwavering support, hard-work, patience, and believing in me.

And especially to the CONSTITUENTS of the fine people of Precinct 5, my utmost appreciation yan dankulu na si yu’us ma’ase for your support bestowing upon me your vote of confidence – the underlying reason that I am sitting before you this very moment as a proud and determined member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature!

Because of time constraint, I want to conclude by imparting words of encouragement to this legislative body of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, House of Representatives:

Let us all be always mindful that it is the people in general that put us here with high expectations and renewed hopes that we provide “true” and visionary leadership necessary to bring forth relief from all their sufferings, particularly, their economic or financial lives.

I fervently believe that to help us get out of this economic slump or doldrums, it is extremely imperative that all three branches of government MUST work tirelessly together with mutual trust and respect and put “petty



politics”, party affiliations, personalities, egotistical, power feuds or positions, etc. out of the window, if you will.

As new leaders at all levels it is incumbent upon us collectively to seek realistic and workable solutions to all the problems and issues plaguing our island nation.

Lastly, I challenge each and every member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature to pass a balanced budget on a timely manner. I believe it is not only the right thing to do, constitutionally-mandated, common sense, but the people of the CNMI as a whole expects and demands us to do so.

It’s time to put the confidence of the people back to the government.

**THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS!**

Hafa Adai, Tirow, and Good Morning to all distinguished guests and dignitaries, especially to my fellow colleagues of the CNMI 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature. I stand before you humbled by this amazing event taking place before us. We have great challenges facing the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, and I am confident that we will all do our best in addressing the imminent needs of our Commonwealth. As a public servant, I stand dedicated and ready to take on the issues forthcoming with the hopes of best practices and solutions for the good of our commonwealth. Let us unite and put aside differences so that we may make history as a united Legislature working for the common good. A special thank you to my wife, my family and my committee for all their support. I give my gratitude and utmost thanks especially to the constituents of Precinct I, for without their vote of confidence, I would not be honored by this memorable occasion. In times of economic hardships and other difficulties, let us come together, 3 islands, 1 vision, and 1 future. Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow.