



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2019

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

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2<sup>nd</sup> Day, First Regular Session

Friday, February 8, 2019

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*The House of Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, First Regular Session on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 11:03 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

*The Honorable Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Speaker of the House, presided.*

*A moment of silence was observed.*

*The Chair called for a short recess.*

*The House recessed at 11:04 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 11:09 a.m.*

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Back into session. Clerk, please call the roll.

### **ROLL CALL**

*The Clerk called the roll and all nineteen members were present.*

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Clerk. With 19 members present that constitutes a quorum to proceed with this session. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I move to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) so that the House amends its agenda to include unnumbered bills, resolution and communication not filed with the Clerk's office 72 hours in advance when a notice of a session was given. So move, Mr. Speaker.

### **RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS** **Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions**

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be pre-filed with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed in sufficient time to appear on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 72-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with for Special Emergency Sessions and Sessions called by the Governor in accordance with Rule III.

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) with the following results:*

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Antonio SN. Borja	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Luis John DLG. Castro	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” rules have been suspended.

*The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

None

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### *House Bills:*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bills and welcomed the members to coauthor the bills:*

**H. B. NO. 21-1**

To establish a retirement plan for Commonwealth Government employees.

**REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

**H. B. NO. 21-2**

To establish a separate statute and penalty for individuals committing the act of vandalism; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

**H. B. NO. 21-3**

To amend 4 CMC §2103 to enhance Marianas Visitors Authority's promoting capabilities in attracting tourists to visit the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

**H. B. NO. 21-4**

To amend 1 CMC §8250(e) by including the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) to be exempted from the salary limitations imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act as amended.

**REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct (for himself)

*The Chair recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-5**

To amend Title 4 Section 2308 of the Commonwealth Code by prioritizing funding for the CNMI Medicaid Agency and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Indigent Program.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself, and Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

*The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-6**

To establish provisions that would require new and existing business establishments to provide for proper parking lot lighting; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself)

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, this should also include government facilities when this bill is liberated in the appropriate committee.

*The Chair recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.*

*Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-7**

To require all governing bodies as defined in Chapter 9 of Title 1, § 9902, to broadcast all public meetings via live Internet video streaming for public viewing; and to archive live streamed videos and make such videos available to the public all around the world. This bill may be referred to as “The Live Streaming Video Act of 2019”.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Roman C. Benavente, Luis John DLG. Castro, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: State your privilege.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I would also like to offer my bill, House Bill 21-6 welcome any members to cosponsor the bill. Thank you.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Vice Speaker and I welcome the Vice Speaker again.

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-8**

To amend 6 CMC §102 by inserting a definition for “disability” and /or “disabilities”.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself)

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Members, brief history – this is Public Law 19-80 that the Governor signed and the Governor asked the Legislature to define disabilities and the definition is defined under the American’s with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair officially introduced the following House Bills and welcomed the members to coauthor the bills:*

**H. B. NO. 21-9**

To amend 1 CMC Section 7406 (4) to add unmarked investigation vehicles used by the CNMI Office of Public Auditor to the definition of law enforcement vehicles.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Antonio SN. Borja, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, and Janet U. Maratita)

**H. B. NO. 21-10**

To amend certain provisions under Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 2 of the Commonwealth Code to provide better clarity of such provisions in regards to the Chamorro – Carolinian Language Commission; and for other purposes.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Antonio SN. Borja, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, and Janet U. Maratita)

*The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-11**

To clarify the powers of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and to make needed changes to the Commonwealth Code given the unique regulatory oversight of the Casino Industry in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself)

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, brief history – this bill was introduced, passed in the House, passed in the Senate with amendments got back to the House, but we didn’t garner the three-fourth vote to move on with this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.*

*Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-12**

To establish the level of funding for the Legislature and provide the Legislature with control of the expenditure of funds appropriated for its operations.

**REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: As the history of this bill Mr. Speaker, the House actually passed this and the Senate has decided to shelf the bill and never took the initiative to act on the bill. I ask the Chairman of the respective committee of this bill whoever whom you sign it to – to expeditiously work on the bill because this is an important bill. With that Mr. Speaker, I welcome any other members to coauthor this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. 21-13**

To amend the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018.

**REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Floor Leader. Before we proceed to recognizing members for other bills for introduction, I will list a committees that will be sending the legislations that were introduced prior to that met the 72 hour notice.

*The Chair referred the following House Bills to each respective committee:*

*H. B. No. 21-1 referred to Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

*H. B. No. 21-2 referred to Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

*H. B. No. 21-3 referred to Commerce and Tourism*

*H. B. No. 21-4 referred to Ways and Means*

*H. B. No. 21-5 referred to Ways and Means*

*H. B. No. 21-6 referred to Commerce and Tourism*

*H. B. No. 21-7 referred to Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

*H. B. No. 21-8 referred to Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

*H. B. No. 21-9 referred to Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

*H. B. No. 21-10 referred to Education*

*H. B. No. 21-11 referred to Gaming*

*H. B. No. 21-12 referred to Ways and Means*

*H. B. No. 21-13 referred to Cannabis*

*The Chair recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-14**

To regulate Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself  
Representatives Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, and Donald M. Manglona)

Representative Janet U. Maratita: Mr. Speaker this is a recycled bill from the last legislature it was passed by the House and got stuck in the Senate. So, this bill is critical at this time as we all know there’s a lot of real estate brokers out there and sales persons that tend to deceive our people out there.

*Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bills:*

**H. B. NO. 21-15**

To amend 4 CMC § 2308 (c). Disposition of Gross Revenue Tax.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself)

**H. B. NO. 21-16**

To amend 1 CMC § 8248, Government Salary Ceiling.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself)

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Maratita. Sarge, please provide the Clerk and we’ll be sending those to committee – I will be notifying the body on which committee these legislations will be sent to. Any other member for introduction of a House Bill? Rep. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: I got an unnumbered bill in front of me and also this is a bill that was crafted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislature, it was introduced and passed on the 20<sup>th</sup> and unfortunately it made the House, but was put on the shelf by the Senate. So, I try to revive this bill again. I did some soul searching.

*Representative Roman C. Benavente officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. B. NO. 21-17**

To prohibit the taking and selling of certain sizes of fish species by adding a new section 5645 to Article 4, Chapter 6, Division 5 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.

**REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: For members that want to cosponsor the legislations that have already been introduced, please see the Clerk so you can get your signatures on these legislations. Alright moving on to House Local Bills. I recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Vice Speaker.

***House Local Bills:***

*Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Local Bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 21-1**

To appropriate the CIP Bonds Accrued Interest Income collected for the Third Senatorial District in the amount of one hundred ninety-five thousand, four hundred and sixty-eight dollars and fifty cents (\$195,468.50).

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself)

*The Chair recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Jante U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 21-2**

To appropriate the amount of not more than six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Third Senatorial District under 4 CMC §2307(c)(2) to pay the Government employees of the Third Senatorial District who

did not receive salary increases due to Governor's 2001 freeze of within-grade annual increase and the NMIAC §10-20.2-1101, Financial Austerity Measures.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself, and Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

*The Chair recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco for the next introduction.*

*Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 21-3**

To amend Saipan Local Law 20-19, Section 2(e) to authorize the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to procure tractors for the Division of Agriculture; and for other purposes.

**REP. IVAN A. BLANCO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Luis John DLG. Castro, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph A. Flores, Jose I. Itibus, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*The Chair recognized Representative Antonio SN. Borja for the next introduction.*

*Representative Antonio SN. Borja officially introduced the following House Local Bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 21-4**

To appropriate \$225,633.60 from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Second Senatorial District under 4 CMC §2307(b); To re-appropriate \$100,000.00 from Section 2(c) of Tinian Local Law 19-14; To repeal Sections 1-6 of TLL 20-18 and for other purposes.

**REP. ANTONIO SN. BORJA** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (for himself)

*The Chair recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 21-5**

To appropriate up to Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand US Dollars (\$227,000.00) of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Third Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself)

***House Legislative Initiatives: None***

*The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst.*



## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

### *House Resolutions:*

*Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:*

#### **H. RES. NO. 21-2**

To honor, congratulate, and commend the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club and Tribe Marianas for their successful production of the award-winning and award-nominating film adaptations of “We Drank Our Tears.”

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representative Edmund S. Villagomez)

*Several members voiced “no objection.”*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader to make a motion to place House Resolution 21-2 on the Resolution Calendar for action.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to place House Resolution 21-2 on the Resolution Calendar for action.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to place House Resolution 21-2 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized Representative Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.*

*Representative Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:*

#### **H. RES. NO. 21-3**

To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Ignacio Lizama Villanueva and to honor his memory whose worthy endeavors contributed to the quality of life in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**REP. JANET U. MARATITA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for herself)

*Several members voiced “no objection.”*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader to make a motion to place House Resolution 21-3 on the Resolution Calendar for action.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to place House Resolution 21-3 on the Resolution Calendar for action.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to place House Resolution 21-3 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan for the next introduction.*

*Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 21-4**

To amend the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure that was adopted on January 14, 2019; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself)

Floor Leader John Paul P. Sablan: I would like to request that we place this also on the Resolution Calendar although Mr. Speaker it's in our rules that we can't act on it today until the next regular session. So, if I may make that motion to place House Resolution 21-4 to the Resolution Calendar. So move.

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to place House Resolution 21-4 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair directed the members to House Joint Resolution and recognized Representative Luis John DLG. Castro.*

***House Joint Resolution:***

*Representative Luis John DLG. Castro officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution and welcomed the members to coauthor the resolution:*

**H. J. R. NO. 21-1**

To request the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Honorable Gregorio Kili C. Sablan, Delegate to the U.S. Congress, to convey the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' position to exempt the Northern Mariana Islands from the ban on workers from the Philippines from the H-2B worker program to our federal partners.

**REP. LUIS JOHN DLG. CASTRO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Roman C. Benavente, Ivan A. Blanco, Antonio SN. Borja, Joel C. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Castro. Any other sponsors who would like to join in on the Joint Resolution, please see the Clerk and may I ask the Floor Leader to make that proper motion that we place on calendar – not for action, but just for appearances.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to place House Joint Resolution 21-1 on the Resolution Calendar.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to place House Joint Resolution 21-1 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair directed the members to House Commemorative Resolution and recognized Representative Antonio SN. Borja.*

***House Commemorative Resolution:***

*Representative Antonio SN. Borja officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution:*

**C. RES. NO. 21-1**

To recognize and commend Don Allen Farrell for his years of exceptional service in the field of education, his commitment to preserve the history of the Marianas, and his dedicated public service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**REP. ANTONIO SN. BORJA** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Luis John DLG. Castro, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Borja. I believe that was introduced to Committee of the Whole or is there no objection to you as the primary author?

Representative Antonio SN. Borja: Yes, please.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: We will make a motion Floor Leader that we place Commemorative Resolution 21-1 on today’s Resolution Calendar for action.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to place House Commemorative Resolution 21-1 on the Resolution Calendar for action.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to place House Commemorative Resolution 21-1 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

***House Concurrent Resolutions: None***

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: We take a short recess please.

*The House recessed at 11:36 a.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 11:49 a.m.*

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: We’re back into session. No objection from the members, I know we’re under Section IV of the agenda. If there are no objections, is it okay that we go back to Public Comments on Section 2 of the agenda?

*Several members voiced “no objection.”*

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Floor Leader, please handle the floor while former Congressman Stanley Torres states his public comments and I respectfully ask Congressman that we stick to the agenda. Please proceed, thank you.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*The following individual made comments pertaining to House Commemorative Resolution 21-1:*

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres

Floor Leader John Paul P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, just to – I know that former Representative Torres knows that he can also submit a written comment if he wishes to – to provide this august body full understanding on his opposition with the resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Floor Leader. And that’s absolutely right. Mr. Torres if you have a written document that you can please file with the Clerk and we’ll make sure that it’s on record and we’ll put it with the journal. Thank you, members. Moving on to our Order of Business under Messages from the Governor. Clerk.

## **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

*The Clerk announced the following Governor’s Communications:*

GOV. COMM. 21-1: (1/16/19) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 20-197 (To establish a new salary level for members of the Legislature.). Became Public Law 20-86 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 21-2: (1/16/19) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. NO. 20-69 (to re-appropriate \$25,863.00 in B.U. 3400D, allotted under Saipan Local Law 18-23; and for other purposes.). Became Saipan Local Law 20-28 [For info]

GOV. COMM. 21-3: (1/24/19) Directive No. 2019-001: Informing all Department, Agency, and Activity Heads on the compensation authorization for typhoon recovery efforts has been terminated as of the date issued of Directive. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 21-4: (1/23/19) Proclamation of Special Election for the Third Election District (Precinct 3) to be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 21-5: (1/28/19) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Jacqueline A. Nicolas, Administrative Hearing Officer, at the Department of Labor to receive an annual salary of \$75,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 21-6: (2/5/19) Informing the Speaker that he signed into law House Bill No. 20-153, HD1 entitled, “To amend 2 CMC § 4433 to authorize the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and the Commonwealth Development Authority to promulgate regulations on procurement, travel, and personnel matters; and for other purposes.”, which became Public Law No. 20-87.

GOV. COMM. 21-7: (2/5/19) Informing the Speaker that he vetoed House Local Bill 20-80: “To amend Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, codified as 10 CMC § 3511.”

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Clerk. Any comments or discussion on the messages from the Governor? Go ahead, Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to express my appreciation to the Governor for signing the NMHC, CDA bill. Thank you.

*The Chair directed the members to item VIII, House Communications and recognized the Clerk.*

## **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following House Communications:*

HSE. COMM. 21-1: (1/14/19) From Representative Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal business beginning Tuesday, January 15, 2019 and will be returning Wednesday, January 23, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-2: (1/15/19) From Speaker Attao officially informing the Governor of a vacancy in the Twenty-First House of Representatives and to call for a special election pursuant to 1 CMC Division 6, Section 6502 and CNMI Constitution Art. II, Section 9. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-3: (1/17/19) From Speaker Attao appointing members to the Ad Hoc Committee to review the 21st House Rules. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-4: (1/17/19) From Speaker Attao appointing standing committee chair(s). [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-5: (1/15/19) From Representative Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning Saturday, January 19, 2019 to Sunday, January 27, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-6: (1/14/19) From the minority caucus appointing Representative Edwin K. Propst as the Minority Leader for the 21st Northern Marianas House of Representatives. [For Info]

HSE. COMM. 21-7: (1/22/19) From Representative Deleon Guerrero, PUTC Interim Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-8: (1/23/19) From Representative Maratita informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from January 24 to January 28, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during her absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-9: (1/24/19) From Representative Itibus, Health and Welfare Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Health and Welfare. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-10: (1/25/19) From Representative Camacho, JGO Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-11: (1/28/19) From the Speaker informing the APIL Central Secretariat of the appointment of Representative Blanco to serve as Director representing the CNMI House of Representatives. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-12: (1/23/19) From Representative Castro, FFA Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-13: (1/23/19) From Representative Yumul, Gaming Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Gaming. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-14: (1/28/19) From Representative Guerrero, C&T Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-15: (1/29/19) From Representative Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning January 29, 2019 to February 2, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-16: (1/28/19) From Representative Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business to attend the APIL's 59th Board of Directors meeting in Yap State, FSM, beginning Tuesday, January 29, 2019 and returning Sunday, February 3, 2019, and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-17: (1/28/19) From Representative Maratita, Cannabis Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Cannabis. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-18: (1/29/19) From Representative Castro informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning January 31, 2019 to

February 2, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-19: (1/29/19) From Representative Benavente, ED Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Education. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-20: (1/30/19) From Representative Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning January 31, 2019 to February 2, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-21: (1/30/19) From Representative Borja, NR Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-22: (1/30/19) From Floor Leader John Paul P. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning January 31, 2019 to February 2, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-23: (1/23/19) From Representative Blanco, WM Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-24: (1/31/19) From Representative Camacho informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning January 31, 2019 to February 2, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 21-25: (2/5/19) From Representative Jose I. Itibus informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal leave beginning February 11, 2019 to March 8, 2019 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

*The Chair directed the members to item X, Communications from Department and Agencies and recognized the Clerk.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

None

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

*The Clerk announced the following Communications from the Department and Agencies:*

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 21-1: (1/18/19) From the Department of Public Works on the Route 36 (Winward/Kalabera Road) Improvement Project. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 21-2: (1/24/19) From the State Board of Education informing the House of its election of Board of Education Officers. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 21-3: (1/28/19) From the Office of the Public Auditor submitting report on CNMI Agencies' Implementation of Audit Recommendations. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 21-4: (1/28/19) From the Marianas Visitors Authority submitting First Quarter report for fiscal year 2019. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 21-5: (1/29/19) From the Civil Service Commission, Office of Personnel Management submitting Supplemental Funding for FY 2019.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Clerk. Any comments on Communications from Department and Agencies? Rep. Blanco please.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Mr. Speaker on communication 21-1, your Ways and Means Committee is happy to take on.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your generosity. Actually, you got two. We'll be sending communication 21-1 to Ways and Means and communication 12-5 to Ways and Means. Thank you, members. Miscellaneous Communications please Clerk. Sorry. My apologies, Rep. Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is on Department Communication 21-3 from the Office of the Public Auditor – I just wanted to call the members' attention to the auditor's report on agencies implementation of audit recommendations and the background on the executive summary the auditor notes that by law there is established this inner-agency audit coordinating advisory group that consists of the presiding officer and minority leader of each House as well as the Secretary of Finance and the Special Assistant for Management and Budget. OPA has not received any request for consultation from the coordinating group in 19 years and you know given that there are quite a few unresolved audit recommendations that need some follow up and could perhaps use some in put and action from this body. I would like to respectfully request that yourself as well as our Minority Leader confer with your counterparts in the Senate side and perhaps, we can consider convening this group and assisting the public auditor and seeing where we can really work together to resolve these recommendations.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you Rep. Sablan. Any other comments? Okay, we move on to Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk please.

## **MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:*

MISC. COMM. 21-1: (1/15/19) From the 15th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council informing the House of its officers for the 15th SNIMC. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 21-2: (1/23/19) From Mayor David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan submitting request for appropriations. [For info]



MISC. COMM. 21-3: (1/28/19) From the Legislative Bureau Director informing the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Wednesday, January 30, 2019 through Saturday, February 2, 2019 and designates Ms. Carla M. San Nicolas Acting Director. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 21-4: (1/30/19) From the Chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation informing the House of being duly organized and of its elected Officers of the 21st RLD. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 21-5: (1/31/19) From the Chairman of the Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation informing the House of being duly organized and of its elected Officers of the 21st T&ALD. [For info]

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Clerk. Any comments on Miscellaneous Communications? None. Okay, Miscellaneous Communication 21-2 at this moment we will be referring that communication to Ways and Means. Chairman, I know you thought you gone away with the legislations going to your committee, but unfortunately. Resolution Calendar, Floor Leader please.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:*

#### **H. RES. NO. 21-2**

To honor, congratulate, and commend the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club and Tribe Marianas for their successful production of the award-winning and award-nominating film adaptations of “We Drank Our Tears.”

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 21-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 21-3**

To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Ignacio Lizama Villanueva and to honor his memory whose worthy endeavors contributed to the quality of life in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: The motion to adopt House Resolution 21-3 has been moved and has been seconded. Any discussion on that resolution? Rep. Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just apologize to the members for not catching this earlier, but because of my position I need to respectfully recuse myself from resolutions, communications that go to Delegate Kili Sablan. So, I would like to ask that this not be Committee of the Whole or adopted by the Committee of the Whole, but by roll call as with the other resolutions that are addressed to Delegate Kili Sablan.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Sablan. Clerk, can we please call the roll on House Resolution 21-3.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Resolution 21-3 with the following results:*

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Antonio SN. Borja	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Luis John DLG. Castro	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	abstain
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 18 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: With 18 members voting “yes” on House Resolution 21-3 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:*

**C. RES. NO. 21-1**

To recognize and commend Don Allen Farrell for his years of exceptional service in the field of education, his commitment to preserve the history of the Marianas, and his dedicated public service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**REP. ANTONIO SN. BORJA** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Luis John DLG. Castro, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 21-1 with the following results:*

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Antonio SN. Borja	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Luis John DLG. Castro	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	present
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	abstain
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members voting “yes,” Commemorative Resolution 21-1 is hereby adopted by the House. Thank you, members.

*No action taken for the following legislations:*

**H. RES. NO. 21-4**

To amend the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure that was adopted on January 14, 2019; and for other purposes.

**H. J. R. NO. 21-1**

To request the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Delegate to the U.S. Congress, to convey the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ position to exempt the Northern Mariana Islands from the ban on workers from the Philippines from the H-2B worker program to our federal partners.

*The Chair directed the members to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco.*

## **BILL CALENDAR**

None

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to first and foremost express my appreciation to you and members of this body for the endorsement to represent this House and the CNMI at the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures. Thank you. Briefly, Mr. Speaker and members the CNMI delegation included Representative Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero, our LB Director and member secretariat Antonio Sablan to continue former Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero's term as APIL Secretary, the APIL body unanimously move to endorse the CNMI to continue in the capacity as an officer and a secretary for the CNMI. That is all thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Blanco and congratulations on the position of Secretary under APIL. Rep. Lee Pan congratulations on the Board of Directors position. I recognize Rep. Luis John Castro.

Representative Luis John DLG. Castro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to kind of give a brief summary on some business that we had over in our neighboring island of Guam. Last week we did get a chance to meet with a few individuals over there in regards to coming up with unified positions on certain regional matters that are affecting not just us but Guam as well. So, we got a chance to meet with Speaker Barnes together with her colleagues Secretary Shelton and Senator San Augustin in regards to coming up on positions in regards to the ban on each to be workers as well as addressing the farm fuel regulations which include a ban on cockfighting on the territories. We also got a chance to also speak our piece and other matters call for open dialogue for more dialogue between our body as well as the *Liheslaturan Guahan* and it was a pretty fruitful discussion and we left a pretty positive of the outcomes as we move forward. We also got a chance to accept the donation on behalf of the Commonwealth together with CHCC CEO Muña from the office of Senator Will Castro as well as other sponsors such as APL lines where they donated to CHCC, TV sets as well – if I'm not mistaken – two-hundred blankets to be distributed to the Health Center. So, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor were there to accept the donations and it was a very humbling and grateful experience to see that even though we're this far from Super Typhoon Yutu that the help is still coming through so we are definitely express our appreciation on behalf of this body and the people of the Commonwealth for Guam's donations. We also met with Minority Leader Senator Castro in regards to continued dialogue, in regards to matters pertaining to the Marianas Working Group as well as other business that we can work together with our counterparts down in Guam. Thank you very much.

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Castro. Rep. Manglona please.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As some of you may know, Rota is currently holding its first cycle for the DPS academy in collaboration with DLNR and Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Academy will be graduating 15 police and 2 conservation officers. I would like to take this time to congratulate all our cadets as they now begin their career as law enforcement officers and I'm confident that they will serve our community with honor, dignity and integrity and I wish them all great success. On addition, I would like to extend my appreciation to all the instructors, mentors, department heads and all other agencies involved in the training and certification of our officers. This is a huge accomplishment and I hope that we will be able to continue on this movement to bring more opportunities to our people in Rota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Manglona and congratulations to the cadets and our apologies for you missing the event this morning with them. Any other Miscellaneous Communications? I would like to share with the members under Miscellaneous Communications that there's going to be a meeting between BECQ, the Mayor's Office, DPW and a few other agencies and nonprofit organizations at the Mayor's Office tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. of the last sweep of post Typhoon Soudelor. They will begin their sweep I believe next week starting from the south through the north and should be done by the 24<sup>th</sup>. For the members that are available or your staff can be available to attend this meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m. so we'd know exactly which areas would be touched at what day and what time. So, maybe we can collaboratively work with the Mayor's, the DPW, various organizations with BECQ to assist them with our staff and ourselves in cleaning up the last budget sweep that we're getting here in the CNMI. Thank you, members. No other member under Miscellaneous Business? Announcements. Chairman Lee Pan please.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Speaker. In light of our Secretary for APIL, Board of Directors at the recent conclusion of the 59<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting – the venue for the general assembly for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly Meeting which is open to all members will be in Majuro July 8 to the 12. So save your money, please participate and show our neighboring island that we are family, one heart, one love. Let's attend this prestigious APIL. Thank you.

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Lee Pan. And in line with that members, Rep. Lee Pan will be representing the other member from the House under APIL as a Board of Directors. So, congratulations Rep Lee Pan. Thank you again. Rep. Castro.

Representative Luis John DLG. Castro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Couple of quick announcements, February 15 here in the House Chamber 1:30 the Northern Marianas Business Alliance is indulging an audience with us as a body to talk about matters that they need to discuss with us. So thankful to Mr. Sablan for extending the handout to meet with us and also we are honored to get a chance to schedule this meeting. Also, I wanted to remind everybody that there is period for public comments open in regards to the most recent draft supplemental EIS that has been prepared by the Navy. I believe the public meeting that was scheduled by our Navy counterparts is February 27<sup>th</sup>. So, from now until March 18<sup>th</sup> is an open comment period so I definitely would like to ask us to let our constituents know about it if their interested in taking a

look at the documents, they are online for everyone’s indulgence. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I yield my time.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Castro. Rep. Maratita.

Representative Janet U. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform you and this body that the Committee on Cannabis has scheduled a public hearing on Tinian on February 19 on House Bill 21-13 and on Rota on February 26 and I would like to ask the members to please allow the Committee on Cannabis to participate in this public hearing, thus requesting that – please do not schedule your meeting on that same time and date. Thank you.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Maratita. Thank you for taking the bull by the horn and starting the process of the first legislation that’s been sent to the committee or our newest committees on cannabis. My apologies members, the meeting is going to be down at the Mayor’s Office regarding the sweep. Any other announcements? *Taya* announcement Congressman Borja *pot i Pika Festival kombida lai este siha i mañelu-ta*.

Representative Antonio SN. Borja: I would like to apologize Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course I am inviting all the members to join me down at the Pika Fest on Tinian. Please you are welcome and spend a little. You can stay up for another day.

Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. Borja. With that any other announcements, members? Floor Leader for your motion please.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Floor Leader John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And at this time, I would like to make a motion that we adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair. So move.

*The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The House adjourned at 12:18 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Venetia S. Rosario  
House Journal Clerk

**APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS**

**FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:** NONE

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:** NONE

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*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session: None*

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*House information on deadlines for override: None*