



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025

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1ST Day, First Regular Session

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mistress of Ceremony Brenalyn T. Santos: Good morning, buenas dias, me lessor mwamwaay. My name is Brenalyn Tagabuel Santos, and I will be your MC for today's House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Inaugural Ceremony. The inaugural ceremony will start after these housekeeping reminders: Please take a moment to place your phone and other electronic devices on silent mode or turn the unit off. For those watching on channel 23, please note that the broadcast will switch from the House ceremony to the Senate at approximately 11:00 a.m. for their organizational session. Once again, Channel 23 will switch from the House ceremony to the Senate at approximately 11:00 a.m. for their organizational session. If you want to continue watching the House ceremony, it is also being broadcast live via Facebook. Please visit our Facebook page at Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to continue viewing. Once again, visit our Facebook page at Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Thank you. Hafa adai, fayúsko, and good morning! Welcome to the House of Representatives inaugural ceremony and organizational session of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Before I introduce the members-elect, I ask Sergeant-at-Arms Towai to escort The Honorable Alexandro C. Castro, Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court, to the dais: Please stand. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to present to you the Representatives-Elect of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Representing Election District 1: Representative-elect Roy Christopher Aldan Ada, Representative-elect Vincent Raymond Seman Aldan, Representative-elect Roman Cepeda Benavente, Representative-elect Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho, Representative-elect Joseph Arriola Flores, Representative-elect Raymond Ulloa Palacios. Representing Election District 2: Representative-elect Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr., Representative-elect John Paul Palacios Sablan. Representing Election District 3: Representative-elect Marissa Renee Atalig Flores, Representative-elect Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar, Representative-elect Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez, Representative-elect Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, Representative-elect Ralph Naraja Yumul. Representing Election District 4: Representative-elect Joel Castro Camacho. Representing Election District 5: Representative-elect Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona, Representative-elect Angelo Atalig Camacho. Representing Election District 6—the Island of Tinian and Aguiguan: Representative-elect Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas. Representing Election District 7—the Island of Rota: Representative-elect Julie Marie Atalig Ogo. Representing Election District 4, Floor Leader-Pro Tem: Representative-elect Malcolm Jason Omar. Representing Election District 3, Speaker-Pro Tem: Representative-elect Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao. Please be seated at this time. I once again welcome you to the House of Representatives chamber. I also want to take this time to recognize our distinguished guest. Present

with us today: The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; The Honorable David M. Apatang, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Present with us today, from the CNMI Supreme Court: The Honorable Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, Associate Judge. The Honorable Ramon “RB” B. Camacho, Mayor of Saipan; The Honorable Valentino N. Taisacan Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands; The Honorable Aubrey M. Hocog, Mayor of Rota; The Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. Present with us today from the 18th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council: The Honorable Marian DLG Tudela, Chairwoman; the Honorable Antonia M. Tudela, Vice Chairwoman; and the Honorable Carmen C. Pangelinan, Secretary. Present with us today, from the 20th Tinian Municipal Council: The Honorable Ana Marie C. San Nicolas. Present with us today, from the 19th CNMI Youth Congress: The Honorable Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan and The Honorable Maili Peter. Present with us today, from the 38th Guam Legislature: The Honorable Vicente Ada, Vice Speaker; The Honorable Sabrina Salas Matanane, Legislative Secretary; The Honorable Vincent Borja, Senator; and The Honorable Telo T. Taitague, Senator. Lastly, present with us today: Lieutenant Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, Deputy Commander, Pacific Air Force. Please stand. I now call upon the CNMI Color Guards for the posting of the Colors and Voices of the Marianas to the podium to lead us in the singing of the United States National Anthem and the CNMI Anthem.

The United States National Anthem and the CNMI Anthem were sung.

Mistress of Ceremony Brenalyn T. Santos: Please remain standing as I call upon Reverend Father Nelson Plohimon for the Invocation.

Reverend Father Nelson Plohimon gave the Invocation.

Mistress of Ceremony Brenalyn T. Santos: I now ask our members and our guest to please be seated. It is with great honor and privilege that I call on Speaker Pro Tem, Representative-Elect Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao, to officially call this House of Representatives’ Organizational session of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order.

CALL TO ORDER

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, First Regular Session on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 10:17 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Representative-Elect Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Speaker Pro-Tempore presided.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: Thank you, Ms. Santos. And as such, I welcome all of our distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. And to Reverend Father Nelson, thank you for your prayers. And to Honorable Chief Justice Castro, welcome to the House of Representatives. Hafa adai yan tirow, fayúscho. I now call this Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature House of Representative organizational session to order. I will now recognize the Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll in numerical order by election precincts:

Election Precinct 1:

Representative-Elect Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Present
Representative-Elect Vincent Raymond Seman Aldan	Present
Representative-Elect Roman Cepeda Benavente	Present
Representative-Elect Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative-Elect Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative-Elect Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present

Election Precinct 2:

Representative-Elect Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Present
Representative-Elect John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present

Election Precinct 3:

Representative-Elect Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative-Elect Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative-Elect Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative-Elect Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative-Elect Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative-Elect Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

Election Precinct 4:

Representative-Elect Joel Casto Camacho	Present
Representative-Elect Malcolm Jason Omar	Present

Election Precinct 5:

Representative-Elect Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative-Elect Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Present

Election Precinct 6:

Representative-Elect Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Present
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Election Precinct 7:

Representative- Elect Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.	Present
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Clerk Linda Muña: Mr. Speaker, all twenty representatives-elect are present.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Let the record reflect that all Representatives-Elect are present. A quorum is hereby constituted. We now proceed to the next order of business, the Swearing-In of Representatives-Elect, and I ask each and every one of you to please rise as the Honorable Chief Justice Castro of the CNMI Supreme Court administers the Oath of Office.

SWEARING-IN OF REPRESENTATIVES-ELECT

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

The following was repeated by all the Representatives-Elect:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the applicable provisions of the Constitution, laws and treaties of the United States of America and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a Representative of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to the best of my ability, so help me God."

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro: Congratulations! I believe you have your Oath of Office in front of you. You cannot change your mind now; you have to sign it. Thank you all. Congratulations, again.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: Members, please sign your Oath of Office. Thank you, Chief Justice, for administering the Oath of Office to the members of this House. Moving forward to the next order of business, the Introduction and Adoption of Interim Rules, and I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem Malcolm Omar.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF INTERIM RULES

Floor Leader Pro-Tem Malcolm J. Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro-Tem. I am honored to introduce House Resolution No. 24-1, entitled, "A House Resolution to adopt the rules for the House of Representatives and to appoint Ad Hoc Committee to amend the rules; and for other purposes." I move for adoption.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader Pro-Tem. A motion for the adoption of House Resolution No. 24-1 has been made and has been seconded. Any discussion?

There was no discussion on the floor, and the motion to adopt H. Res. 24-1 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: House Resolution 24-1 is hereby adopted. We will now move to the next order of business, the election of Speaker, and I recognize Representative Marissa R. Flores.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Representative Marissa R. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro-Tem. At this time, it is with great honor and privilege, that I nominate my colleague from Election Precinct 3, Representative Edmund S. Villagomez.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: Thank you, Representative Flores. A nomination has been placed on the floor by Representative Marissa R. Flores for Representative Edmund S. Villagomez to the Office of the Speaker, and it has been seconded. Are there any other nominations?

There were no further nominations made on the floor, and the Speaker Pro-Tem recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Mr. Speaker Pro-Tem, I would like to move for acclamation on the position for the Speaker.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: Thank you for that, Representative Benavente. A motion of acclamation has been presented by Representative Benavente and has been seconded. Any discussion on that motion?

There was no discussion on the floor, and the motion to nominate Representative Edmund S. Villagomez to the Office of the Speaker was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Pro-Tem Blas T. Attao: The motion carries. Representative Edmund S. Villagomez is the Speaker of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature. Sergeant Towai, kindly escort Speaker Villagomez to the dais.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, members of the Twenty-First Legislature. I am sorry. My fellow colleagues, it is a great privilege and honor that you have bestowed upon me, once again, the confidence and the trust in being your Speaker of the Twenty-Fourth House of Representatives. Thank you very much! And with that, let us move on to the election of the Vice-Speaker, and I now recognize Representative Joel C. Camacho.

ELECTION OF VICE SPEAKER

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations. It is my privilege and honor that I nominate Representative Diego Vincent F. Camacho to the office of the Vice Speaker for the Twenty-Fourth of the House of Representatives.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Joel C. Camacho. A nomination for Vice Speaker for Representative Diego Vincent F. Camacho has been made, and it has been seconded. Any discussions?

There were no discussions on the floor, and the Chair recognized Representative Vincent S. Aldan.

Representative Vincent S. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acclamation.

The motion was seconded.

There were no discussions on the floor, and the motion to nominate Representative Diego Vincent F. Camacho to the Office of the Vice Speaker was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Representative Camacho up to the dais. Thank you, once again, colleagues. And congratulations, once again, Representative Diego Vincent F. Camacho. We now proceed to the election of the Floor Leader. I now recognize Representative Julie Ogo.

ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER

Representative Julie A. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations. It is my privilege that I nominate Representative Marissa R. Flores to the Office of Floor Leader for the Twenty-Fourth House of Representatives.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you. A nomination has been placed on the floor to elect Representative Marissa R. Flores to the Office of Floor Leader, and it has been seconded. Any discussions?

There being no discussions on the floor, the Chair recognized Representative Denita K. Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Mr. Speaker, congratulations. I move for acclamation.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you. A motion has been made for acclamation, and it has been seconded. Any discussions?

There were no discussions on the floor, and the motion to nominate Representative Marissa R. Flores to the Office of the Floor Leader was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Congratulations again, colleagues, and also to the new officers of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature in the House of Representatives. We now move down to our next business, the Notifications to the Governor and to the Senate. I would like to appoint Representatives John Paul Sablan and Angelo A. Camacho to inform the Governor and Representatives Julie Ogo and Patrick San Nicholas to inform the Senate, and lastly, I would like to appoint Representatives Joel C. Camacho and Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao to inform the NMI Judiciary that the Twenty-Fourth House of Representatives is duly organized and ready to conduct business. At this time, I call for a short recess.

NOTIFICATIONS TO THE SENATE, GOVERNOR, AND JUDICIARY

The House recessed at 10:30 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:44 a.m.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess, the Chair appointed members to inform the Judiciary, Senate, and the Governor that we have duly organized and are ready to do business. At this time, the House will receive the report on the notifications to the Governor, the Senate, and the NMI Judiciary. At this point, I would like to recognize Representative Angelo A. Camacho.

Representative Angelo A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and members, Representative John Paul Sablan and myself, have notified the Governor that the House is duly organized and ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Julie A. Ogo.

Representative Julie A. Ogo: Thank you, Speaker. Members, Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas and myself, have notified the Senate that the Twenty-Fourth House of Representatives is duly organized and is ready to conduct business.

The Chair recognized Representative Joel C. Camacho.

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and members, Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao and myself have notified the NMI Judiciary that the Twenty-Fourth House of Representatives is duly organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Joel C. Camacho. We will now proceed down to the next item on the agenda, which is Communications, and at this time I now recognize the Clerk. If there are any communications received.

COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Linda Muña: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, there are no communications received.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. As we await, we will go ahead and move down to the next item on the agenda, which is Statement of Members, as we await the Senate’s formal notification of being duly organized. The floor is now open for members who wish to deliver their statements. Members are encouraged to either read their statements out loud or submit them in writing to the House Clerk for inclusion in the official journal and for public record. Please note

that written statements submitted without being read will also be considered as having been presented. Members, are there any objections to this process?

Members of the House voiced “no objections.”

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Okay, with no objections, we will proceed. I am going to start from my left. Okay. So, from left to right, the floor is open for statements by the member. Representative Vincent Aldan.

STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Representative Vincent S. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I just wanted to thank God for allowing me, us, and everyone to be here today. And to bless us every day that we are here to try and do the people's work. At the same time, I would like to thank my children, Kaitlyn Rose, Michael Vincent, and Elbert Jesus Antenero Aldan. I want to thank my sisters, my mom, and my dad for all the mentorship, as well as my committee, my members, and my community service workers. I just want to say thank you, guys, for allowing me to represent again, and best believe that I will not let you down. I will always do my best to represent you in an honorable way, and if I should ever fall short, please, by all means, my door is always open, and I stand by to be corrected. And I thank you so much for allowing me to represent you again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Raymond U. Palacios.

Representative Raymond U. Palacios: First, I want to thank and praise the almighty God for the blessing of his creation and for the eternal gift of his son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Good morning, and congratulations, Mr. Speaker, and to all the members of the Twenty-Fourth Legislative House of Representatives. Good morning, distinguished guests, families, friends, and communities! And, congratulations to U.S. President Donald J. Trump and U.S. Vice President James David Vance. With God on my side and the Lord who gives me strength, I, as an elected member of Precinct 1, am a humble servant of God with a mission and purpose to serve his people with transparency, fairness, empathy, dedication, and respect. I will ensure the people's voices are heard, and their needs are addressed with integrity, wisdom, and justice, upholding the will of God and the principles of righteousness in all legislative actions for a better quality of life for all. With utmost respect, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and love to the community of precinct one, to my wonderful wife, Josephine, my children, my mother, Esperanza Ulloa Palacios, my brother, Gus, seated behind me, to all my siblings and in-laws present here today, and those from afar for their untiring support and love. Hu guiya hamyo! Also, I want to thank and recognize the Legislative Bureau Team and those who assisted with the preparation with their valuable time and effort in making today's special ceremony a success for us all. In closing, I love you all, and may God bless the people of the CNMI! Thank you, Father, it is done! Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Congratulations to all of you. In the interest of time, I do want to submit my full statement. I do want to thank a few people, and I want to start with my family and friends. Most especially to my wife, Juanette; our

children, PJ, Chloe, and our granddaughter, Chleo; and our daughters, Gwendolynn and Halia, for their love and encouragement that keeps me going on. I could not have done this without you. To the precinct two committee club, thank you for your hard work and your dedication during this campaign. And to all my supporters, you are the heart of this journey, and I am so grateful for each of you. This victory is ours. Lastly, I want to thank my incredible people of Election Precinct 2. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for reelecting me as your congressman. Your trust and support over the past twelve years mean everything to me. Being reelected as your congressman is an honor I do not take lightly, and I am excited to keep working for you and representing our community. Congratulations, members, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Elias M. Rangamar.

Representative Elias M. Rangamar: Chief Justice Castro, distinguished guests, colleagues, family, and friends, toduta Marianas, I grace your presence today. Mr. Speaker, I will submit my full statement later. Typically, when I am handed the phone, it is with KSPN Bob Coldeen with the intro, “Tara-dat-tara-dat. Hafa adai, sports fans!” So, this is a new ballgame for me—a new arena. Those that know me, they know that, for almost forty years, they have never seen me wear long pants. I have been in short pants—an island boy. Even through my travels, I have been to Russia in the winter. People were taking pictures of me; they thought I was crazy because I was wearing shorts and slippers. But when you travel and they tell you where you are going, we do not have those things here: coats and stuff. So, I toughed it out. But I always represented the island as the island boy ambassador. Joking aside. With that said, I would like to respectfully congratulate and recognize our reelected leaders, our new leaders, Speaker of the House Mr. Edmund Villagomez, Vice Speaker Mr. Diego Vincent Camacho, and our Floor Leader Ms. Marissa Flores, and our counterparts in the Senate, and our newly elected Congresswoman, Ms. Kimberly King-Hines. Congratulations on your triumph. Well deserved. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to the incredible team working behind the scenes, the Legislative Bureau, and Mr. Perry Tenorio. Great job. To my committee, Chairman Raymond Tebuteb, Secretary Sonia Olopai, Treasurer April Repeki, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ayuyu, family, friends, and supporters, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for standing with me, believing in me, and working so hard to make this vision a reality. Lastly, this moment is not mine alone. I just want to share it with the people who have been with me, unwavering support, my compass, and my greatest source of strength, my family. I want to recognize my wife, Delores, back here, for doing an amazing job raising our kids, our family. The family I brought today is just the tip of the iceberg. We have so many extended families. I apologize to them if I did not mention their name. They know who they are. To my children, from my eldest daughter, Leiseschangmwar—back here, Rachel, who just came from Hawaii, Li’amwar, Bella Liasaar, Kina Neisuupe, and Bwilitomwar. If you are wondering, “Does he have a son, a boy?” Yes, I do. It is the last one, Bwilitomwar. I named him after my dad. But we were not supposed to have him. My wife did not want to have any more, but I was persistent. So, I promised her, “If I coach you to a gold medal, will we have one?” During the MICRO games, she actually did not know she was already pregnant, but she won the medal. I got my wish. I was so excited I told her we were going to name our kid, “Atlas.” Not the titan; what do you call that, the Greek mythology? Atlas, for I have a son! To my constituents, today I stand before you with profound gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility. Our island is more than a place. It is a home, a heritage, and a vision of what we can achieve together. Thank you for placing your trust in me to serve as your representative. Before I yield to my sister on my left, I want to share a thought.

When traditional canoes set sail, the journey depends on the collaboration. To propel and guide the canoe toward the destination, it requires a sail, ropes, a master navigator, a dedicated crew, and, most importantly, the unwavering support of his community. In much the same way, our island nation relies on the collaboration within the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as the active participation of the community. It is spirited that working together can navigate the challenge and chart a course towards progress. Lastly, can we all stand up? We are not going to do any jumping jacks. Can we all stand up, please? We will not do any jumping jacks, I promise. Can I do this, Speaker?

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Yes, yes. No objection.

Several members of the House voiced “no objections.”

Representative Elias M. Rangamar: Alright! Yes, I will stand up. When we close a business deal, make a promise, or seal a covenant, we often signify our commitment through a handshake or a bow. In our daily interactions, we also—our younger generation, they pound; in the church, peace. So, I invite everyone to turn to your neighbor, to your left and right, shake hands, and pound just to show our commitment to working together.

Members of the House, distinguished guests, families, and friends all stood up and turned to one another and shook hands and signed peace throughout the Chamber.

Representative Elias M. Rangamar: With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Rangamar, for that statement and that little exercise. Just knowing, like you mentioned, when we sail, it is a crew. So let us all work together. And with that, I would like to recognize Representative Denita Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Thank you, Speaker. Tirow ngali ghami. Alongemi loll schól lemelem, yami alul lang, faluw, me saát. Tirow ngalugh samwolil lughailang. Bwa tirow ngali ghami schól lemelem loll CNMI yeel. Samwol ye yaasch, ischiyaal Palacios. Samwol number two Apatang, me alongemi loll Legislature, me bwal schor imwal aweewe. Welimwami aramas towlap. Lessor mwamwaay me ngare buenas dias to everyone present on this beautiful inauguration day, January 13, 2025. First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the good Lord for blessing us with this wonderful occasion. It is a reminder of the importance of community, service, and faith in our journey together. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to my family and friends, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in this journey. Your encouragement and love have inspired me every step of the way. To the people of the CNMI, thank you for placing your trust in me once again. A special thank you goes to the voters of precinct three. It is your belief in my ability to serve that motivates me to work tirelessly for our community. I am honored to have the opportunity to continue providing assistance and support to all who need it. As I embark on these next two years, I remain committed to listening to your concerns, advocating for our shared values, and serving everyone with dedication and compassion. Together, we can continue to make the CNMI a better place for all. I will stop here for now and yield the rest of my thirty minutes to our newly elected colleagues. Ghillisow, si yu'us ma'ase for this incredible opportunity. Let us move forward together. Congratulations and fayúscho to all! Amen.

The Chair recognized Representative Joel C. Camacho.

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Speaker. I, myself, will be submitting a written statement at a later time. But Mr. Speaker, Vice Speaker, and Floor Leader, congratulations. Colleagues, congratulations to you all. We have great work ahead of us, and I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. To my family, to my parents, Serafin and Lillian Camacho, thank you so much for your unconditional love and support for the last three terms, and now going on our fourth. Thank you so much. I love you, Mom and Dad. To my wife, Monica Camacho, I love you so much. To our children, Isaiah and Isaac Camacho, I love you guys. You guys are my better rock that keeps me moving forward to continue serving our community with integrity. First and foremost, I want to thank our good Lord, our savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord, for keeping me in your graces and blessing me with this honor. And most importantly, I want to thank the people of Precinct 4. You see us on the side of the road week in, week out; that is our love and our passion for our community. And we are going to continue that same determination, that same commitment, for the next two years. Thank you, all. God bless you all, and God bless the CNMI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Angelo A. Camacho.

Representative Angelo A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, buenas dias, and lessor mwamwaay to everybody here this morning. I was actually thinking if I should read a speech or just wing it, but this legislature I decided to read a speech because I want to feel smart. Aside from that, let me just get right to it. I promise it is not going to take thirty minutes like Representative Denita. But, anyways, here it goes. It is with deep gratitude and humility that I stand before you today, honored to continue serving you as your precinct five representative. This moment is not mine alone but belongs to all of us: my family, my team, my colleagues, and each of you who place your trust in all of us present here this morning. To my family, my parents, my in-laws, and most especially, my wife and children, thank you for your unwavering support, your patience, and your sacrifices that allowed me to dedicate myself to this important work. Your love is my foundation and my greatest motivation. To my staff, Benita, thank you for always putting up with me on a daily basis, including weekends. I give you so much props because I probably would not have the patience for myself. Just know that my family and I are praying for you and your family during this most difficult time. We truly love and appreciate you. To my constituents, thank you for believing in me and lending your voices to our shared vision. This reelection is not just a vote of confidence but a reminder of the responsibility I carry to represent our community with integrity, compassion, and determination. Over this new term, we will build on the progress we made together, tackle the challenges ahead, and ensure that every decision I make reflects the values and aspirations of the people I proudly represent. Thank you for this incredible privilege. Let us continue working hand in hand to create a brighter future for our community. Thank you, and may we always move forward together. Congratulations. Colleagues. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Julie A. Ogo.

Representative Julie A. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations on your role, again, as the Speaker of the House for the Twenty-Fourth. Good morning, everyone that is present today. I

wrote a speech, I think, longer last term, but I am going to keep it short because this is already chapter two for me. I have learned a lot to keep things short. Again, I am deeply honored and humbled to once again be seated in the Twenty-Fourth CNMI House of Representatives. Serving the people of the First Senatorial District, Rota, is a profound privilege, and I am filled with gratitude for the trust you have placed in me to continue this important work. First, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my family—my parents, Patrick and Sinforosa Ogo, who are seated right behind me; my children, Christian, Julian, Ian, Tristan, and Ethan; and my life partner, Brandon Masga. Your unwavering love and encouragement have been my guiding light and source of strength throughout this journey. To my dedicated campaign team—Chairman Michael Sikebert; former Chairman Anthony Barcinas, by the way, congratulations to Mr. Barcinas; he is now elected for the Board of Education, representing the island of Rota; Secretary Asiah Ogo; and Treasurer Jasmine Ogo—and every supporter, volunteer, and family member who believed in me, I owe you my deepest thanks. Your hard work and commitment have been the cornerstone of our success. To the people of the First Senatorial District, thank you for trusting me with your vote of confidence. Your support has reaffirmed my resolve to work tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of Rota and the entire Commonwealth. My first term brought its share of challenges, but it also brought growth, resilience, and accomplishments. As I step into my second term, I remain committed to addressing the pressing needs of our community—fostering economic development, supporting our youth, lowering the cost of living, and ensuring that our cultural and environmental heritage are preserved. To the Honorable Governor Arnold Palacios and Honorable Lieutenant Governor David Apatang, our Mayor of Rota, Aubrey Hocog, and the Rota Municipal Council members, and to the leaders of the CNMI, I look forward to working collaboratively and collectively with you to bring prosperity and economic development to our island for the betterment and livelihood of our people. Congratulations to you again, Mr. Speaker, Vice Speaker Diego Camacho, and Floor Leader Marissa Flores, and to the representatives—both new and returning. Welcome to the House. Let us embrace this opportunity to work together in unity and determination for the betterment of the CNMI. We are brothers and sisters in this service. One love, one Marianas, one heart. Thank you, again, for this incredible honor. Together we will continue to build a brighter future for our islands and our people. Si yu'us ma'ase, ghilissow, maraming salamat! God bless all.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Marissa R. Flores.

Floor Leader Marissa R. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I sit here, I reflect on my opening speech last year, and I believe I said that I was not going to cry. So, I am not going to cry this time. First and foremost, I would like to thank God for the gift of life and for allowing me this honor. To Father James and all the clergy, thank you for the beautiful service this past weekend. It reminded us, and it also reminded me, that we are here first and foremost for the people of our Commonwealth. To my mother, Guadalupe Atalig Flores, for her unwavering support. To my father, defunto Edward William Pangelinan Flores, who is not here, but I wish he was, because he would be so proud, I miss you. To my children, Maria, Juan, and Isabella; my siblings, Mark and his beautiful wife, Donna, and their children, Jonah and Mark Tyler; my sister Margrete and her son, Gauge; and my family in all precincts, including Precinct 3, I love you with all my heart. To my committee, who have worked in the background and up close and personal with me, thank you for your time. And to all of those who have dedicated their time, resources, wisdom, and guidance, undongkulu na si yu'us ma'asi. And to the people of Precinct 3, thank you, ghilissow, salamat po,

for entrusting me to our precinct once again. Congratulations to my colleagues. I wish you all the best. Before I close, I would like to share a piece of advice from someone very, very dear to me, and I quote, “You will be fine. Have confidence. Be strong, be brave, and be open-minded.” - Maria Flores Guerrero. God bless the CNMI, Mr. Speaker. God bless all of us. And may we move forward together for the betterment of all of our people in the Commonwealth. Si yu’us ma’asi. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to everyone that is here today. Good morning to our Chief Justice Alex Castro, in good standing, to Mayor Aldan, Governor Palacios, Lieutenant Governor Apatang, and the committee to reelect, and my family members, as well as my wife, who is here behind me. This is my message to the people of the Commonwealth that today marks a new chapter in our journey together, as we gather at this momentous occasion; I am filled with gratitude, hope, and a deep sense of responsibility. As we embark on this new path, let us remember that our diversity is our great strength. We are a Commonwealth of diverse cultures, languages, and beliefs, yet united by a shared destiny and common values. Our commitment to unity, justice, and equality will guide us as we work together to build a brighter future for all. We will strive to create opportunities for every citizen to thrive, to innovate, and to contribute to the common good. Let us draw aspiration from our past while keeping our eyes firmly fixed on the horizon. We will learn from our successes and our setbacks, and we will use these lessons to forge a new path forward. To the People of the Commonwealth, I pledge to work tirelessly on your behalf. I will listen to your concerns, I will hear your voices, and I will work to address the challenges that we face together. Let us begin this new chapter with the hope, optimism, and shared commitment to building a better future for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. To my dear people of Tinian, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation for your unwavering love, support, and trust in me in the last two elections. Your confidence in my leadership means the world to me. This past election, your vote of confidence was a resounding affirmation of our shared vision for Tinian’s future. I am committed to continuing our work together, addressing the challenges we face, and seizing the opportunities that lie ahead. Your trust and gratitude are invaluable to me, and I pledge to remain dedicated to our community’s well-being and prosperity. Thank you again for your love, support, and trust; I am honored to serve as your representative in the Twenty-Fourth CNMI Legislature House of Representatives once again. God bless you all, and God bless the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Thomas DLC Manglona.

Representative Thomas DLC Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations again on your reelection to the Speakership, Vice Speaker Camacho, Floor Leader Flores, as well as my colleagues, both new and—I am not going to say old, but still young—congratulations to all of you. Hafa adai, tirow, mabuhay, and greetings to all. Before I begin, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of those who have led me to this moment. First and foremost, I want to thank the good Lord above for blessing me with the gift of life, for the opportunity to serve our people, and to be a part of this momentous occasion today. I owe everything to the people of the commonwealth, most especially the great people of precinct five, for once again instilling their

faith and trust in me to serve another term for our amazing community alongside my very good colleague, Representative Angelo A. Camacho, and the rest of my colleagues in the Twenty-Fourth Commonwealth Legislature. In addition, to our outstanding, hardworking Legislative Bureau staff led by Director Perry Tenorio. Serving in this capacity has truly been the greatest honor of my life. I would also like to acknowledge the late Governor Eloy S. Inos, the late Lieutenant Governor Benjamin T. Manglona, the late Representative Fransisco S. Dela Cruz, and the late Legislative Director Melchor J. Mendiola. Honorable public leaders in my family, whose outstanding work inspired me to become the public servant that I am today. I carry my name with pride, for it is a combination of my two late grandfathers, Thomas M. Manglona, Sr., and John S. Dela Cruz. Though they are not here with us physically, I know they continue to guide me in spirit. I love you and miss you both so much. I want to thank my two amazing grandmothers, Laura I. Manglona and Adresina T. Dela Cruz, who, despite all the challenges, always make the effort to be there for me. Thank you for teaching me the most valuable aspects of our rich culture, the most important of which is the respect that I have for our man'amko. I would not be here without my parents, Fire Chief Thomas M. Manglona, Jr. and Lynette T. Dela Cruz, as well as my brother, Elio, and my sister, Andrew Manglona. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for all their love and support throughout my campaign and throughout my life. I want to thank my family members, both here and abroad, physically and spiritually, who are with us on this very special day. And to all our dignitaries, both on the island and from our neighboring islands, thank you for joining us. We truly appreciate your presence here today. They say teamwork makes the dream work, and none of this would be possible without my committee to elect, Treasurer and Secretary, Shantelle M. Royo, Vice Chairman Raynard C. Travilla, and last but not least, my Chairman Benjamin T. Manglona and his wife, the greatest Executive Assistant in the world, Kiana C. Manglona, and their wonderful families. Thank you so much for all your hard work and sacrifice to make this dream work. A few months ago, we lost an amazing, kind, and humble man who supported me much throughout my campaign and in my life in general, my uncle Kevin R. Maratita. Thank you, Uncle Kev, and I hope to continue to make you proud. And to my late godfather Rodger S. Taisacan, thank you for everything too. I love you and miss you. Lastly, I want to take the time to honor my late daughter, my guardian angel, Tamia M. Manglona. Who I wish, more than anything in this world, could be with me today. Everything I do is from the heart because of the love that she showed me when she was here on this earth. I will continue to spread her love and light, whether in this capacity or in life in general, in honor of her legacy. Her short life made me realize that this life is but a dream, and instead of wasting our time and letting our differences divide us, we can choose to spend our time learning to understand one another, healing one another, and sharing love and light. Especially with those who need it the most. In the darkest of times, especially with all that is going on in our world right now. Our people look to us as leaders to be the beacon of light. So, let us all work together. Lead the way. Shine the light to a more loving and prosperous future for all that call the Marianas home. Biba Marianas! Unkorason, unguinaiya, tipiyew. Si yu'us ma'asi. Ghilissow. Salamat. And thank you all.

The Chair recognized Representative Ralph N. Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to you and your young leadership, Vice Speaker Diego Vincent Camacho and Floor Leader Marissa Flores. I, too, will be submitting my official statement. I had it on my phone, but my other son has my phone. And I am not prepared. But, first and foremost, I would like to thank Precinct 3 for putting me

back in office again. I will not be here; I think they have confidence in me, placing me here again for the sixth time. So, I am not sure if it is good or bad. Let me thank my family—my mom and dad, who are in my office right now, and my wife and my son, back here—for their support. Throughout the years they put up with me, I guess, always out with Representative Sablan and Representative Camacho. This year is a little bit different; I think I am a little bit locked down. Kind of what my colleague, Representative Elias, said, there is going to be an atlas pretty soon. I just want to thank, again, everybody for being here and supporting me. And thank you, again, Speaker. I look forward to working with everybody here. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Blas T. Attao.

Representative Blas T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all. Chief Justice, thank you for sticking around while everyone else ran to the Senate. You know exactly where we begin the financials. Thank you for your time and always dedicating your service to the House of Representatives over the years. First and foremost, on behalf of my better and smarter half, Jeannie, our daughter, Brea, my sister Lupe, who is sitting behind me as well, my parents, my siblings, and their families. We would like to extend our congratulations to you, Speaker Villagomez; Vice Speaker Camacho; Floor Leader Flores; and the colleagues of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature. Congratulations to you, your respective committees to elect, and your families for a successful election. The people believe in each and every one of you—each and every one of us—to continue serving or start serving them as you begin your rookie term. To the new members of this body, my office will always be open, and I will be at your disposal at any given time that I can assist you. It is just like the colleagues that are continuing their service here in the Twenty-Fourth Legislature have been with us in the twenties—Twenty-Third, Twenty-Second, and Twenty-First—and backwards. That just shows how much older we are now. Representative Villagomez, for however young he is, is the longest-serving member in this House, and for that, we congratulate you, Speaker. You will be meeting sixteen or seventeen years of service in the legislature in your forties, while others did it in their sixties. That shows your hard work and dedication to the people—not just in our precinct but in the CNMI—that they trust you to serve them in this body. Again, from Jeannie and our daughter, we would like to thank our committee, led by Chairman Lisua, our Secretary-Treasurer Aundrea Tenorio, and our Logistics Chair Jeremy Koshiro, for their hard work and dedication throughout the years. Most especially in this last campaign. And to the people of the Commonwealth, thank you for allowing us to continue serving you in this body, most especially to the people of Precinct Three. Thank you for your trust and allowing myself and my colleagues, in precinct three, to continue serving you guys in this body. The people of the CNMI, like I said, have spoken. We are Team CNMI House of Representatives for the Twenty-Fourth Legislature. Let us continue that trend. And just like Representative Rangamar, we love sports. We will deal with this as a sporting event, and like the sermon from Pali James, we leave everything on the floor, and we remember that we are human beings at the end. We will continue to be respectful outside of this floor. Whether we debate on great issues, we will get to that point where we will not agree on everything, but at the very least, when we walk out of this chamber, we are going to have respect for one another and respect each other's families because the problem should be solved in here. Not to be brought out to homes or out to the public. That is our job. They put us here to make sure that we come up with the best possible solutions for everybody. Not for us to go out there and show our disagreements on the floor out in public. So, with that being said, congratulations to each and every one of you guys, Mr. Speaker, Vice Speaker, Floor Leader, and

to all our colleagues. On behalf of my family and our respective committee, we thank your families for allowing you to continue to serve and to actually put your name out to serve our people. And to those that did not make it in, I congratulate you and your families for stepping up to the plate and making yourselves available as an option to our people to be placed in this body. So that they can be represented to the best of our abilities. So, with that, I thank you guys again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

The Chair recognized Representative Malcolm J. Omar.

Representative Malcolm J. Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations again on your election to the office of the Speakership. To my primo, Diego Camacho, congratulations, prim. And Floor Leader Marissa, congratulations. Hafa adai, tirow, me fayúsko, and kasalelia mangko. To the Honorable Chief Justice Alex Castro, thank you. The members of the cabinet in the gallery, the Youth Congress, thank you for being here, and all distinguished guests who attended the organizational part of the session, and ladies and gentlemen here with us today. First and foremost, I would like to thank God the Almighty for graciously and mercifully granting me his divine hands that have guided me thus far. I also wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you colleagues. To the leadership, the officers, and members, I genuinely look forward to working with and alongside you in serving this great Commonwealth and its great people who have entrusted us with this noble responsibility. I do furthermore wish to take this time to thank my family, friends, and supporters for their endless love and support. My mom, seated behind me, Rosa Omar Castro, my dad's sister, my Auntie Osing Rosita Jones Castro, thank you for your love and support in everything I choose to do. To my committee to reelect, thank you immensely for your time, dedication, and your sacrifices. To my beloved father, the late Eddie Jones Castro, and my grandmother, Angelica Quitugua Aguon Omar, and for my families that have gone before us, my loved ones, they are my source of strength, comfort, and refuge throughout this turbulent journey that has led me here today. But all in all, I would not be here today, and all of this would not have been possible for the people of Precinct 4, from Saipan and the Northern Islands. Thank you for your trust and confidence. I want to recognize my partner, my brother, Joel Camacho, for all his hard work and also his assistance and help throughout my first term in the House. Thank you. Thank you, partner. To my dear community that I proudly serve, I stand before you with great honor and deep humility. Words continue to fail me as I struggle to find adequate words to truly express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your unwavering love and support throughout this turbulent journey that has led me here, serving you for a second term as your representative to the House. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to serve you in the Twenty-Fourth Legislature. This has been the greatest honor and privilege of a lifetime. Although words may be insufficient, I continue to stand committed to letting my actions be the expression of my gratitude. I will take the valuable lessons learned from the past term and work tirelessly to be the best representative for you. I reaffirm my commitment to providing for and serving you, our children, youth, and, of course, the community that raised me and the entire Commonwealth. With that said, congratulate all the members, my colleagues again, in this Twenty-Fourth Legislature, and I look forward again to all our successes and the failures, because we only learn from them, and that is how we move forward. That is it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Buenas dias.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel I. Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel I. Aquino, Jr.: Good morning, Speaker. Congratulations to you, Vice Speaker, and Floor Leader. I also would like to thank God for everything in my life. I thank him for making everything possible through prayer; believe me, there was a lot of prayer during campaign time. Next, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you, my partner, John Paul, who assured me we will work together, and all members who are here today. I would like to extend my appreciation to the staff of the Legislative Bureau for everything they have done to assist me in transitioning to this new role. I want to thank my chairman, George Camacho, who did not want to be known, but I want to get him in trouble; Vice Chairman Winnie Haro and my treasurer and wife, Joann Aquino, I want to thank you for everything you guys have done. I want to thank Mr. Ken Kaneshi, who is in the office, and his team for the outstanding job they did with logistics and the odd request that I tasked them to do. I want to thank my mom, who is out there sitting, and my dad, Maria, and Mr. Felix Perez. My mom was so excited that she forgot to pack her shoes. I want to thank my godson, Josh Leon Guerrero, for making this trip also. I want to thank my children, Alicia, her partner Shay, and our granddaughter, Lia, Mathew, Megan, Micah, and Noel, who I call “Peawe,” and Zachary, for their unconditional love and support and are here today in spirit. I want to thank my father, the late Daniel Evangelista Aquino, and my mom, Maria, for teaching me that you never give up no matter how many times you get knocked down. I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang for lessons about politics. I remember that one time that I lost, and there was a funeral the following day, and he says, “Danny, you better make sure that you follow me to that funeral.” And let me tell you, that is one of the hardest things to do. When you lose and just go up to a public event, like a funeral, to show your face. But I thank him for that. I want to thank my Uncle Wence and Auntie Connie for your valuable help. I want to thank Winnie again, Ken, my wife, Joann, my friends, and my advisors for going on this journey with me and standing by my side each step of the way and for all the house-to-house that everyone has done and contributed. I want to thank and recognize the following people, and I ask for your patience, because in Precinct 2, there is one thing: if you do not give them the respect or thanks, it might come back to bite you. So far, this is my first term, and maybe there are others to come. I want to thank Uncle Ben and Auntie Josie Fitial; I want to thank Uncle Rude and his amazing family; Uncle Mariano Bermudes, who was one of my biggest supporters; Auntie Rita Cruz; Paul and Macy, and their family; Auntie Terry Bolis; Uncle Ben Aldan and his entire family; Uncle Ben Taitano; the Kaipat family; Itibus and Kapileo families; Uncle Ike and his family; Uncle John and Auntie Mary Aquino; Auntie Mary Blas; Auntie Grace Aldan and her family; the Kabazo family; Uncle John; Auntie Rita Morgan; Uncle Tony and Auntie Atcha and their family; Uncle Joe Aldan and his family; the Masga family; Felis Camacho and her family; Uncle Joe; Auntie Pat; Lambert; and Louise and their family; Fernando. I want to thank Clarissa Flores and John Gonzales and his supporters. I want to personally thank my supporters, who have followed me over the years. And I also especially want to thank Uncle John Santiago and the entire boating crew for their support. Thank you, John, from the bottom of my heart. Uncle Jess and Auntie Mona, thank you. Auntie Mona Kumoi, Uncle Tony Muna, and to all my cousins and family, thank you for everything. I was told that my path to victory was near impossible and that I had no chance of winning because my opponents locked in key endorsements. But the truth is, only God can make anything possible through prayer. And I felt God's presence through my brother, Frank, as we discussed strategy weeks before his untimely passing. It was always our dream to work for public office so that we can help the people of the CNMI. I want to take this time now to say, “Chief, we did it!” Thank you to my sister-in-law Rosa and Auntie Augauda for the help on election day and with the follow-up with families. I am here because the people of Precinct 2 want change. The road or path to being

a member of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature was very challenging but rewarding. You could say it was like Danny versus Goliath on election day. We are a team of less than five; we are up against an army of over one hundred. On election day, we could not set up a tent because all the spaces were occupied. In lieu of a tent, we got a small bench and sat in front of my sign. We were blessed that U.S. Delegate King-Hines and the Chairman Chris Tenorio, and the G.O.P. allowed us to take refuge under their tent away from the excruciating heat on election day. I want to thank them both for everything they did to help me. I offer my humble and sincere appreciation and gratitude to the five hundred and sixty-nine people who placed their trust and confidence in my leadership ability. The results of this election were not possible without your vote. This is not my victory; it is our victory. It is a victory for Precinct 2; it is a victory for the silent majority who want progress and positive change in our community. My message to every voter that supported me is that as long as we stand united together, our number will continue to grow in size and strength. Today, I am wearing five pins on my coat. One is the CNMI seal, which signifies my love and respect for the CNMI and its people. It is a reminder of the promises I made to each voter: to always work hard and to find solutions to improve the livelihood of the people I represent in Election District 2. The trump pin, of course, signifies my hope, trust, and confidence in the newly elected Forty-Seventh President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. That the CNMI will benefit economically and prosper as part of his vision of building a stronger economy. Military, and a better America. The United States Army veteran pin signifies my love and respect for all military branches of service and all veterans and their families. I am committed to standing by, supporting, and assisting all military veterans. The army engineer pin with a model essayons means let us try in French. This pin signifies us coming together collaboratively to bring our resources together to help the community as a whole. That is why I wore the pin today. And the Judiciary pin for Chief Justice Alex Castro. I told you I wore your pin in support of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement. Three decades ago, I worked as a personal security and marshal assigned to presiding Judge Paul J. Abate and presiding Judge Alberto Lamorena. During those brief years, I grew to respect the work that core personnel perform. Last week I received a concern about potholes on Texas Road. Colleague, we need to take care of that. The chief justice is right here, and I gave him my word. So having all of that, I just want to say thank you, undunguklun si yu'us ma'asi, and thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Joseph A. Flores.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought we were going to start the speech on our side, the right side, because I prepared twenty-six pages. Because in the last term, there were a lot. So, I will keep it short because time is of the essence. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Vice Speaker, newly elected Floor Leader. Another Flores in the House. Mr. Speaker and fellow constituents and colleagues, I sit here today with a heart full of gratitude and appreciation as we gather here in this esteemed chamber. I will take a moment to extend my deepest thanks to the voters of Precinct 1. It is your voice that has brought us here, and it is your trust in us that motivates our work each day. It is a profound honor to represent the people of Precinct 1 again, as this will be my fourth term in the legislature. I promise to carry your voice with me as we navigate the challenges ahead. Together, we are working to continue toward solutions that improve access to health care, create jobs, strengthen education, and foster a safer community. I also want to remind you that my door is always open. Your feedback is not just welcome; it is essential. This is your government, and I am here to serve you. Thank you once again for your trust, your engagement, and your unwavering commitment. Together we can achieve great things.

Lastly, I would like to thank my committee chairman, Martin Cruz, along with his vice, Bonnie Ogo, and my family. And especially my wife for the continuing love and support in my journey in becoming your congressman in this Twenty-Fourth Legislature as my fourth term. Thank you, and may God bless us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to congratulate you also for taking the helm again as a Speaker and the new Vice Speaker. And to all the members that are here: I would just like to congratulate you too. As you can see, I am one of the senior members, too, over here. I would speak some Chamorro, I mean English, but I will also speak my native tongue. I would like to acknowledge before I move on. I would like to acknowledge the Chief Justice, Mr. Alex Castro. I have seen in the past that I have been here in the legislature for quite some time. In fact, Representative Yumul has mentioned we were like a ping pong ball. We win, and then we are out, and then we win. And thank God, really. Thank God that we are chosen to be here. All of us here that are here today are the chosen ones to be here representing the people. Because we are not going to be here if we do not get the blessings. I am not a preacher, but I know. And we are all blessed to be here to represent the people of the CNMI. So, let us, please, let us not throw away that opportunity. If our heart is in for the people, then let us move forward. We have been faced with challenges these past years, and even up to now we are still faced with challenges that we still have to face ahead and try to resolve all those challenges to put them behind us. Going back to Representative Yumul, when we lost together at one term, he passed by my house, and I was not doing anything. Well, I was doing something. But he passed by my house, and he goes, “What are you doing?” And I said, “Why do you not come down?” When he came down the garage, I was making a dining table. He said, “Can I help you out?” I said, “You got nothing to do at your house?” He said, “No. But you know I just want to get the...” Because he feels too that we are out of touch in ways. And it is true. When you run for office and then you lose, you feel like you have been neglected or isolated by something. So, that is basically how we feel. But we did not give up. Why? Because we were chosen. We were chosen to continue on, and we managed to continue on. At my age, like Chief Justice Castro over here, I have known him since he first started working for the court when I was working for Continental Airlines. And I am so proud of him too. But at the same time, I like to say this: it might be awkward, but I like to say that sometimes here in the Legislature, with the separation of power, the Legislative, Judicial, and the Administration, sometimes we do not see each other eye-to-eye. And it is good that we have our own opinion. But what I am trying to say, for the sake of the people and the challenges we have for in front of the people and for the generation to come, is that we have to work together cohesively and to assure our effort that these challenges are faced forward and we would move on for our future generation. I have behind me my wife, Andrea; she is a Native American. I am Chamorro and who knows what. Yes, because we are all mixed. But I also have my kids; I have Linoa; I have Jeremiah; I have Darrah; I have David; and I have Annrita. They are all here with me, and they are on my back. As well as all you guys, you folks also over here, all you representatives, your families are here. They are happy; they are proud. And we should be. We should be. Why? Because we are making a difference for our people, for our community. And I would just like to say to us members that are here today, thank you, and let us work together as much as possible. We have different opinions, but let us move ahead. Let us try a course that we would face forward and not get into a problem for our people and whatnot. That is the most important thing. I do not have to be technical

and read all of this kind of stuff and everything. All those technical words and everything, no. Maila yi bai sangani amyu finu i Chamorro. Taya mass i protanti. Pagu ya ha'ita. Tanai gracias i saina na ta gatsa i tempu. Man mottu hit gi tempu ya todudu man guiguie guine masha guahu mas amko ginen esti. Loa esti bai sangani amyu. Todudit bindisiru ginen i saina. Anaoyo I bindension para ta'hita para tai sempre publiku. Pues maila ya ta chogui maolek ta korihi baba, ya ta chogui maolek, yu gao minaolek para famagonta gi manmanmaila. Mr. Speaker, enaoa, si yu'us ma'asi.

The Chair recognized Representative Roy A. Ada.

Representative Roy A. Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must be honest; I have been waiting for everybody. I really need the bathroom. I do not know about you guys, but thank you for making it to me. Mr. Speaker, Chief Justice, Floor Leader Flores, and Vice Speaker, congratulations on your election to the Twenty-Fourth Legislature. To my colleagues, congratulations to you and your family. Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests. First and foremost, I would like to give thanks to God, our Lord, for bringing us all together and for blessing our family and friends. I hope for a very prosperous 2025 for all of us. I am deeply humbled and grateful to be reelected as your congressman. This is not just an honor but a profound responsibility, one I carry with great respect. Thank you for placing your trust in me once again. Your confidence assures our shared vision for the CNMI. These challenging times are marked by economic struggles and social injustice, yet I see strength and resilience in our people, in the families that work tirelessly to provide for their loved ones, students striving for a brighter future, and neighbors supporting each other without any hesitation. Together we must stand united to overcome these obstacles and build a better tomorrow. And as your congressman, I pledge to continue to advocate for you all, for opportunities, and for a better future. I will continue to listen, collaborate, and ensure our diverse voices are heard in shaping our future. I want to thank those who have supported me on this journey. To my parents, Lucy and Martin; to my wife, Roxanne; and to my kids, RJ and Dylan, your love and sacrifice mean everything to me. To my committee to reelect, our chairwoman, Lisa Ada, and my team: I am truly blessed to have you by my side. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the CNMI GOP. That is former President, former Lieutenant Governor Diego Benavente, and the Republican Party for their dedication and support. I also would like to thank and congratulate our newly elected US delegate, Kimberly Hines. And congratulations to newly elected President Trump. Lastly, I honor the sacrifices of those who came before us—the man'amko, our veterans, and everyday heroes who scourge and inspire us to continue fighting for justice and progress. As I take this Oath of Office again, I do so with a renewed determination. Let us build a future where every child can dream freely, every worker can prosper, and the community can strive in harmony. Together we will create a brighter future for all. Thank you and God bless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Vice Speaker Diego F. Camacho.

Vice Speaker Diego F. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Buenas dias, hafa adai, yan tirow. To our distinguished guests, dignitaries, families, and friends, welcome to your House. First and foremost, I would like to thank the good Lord for all of his blessings and for bringing us all here today. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve with you all, my colleagues. Your confidence in me to lead this Twenty-Fourth Legislature as your vice speaker humbles me. On behalf of my wife, Precilla, my parents, and I extend our sincere appreciation to

the good people of Precinct 1 for their support and trust to serve them once again. And I pledge to continue doing good work for our community. On the Inauguration of the Twenty-Third Legislature, a common term used in most of our remarks was the word “challenging”; indeed, it was. With our limited resources these past two years, we were able to keep our government afloat, and sacrifices were made; nonetheless, we ended the term in better financial understanding. And we must maintain the momentum by controlling government expenditures and introducing sensible legislation to make way for new industries and for private sector stability and expansion. Colleagues, I am confident that we can make it happen. We can work to make it happen. As Representative BJ had mentioned before, we are Team CNMI. And we have a couch now, so we are going to bring the gold medal. I look forward to working with you all. And congratulations, Floor Leader and Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize our Speaker for coming in to his eighth term in office and his third ascension to the Speaker. Can we give him a round of applause, please? Thank you, all. Si yu’us ma’asi. Ghilissow.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker Camacho. Diego Vincent Camacho. Because the last vice speaker was also a Camacho. Chief Justice, before I say something, would you like to say something? Just kidding. Okay. And just like Representative Roy Ada, yes, I have been holding it too, Representative Roy. But, yes, I will be submitting a statement at a later time. But I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to God for the gift of life and all the blessings that I have received in my life. Most especially the gift of family: my parents, Joseph C. and Emma S. Villagomez; my siblings, Eulalia Villagomez and Edwin Villagomez; and my core, Joelene; and our children. The last time, the last election, I mentioned that he was halfway through pharmacy school; now he is a doctor. So, I want to recognize Gino Benavente, who is serving our people at the CHCC; Jaden, who is our all-around jack of all trades; and the real speaker of the House, Emalee. I love you all, and I thank you for allowing me to serve our people of the CNMI. I would also like to thank my committee to reelecting, again, Chairwoman Eulalia Villagomez, period. And my treasurer secretary, Queanna Sablan, to Elsa, to, of course, my better half, Jolene, and our chief of logistics, Jaden. I would like to thank you, colleagues. Especially those in the Twenty-Third, for all the help and support. And now with the Twenty-Fourth, I look forward to working with all of you. Congratulations, Vice Speaker. Congratulations, Floor Leader. And congratulations to all of you, your team, and your families as well. And last but not least, I would like to give thanks to the people of the CNMI, most especially the people of precinct three, for continuing to give me the support and the trust and the vote of confidence to put me in this honorable position, to give me this privileged position, to serve you as your representative for the eighth time. Once again, si yu’us ma’asi, ghilissow remi, and thank you very much. Alright, with that, we are done with the statements of the members. I was just informed by the clerk that the Senate is ready to, we are ready to receive their message that they are duly organized. So, with that, I would like to call in Senator King-Nabors and Senator Donald Manglona. Or should I say, Vice President Karl King-Nabors and Floor Leader Donald Manglona.

Vice President Karl King-Nabors: Mr. Speaker and members, I am here to inform you that the Twenty-Fourth CNMI Senate is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you very much, Senators. Thank you very much, Colleagues. And with that we will now move down to the next item on the agenda, which is Announcements. Are there any announcements on the floor?

There were no announcements made on the floor by the House members.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: With no further announcements, I would like to announce the members who will be heading the House Standing Committees. And they are as follows: Representative John Paul Sablan will be chairing the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means; Representative Joel C. Camacho will be returning to his chairmanship as the chairman on Judiciary and Governmental Operations; Representative Vincent S. Aldan will continue to chair the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication, or PUTC; and Representative Roman C. Benavente will be chairing the House Committee on Education. Representative Angelo A. Camacho will continue to chair the House committee on Natural Resources, and Representative Denita K. Yangetmai will chair the House committee on cannabis. Representative Malcolm J. Omar will continue to chair the House committee on Health and Welfare. In this term we separated Commerce and Tourism, and I would like to welcome Representative Thoman John Dela Cruz Manglona, who will be chairing the committee on Commerce; Representative Julie A. Ogo, who will chair the committee on Tourism; Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, who will chair the House committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs; and lastly, Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul, who will chair the House committee on Gaming. Any questions?

There were no discussions on the floor.

Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez: Alright. I encourage all persons to please try to include all members in the House. Well, of course, I cannot be a member or a chairperson, but please include your colleagues in your committees. Thank you. And with that, we now move down to the last part of our agenda for this organization session, which is Adjournment. And I would like to now recognize Floor Leader Marissa Flores.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Marissa Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to adjourn subject to the call of the chair. So, moved.

The motion was seconded.

The motion to adjourn was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The House adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Mistress of Ceremony Brenalyn T. Santos: Thank you, Speaker Villagomez. I ask you all to please stand as I call up Pastor Eric Abragan to deliver the Benediction.

Pastor Eric Abragan delivered the Benediction.

Mistress of Ceremony Brenalyn T. Santos: Please be seated. In closing, we extend our appreciation to Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Reverend Father Nelson Plohimon, Pastor Eric Abragan, Voices of the Marianas, and the CNMI Color Guards for their active participation in today's ceremony. We also appreciate the attendance of our distinguished guests, as well as the family and friends of our members. We especially want to thank those that joined us via the live broadcast and appreciate your understanding of the strict limitation of in-person participation. We would like to thank the Northern Marianas College for assisting the Legislature by providing photography coverage for this morning's organizational session. The members of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and the Legislative Bureau invite you to join us for lunch on the legislature's main parking lot. With that said, honorable guest, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes today's ceremony. On behalf of the House of Representatives and the Legislative Bureau, si Yu'us ma'ase, ghilissow tomwógh remi, and thank you all for joining today's activities.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

Statement of Members attached.

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE



OFFICE OF CNMI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - PRECINCT 5

THOMAS JOHN "TJ" DLC. MANGLOÑA

January 13, 2025

Inauguration Day Statement

Hafa Adai, Tirow, Mabuhay, and Greetings to all.

Before I begin, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have led me to this moment.

First and foremost, I want to thank the good Lord above for blessing me with the gift of life, for the opportunity to serve our people, and to be a part of this momentous occasion today.

I owe everything to the people of the Commonwealth, most especially the great people of Precinct 5, for once again instilling their faith and trust in me to serve another term for our amazing community alongside my very good colleague, Representative Angelo A. Camacho, and the rest of my colleagues in the 24th Commonwealth Legislature, in addition to our outstanding, hardworking Legislative Bureau staff led by Director Perry Tenorio. Serving in this capacity has truly been the greatest honor of my life.

I would also like to acknowledge the late Governor Eloy S. Inos, the late Lt. Governor Benjamin T. Manglona, the late Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and the late Legislative Bureau Director Melchor J. Mendiola, honorable public leaders in my family whose outstanding work inspired me to become the public servant I am today.

I carry my name with pride, for it is a combination of my two late grandfathers, Thomas M. Manglona Sr. and John S. Dela Cruz. Though they are not with us physically, I know they continue to guide me in spirit. I love you and miss you both so much.

I want to thank my two amazing and beautiful grandmothers, Laura I. Manglona and Andresina T. Dela Cruz, who, despite whatever challenges, always make the effort to be there for me. Thank you for teaching me the most valuable aspects of our rich culture, the most important of which is the respect I have for our manamkos.

I would not be here without my parents, Fire Chief Thomas M. Manglona Jr. and Lynette T. Dela Cruz, as well as my brother Ellio and sister Andra Manglona. I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart for all their love and support throughout my campaign and throughout my life.



(670)-664-8839



Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial
Building Capitol Hill, Saipan



reptjmanglonaP5@gmail.com



I want to thank all my family members and friends, both here and abroad, physically and spiritually, who are with us on this very special day. To all our dignitaries, both on-island and from our neighboring islands, thank you for joining us. We truly appreciate your presence here today.

They say teamwork makes the dream work. None of this would be possible without the tireless work of my Committee to Elect: Treasurer/Secretary Chantel M. Royal, Vice Chairman Raynard C. Travilla, and last but not least, my Chairman Benjamin Paul T. Manglona and his wife, the greatest executive assistant in the world, Kianna C. Manglona, and their wonderful families. Thank you so much for all your hard work and sacrifice to make this dream work.

A few months ago, we lost an amazing, kind, and humble man who had supported me so much throughout my campaign and my life in general—my Uncle Kevin R. Maratita. Thank you for everything, Uncle Kev, and I hope to continue to make you proud. To my late great Godfather, Roger S. Taisacan, thank you for everything. I love and miss you, too.

Lastly, I want to take the time to honor my late daughter and guardian angel, Tamia M. Manglona, who I wish more than anything in this world could be with me today. Everything I do, I do from the heart because of the love that she showed me when she was on this earth. I will continue to spread her love and light, whether in this capacity or life in general, in honor of her legacy.

Her short life made me realize that life is but a dream, and instead of wasting our time letting our differences divide us, we can choose to spend our time learning to understand each other, heal one another, and share love and light, especially with those who need it the most.

In the darkest of times, especially with all that is going on in our world right now, our people look to us as leaders to be that beacon of light. So let us all work together, lead the way, and shine the light toward a more loving and prosperous future for all that call the Marianas home.

Biba Marianas! Un Kurason, Un Guiniya, Tipiyeew!

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow, Salamat, and Thank You!



Thomas John "TJ" Dela Cruz Mangloña
Representative – Precinct 5
24th CNMI Legislature



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Building Capitol Hill, Saipan



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Statement on Being Honored to Serve in the 24th CNMI House of Representatives

I am deeply honored and humbled to once again be seated in the 24th CNMI House of Representatives. Serving the people of the 1st Senatorial District, Rota, is a profound privilege, and I am filled with gratitude for the trust you have placed in me to continue this important work.

First, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my family—my parents, Patrick and Sinforosa Ogo, my children Christian, Julian, Ian, Tristan, and Ethan, and my life partner, Brandon Masga. Your unwavering love and encouragement have been my guiding light and source of strength throughout this journey.

To my dedicated campaign team—Chairman Michael Sikebert, former Chairman Anthony Barcinas, Secretary Asiah Ogo, Treasurer Jasmine Ogo—and every supporter, volunteer, and family member who believed in me, I owe you my deepest thanks. Your hard work and commitment have been the cornerstone of our success.

To the people of the 1st Senatorial District, thank you for trusting me with your vote of confidence. Your support has reaffirmed my resolve to work tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of Rota and the entire Commonwealth.

My first term brought its share of challenges, but it also brought growth, resilience, and accomplishments. As I step into my second term, I remain committed to addressing the pressing needs of our community—fostering economic development, supporting our youth, lowering the cost of living, and ensuring that our cultural and environmental heritage are preserved.

To the leaders of Rota, I look forward to working collaboratively and collectively with you to bring prosperity and economic development to our island for the betterment and livelihood of our people.

I am also deeply grateful to be appointed as the Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Tourism in the 24th House. Together, let us explore and seize opportunities to enhance the CNMI's tourism industry, ensuring it benefits every part of our islands and our people.

Congratulations to my fellow Representatives, both new and returning. Let us embrace this opportunity to work together, in unity and determination, for the betterment of the CNMI. We are brothers and sisters in service.

Thank you again for this incredible honor. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for our islands and our people.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow, Maraming Salamat! God bless.



OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND U. PALACIOS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

Rep. Raymond U. Palacios Inaugural Statement presented on January 13, 2025

First, I want to than and praise the Almighty God for blessings of his creation and for the eternal gift of his son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Good morning and Congratulations Mr. Speaker and to all the members of the 24th Legislative House of Representatives.

Good morning distinguished guests, families, friends and communities.

And...Congratulations to U.S. President Donald J. Trump and U.S. Vice President James David Vance.

With God on my side and the Lord who gives me strength, I, as an elected member of Precinct 1, am a humble servant of God with a mission and purpose to serve his people with transparency, fairness, empathy, dedication and respect. I will ensure the peoples voices are heard, and their needs are addressed with integrity, wisdom, justice, and upholding the will of God and the principles of righteousness in all legislative actions for a better quality of life for all.

With utmost respect, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and love to the community of Precinct 1, to my wonderful wife Josephine, my children, to my loving mother Esperanza Ulloa Palacios, my brother Gus, seated behind me, to all my siblings and in-laws present here today, and those from afar for their untiring support and love.

Hu Sen Guiya Hamyo!

Also, I want to thank and recognize the Legislative Bureau Tam and those who assisted with the preparation with their valuable time and effort in making today's special ceremony a success for us all.

In closing, I Love You All and May God Bless the People of the CNMI!!!

Thank you, Father, it is Done!



REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL I. AQUINO JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 24TH CNMI LEGISLATURE

Good Morning. I would like to first thank God for everything in my life. I thank him for making everything possible through prayer and believe me there was a lot of that. Next, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all members of the 24th Commonwealth Legislature. I would like to extend my appreciation to the staff of the Legislative Bureau for everything they have done to assist me transitioning into my new role.

I want to thank my Chairman George Camacho, Vice Chairman Wenny Haruo and my treasurer /wife Joann Aquino. I want to thank Mr. Ken Kaneshi and his team for doing an outstanding job with logistics and all the odd requests that he was tasked to do.

I would like to thank my mom and dad Maria and Felix Perez, my Godson Joshua Leon Guerrero for making this trip to Saipan. I want to thank my children, Alicia Shae & Lia, Matthew, Megan, Micah & Noelle, and Zachary for their unconditional love and support and are here today in spirit, I want to thank my father the late Daniel Evangelista Aquino and my mom Maria for teaching me that you never give up no matter how many times you get knocked down. I want to thank the Lt. Governor David M. Apatang for teaching me lessons in politics.

Uncle Wence and Auntie Connie for your valuable help. I want to thank Wenny, Ken, my wife Joann, my friends and advisors for going on this battle with me and standing by my side each step of the way and for all the house to house everyone contributed. I would like to recognize and thank the following:

1. Uncle Ben and Auntie Josie Fitial
2. Uncle Rudy and his amazing family
3. Uncle Mariano Bermudes who was one of my biggest supporters.
4. Auntie Rita Cruz, Paula, Macy and their family
5. Auntie Terry Bolis
6. Uncle Ben Aldan and his entire family
7. Uncle Ben Taitano , the Kaipat, Itibus, and Kapileo family
8. Uncle Ike and family
9. Uncle John and Auntie Marylee Aquino
10. Auntie Mary Blas
11. Kabayu family(Susupe lake)
12. Uncle Juan and Auntie Rita Morgen
13. Uncle Tony and Auntie Acha and their family
14. Uncle Joe Aldan and family
15. The Masga family
16. Felix Camacho and his entire family
17. Dave Celis and his family
18. Uncle Joe C.
19. Auntie Pat, Lambert, Luis and their entire family
20. Auntie Pat Rasa

21. Auntie Bobby
22. Larisa Flores
23. John Gonzales and his supporters
24. I want to personally thank my supporters who have followed me over the years.
25. I want to thank Uncle John Santiago and the entire bowling crew for their support. Thank you Uncle John from the bottom of my heart.
26. Uncle Jess and Auntie Mona
27. Auntie Mona Kumoi
28. Uncle Tony Muna
29. Auntie Grace Aldan & family
30. Fernando
31. Max Aguon & family
32. Santiago Aguon & family
33. Derek Aoichy
34. All my cousins and family, thank you.

I was told that my path to victory was near impossible and that I had no chance of winning because my opponents locked in key endorsements. But the truth is only God could make anything possible through prayer. I felt God's presence through my brother Frank as we discussed strategy weeks before his passing. It was always our dream to run for public office so we can help the people of the CNMI. I want to take this time out to say Chief, we did it and thank you to my sister in law Rosa and Auntie Agueda for all the help on election day and with follow ups on families.

I'm here because the People of Election District 2 want change. The road or path to be a member of the 24th CNMI Legislature was very challenging but rewarding. You could say that it was like Danny vs. Goliath where a team of less than 5 were up against an Army of over 100. On election day, we couldn't set up any tent because all the space were occupied. In lieu of the tent, we got a small bench and sat in front of my sign.

We were blessed that U.S. Delegate Kim Hinds and Chairman Cris Tenorio and the GOP who allowed us to take refuge under their tent away from the excruciating heat on election day. I want to thank them both for everything they did to help me. I offer my sincere humble appreciation, and gratitude to the 569 people who placed their trust and confidence in my leadership ability.

The results of this election, was not possible without your vote. This is not my victory. It is your victory. It is our victory. It is a victory for the people of Precinct 2. It's a victory for the silent majority who want progress and positive changes in our community. My message to every voter who supported me, As long as we stand united together our numbers will continue to grow in size and strength

Today I'm wearing 5 pins:

1. The CNMI Seal which signifies my love, respect for the CNMI and it's people. It's a reminder of the promises I made to each voter; to always work hard to find solutions to improve the livelihood of the people I represent in Election District 2.

2. Trump pin signifies my hope, trust and confidence in the newly elected 47th President of the United States Donald J. Trump that the CNMI will benefit economically and prosper as part of his vision of building a stronger economy, military, and better America.
3. The United States Army Veteran pin signifies my love and respect for all military branch of service and all veterans and their families. I am committed to stand, support, and assist all military veterans.
4. The Army Engineer pin with the motto Essayons means, Let us try in French. It's a symbol of hope and trying your best to gather all resources and make any task possible. In this case it's about all members who have collectively shared resources and funding to help better each of the constituents we represent.
5. The Judiciary pin signifies my full support for the Judicial Branch and Law Enforcement. Three decades ago, I worked as the Personal Security and Marshall assigned to Presiding Judge Paul J. Abatte and Presiding Judge Alberto Lamorena. During those brief years, I grew to respect the work that court personnel perform. Last week, I received a concern about potholes in Texas Road. Today this will be one of my first official acts.



OFFICE OF FLOOR LEADER MARISSA R. FLORES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

24th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586

Saipan, MP 96950

Thank you, Speaker.

I want to thank God for the gift of life and for allowing me this honor.

To Father James and all the clergy, thank you for the beautiful service this past weekend. It reminded us that we are here first and foremost for the people of our Commonwealth.

Thank you to my mom for her unwavering support. To my father, whom I wish was here with me today, I miss you. To my children Maria, Juan, and Izabela, my siblings, and my family, I love you.

To my Committee and all those who have dedicated their time, resources, wisdom, and guidance, un dangkalu na si yu'us ma'ase. And to the people of Precint 3, thank you, si yu'us ma'ase, gilisow, salamat po, for entrusting me to represent our Precinct once again.

Congratulations to my colleagues, I wish you all the best.

I would like to share with you a piece of advice I received from someone who is always by my side: "You'll be fine. Have confidence, be strong, be brave, and be open-minded." -Maria Flores Guerrero.

God bless all of us, and may God bless the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Thank you.



REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS

Mina' Biente Kuatro Na Leyislaturan Sankatan Na Islas Marianas 24th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

TINIAN – PRECINCT VI

My Fellow People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; today marks a new chapter in our journey together, as we gather at this momentous occasion, I am filled with gratitude, hope and a deep sense of responsibility.

As we embark on this new path, let us remember that our diversity is our great strength. We are a Commonwealth of diverse cultures, languages, and beliefs, yet united by a shared destiny and common values.

Our commitment to unity, justice, and equality will guide us as we work together to build a brighter future for all. We will strive to create opportunities for every citizen to thrive, to innovate, and to contribute to common good. Let us draw aspiration from our past, while keeping our eyes firmly fixed on the horizon. We will learn from our successes and our setbacks, and we will use these lessons to forge a new path forward.

To the People of the Commonwealth, I pledge to work tirelessly on your behalf. I will listen to your concerns, I will hear your voices, and I will work to address the challenges that we face together. Let us begin this new chapter with the hope, optimism and shared commitment to building a better future for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

To my Dear People of Tinian, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation for your unwavering love and support and trust in me the last two (2) elections. Your confidence in my leadership means the world to me. This past election, your vote of confidence was a resounding affirmation of our shared vision for Tinian's future. I am committed to continuing our work together, addressing the challenges we face and seizing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Your trust and gratitude are invaluable to me and I pledge to remain dedicated to our community's wellbeing and prosperity. Thank you again for your love, support and trust and I am honored to serve as your Representative on the 24th CNMI Legislature House of Representative, once again. God bless you all and God bless the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,

/s/Patrick H. San Nicolas