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**THE SENATE  
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2000**

First Day

Thursday, August 03, 2000

The Senate of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, First Day, Second Regular Session, 2000, was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Senate Clerk called the roll and seven (7) members were present. Senator D. M. Cing and Senator J. M. Dela Cruz were excused.

President Manglona: Please, let the record reflect that Senator Cing and Senator Dela Cruz are still on official business in Washington, D.C. and they are officially excused. With seven members present, we have the necessary quorum to conduct today's session.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, with the consent of the members, we will move down to Standing Committee Report, Item "H" of our Order of Business.

There was no objection.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 12-11: FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS AND GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION REPORTING ON THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MR. JUAN S. TORRES TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its adoption and Senator Atalig seconded.

President Manglona: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion on Standing Committee No. 12-11?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Ready? Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes

Senator David M. Cing	Excused
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Excused
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Seven (7) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of seven (7) yes, the Senate hereby confirms the nomination of Mr. Juan S. Torres to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 12-21: FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS AND GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION REPORTING ON THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MS. EDITH DELEON GUERRERO TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its adoption and several members seconded.

President Manglona: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced "ready".

President Manglona: No discussion? Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Excused
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Excused
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Seven (7) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of seven (7) yes, Standing Committee Report No. 12-12 passes the Senate.

Floor Leader Reyes: Again, with the consent of the members. We will move down to Resolution Calendar, Item "M" of the Order of Business.

There was no objection.

#### RESOLUTION CALENDAR

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12-16: A SENATE RESOLUTION PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its adoption, and several members seconded.

There being no discussion, the motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 12-16 carried by voice vote.

President Manglona: Senate Resolution No. 12-16 is adopted by the Senate.

Floor Leader Reyes: Can we have a one minute recess, Mr. President?

The Senate recessed at 6:08 p.m.

### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 6:08 p.m.

President Manglona: Let us resume our session.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I understand that there's an announcement to be made. I yield to Senator Atalig.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair recognized Senator Atalig.

Senator Atalig: The Committee on Health, Education and Welfare will be conducting a public hearing on Rota next week Saturday, August 12, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rota Courthouse. Also, there will be a public hearing regarding the same bills on Tinian on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. at the Tinian Courthouse. For Saipan, it will be on Thursday, August 17, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. here in the Senate Chamber. This is to address all the scholarship bills. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, this is just an announcement also. I would like to bring the members' attention to the Marianas Variety of Wednesday, the August 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Chairman Frank Murkowsky says he won't support Congressman Frank's bill. I just want to make sure that members are aware that even if Frank's bill were to pass the House, it looks like it won't make it in the Senate. I say this, Mr. President, because we have two Resolutions that we have not acted upon and I will reserve the text of my statement on the issue of hiring a Washington lobbying firm until later. But I just want to express that I don't think there's any need right now to hire a lobbyist to protect the interest of the CNMI. We know from Senator Murkowsky's commitment that there's no need to worry because he is not supporting Bob Frank's bill. Also, in reference to the Tribune edition of July 25, 2000, it's a very rare opportunity, Mr. President and members, that I agree with Mr. Rosario, but I do agree with his editorial when he said that "right now Congress is very busy getting substantive legislation out of the way before heading home to a campaign trail. It is election year and they certainly have little, if any, time to fiddle with people from some remote islands in the Northwestern Pacific". I interpret this to mean that members in Congress will be returning back to their home state to campaign for reelection in November and that Congress would not be conducting any session. Therefore, there is nothing to worry about with respect to some of the critical legislation affecting the Northern Marianas and its interest in the garment industry. So, I just want to note that concern officially for the record. Thank you.

President Manglona: I would like the record to reflect that two of our colleagues Senator Guerrero and Senator Adriano have returned from their trip to Washington, D.C. The Chair congratulates them on their very successful trip, as was pointed out earlier by Senator Reyes regarding the position of the Chairman of Resources in the Senate, Senator Murkowsky. It looks like we're going to have some help there if the worse would happen in the House. I believe that copies of their trip report have been provided to all the members. We will be getting more details once everyone is back from the trip. With that, can we get a motion for adjournment, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Reyes: I move for adjournment subject to your call.

Several members voiced "second", and the motion to adjourn carried by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 6:10 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,



Ramona I. Kapileo  
Senate Journal Clerk

ADOPTED: October 19, 2000