

Adopted

THE SENATE • FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



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SJ 15-005
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Fifth Day

Thursday

February 23, 2006

The Senate of the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Fifth Day, First Regular Session, on Thursday, February 23, 2006, at 2:23 p.m., in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Joseph M. Mendiola, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. All nine members were present.

President J.M. Mendiola: We are back to our preliminary session. This is a continuation from yesterday's session. We are still under the Messages from the Governor. Before we do that, I would like to welcome the nominees for the cabinet of the executive branch and we will go shortly into the Committee Report. Just be patience with us. We want to go through the entire agenda first, thank you.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

1. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-31**: February 06, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Director, Economic Development, Director, Central Statistics Division, Computer Operator III and Computer Operator II at the Dept. of Commerce.
2. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-32**: February 08, 2006 – Appointment of Mr. Jerry Tan to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors to represent Business, Saipan.
3. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-33**: February 08, 2006 – Appointment of Ms. Emma S. Villagomez to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority Board of Directors to represent Women and Carolinian
4. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-34**: February 10, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Special Assistant to DPW, Special Projects Coordinator, Director, Operation and Maintenance Division and Building Inspector Supervisor at the DPW.

5. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-35:** February 10, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Mayor, Mayor’s Special Assistant, Agricultural & Economic Consultant and Veterans Affairs Officer at the Tinian Municipal Council.
6. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-36:** February 14, 2006 – Waiver of salary ceiling for Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. John S. Del Rosario, Jr.
7. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-37:** February 14, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Executive Director at the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture.
8. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-38:** February 15, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Special Assistant to the Secretary at the Dept. of Commerce.
9. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-39:** February 15, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Manager at the Administrative Services at the Dept. of Labor.
10. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-40:** February 15, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Accountant at the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.
11. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-41:** February 16, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Computer Specialist II and Commerce Enforcement & Compliance Technician II at the Dept. of Commerce.
12. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-42:** February 16, 2006 – Enclosing copy of the Drug Test result of Mr. Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez appointed to serve as Secretary of Public Health.
13. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-43:** February 17, 2006 – Enclosing copy of the Resume, Statement of Financial Interest, and Drug Test receipt of Mr. Alvaro A. Santos appointed to serve as a member of MPLT to represent Saipan.
14. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-44:** February 17, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Physician (Internal Medicine) for the Commonwealth Health Center.
15. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-45:** February 17, 2006 – Certification for annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Dr. Joel Reed Smith, Physician (Internal Medicine) at the CHC.
16. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-46:** February 17, 2006 – Enclosing copy of drug test result of Dr. Ignacio T. dela Cruz appointed to serve as the Secretary of DLNR.
17. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-47:** February 17, 2006 – Enclosing copies of resume, statement of financial interest, and drug test receipt of Mr. John Edward Untalan appointed to serve as a member of the MPLT to represent Tinian.

18. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-48:** February 17, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Public Service Intern at the DPS.
19. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-49:** February 21, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Assistant Chief (Police), Police Lieutenant, Police Sergeant, Police Officer III, Police Officer II, Police Officer I, Police Cadet, Assistant Chief (Fire), Fire Crew Supervisor, Firefighter III and II at the DPS, Rota.
20. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-50:** February 21, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Police Sergeant at the DPS.
21. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-51:** February 21, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Mayor, Mayor’s Special Assistant, Agricultural & Economic Consultant and Veterans Affairs Officer at the request of the Mayor of Tinian.
22. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-52:** February 21, 2006 – Certification for vacant position of Administrative Assistant under EMO, Rota.
23. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-53:** February 21, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Chief of Staff, Administrative Officer, Administrative Assistant, Council Clerk, Clerk Typist II, Youth Program Coordinator, Field Supervisor, Assistant Field Supervisor, (8) Community Workers and (11) Project Development Worker at the Rota Municipal Council, Rota.
24. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-54:** February 21, 2006 – Certification for vacant positions of Special Assistant for Administration, Special Assistant for Program Governmental Affairs, Administrative Officer, (15) Administrative Assistant, Assistant CIP Coordinator, Public Relation Officer, (5) Community Project Coordinator, Beautification Coordinator, Community Project Coordinator, (85) Community Worker, Executive Secretary and (2) Social Worker – at the request of the Mayor of Rota.
25. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-55:** February 22, 2006 – Informing the Legislature that **H.B. No. 15-57, HS1**, entitled, “To repeal Executive Order 94-3 as codified, Public Laws 10-57, 12-33, and 12-71 to the extent they are applicable to public lands; to create the Dept. of Public Lands within the Executive Branch; to transfer the obligations and responsibilities of the MPLA to the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes,” becomes **PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-2**.
26. **Gov. Msg. No. 15-56:** February 22, 2006 – Informing the Legislature that **H.B. No. 15-62**, entitled, “To prohibit government employment contracts buyouts for executive directors or the top administrative officer of a public corporation, board, commission or other autonomous agency of the Commonwealth government; and for other purposes,” becomes **PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-3**.

President J.M. Mendiola: Any discussions on the messages?

The Chair recognized Vice President Reyes.

Vice President Reyes: Mr. President, just to commend the governor for acting quickly on Governor's Messages 15-55 and 15-56 and signing those two bills into law. Thank you.

President J.M. Mendiola: Okay. Any other discussions on messages?

The Chair recognized Senator Crisostomo.

Senator Crisostomo: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to find out on Governor's Message 15-36, "Waiver of salary ceiling for Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. John S. Del Rosario, Jr." Is there a set dollar of this particular over the ceiling?

President J.M. Mendiola: The copy of the message should be in the packet.

Senator Crisostomo: So it is over the salary cap then?

President J.M. Mendiola: Yes, but what I understand is that the governor is going to recall the letter as of this morning.

The Chair recognized Senator Hocog.

Senator Hocog: Thank you, Mr. President. Just for clarification, I just passed the letter to Senator Crisostomo.

President J.M. Mendiola: Any other discussion on messages?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

1. **Dept. Msg. No. 15-02**: February 22, 2006 – SAPLR *acknowledging receipt* of S.J.R. No. 15-01, entitled, "To respectfully request the United States House of Representatives to convey non-voting delegate status to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."
2. **Dept. Msg. No. 15-03**: February 14, 2006 – DEQ regarding Environmental Exposition during the Environmental Awareness Week.
3. **Dept. Msg. No. 15-04**: February 23, 2006 – Recalled Gov. Msg. No. 15-36 on the salary cap for Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. John S. Del Rosario.

President J.M. Mendiola: Discussion on Communications from the Executive Department?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILL & RESOLUTIONS

The Chair recognized Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move to place SJR 15-03 that is, "Urging Governor Benigno R. Fitial to rescind his cancellation letter to Micronesian Games Council President William Keldermans, and to host the 2006 Micronesian Games in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

The motion was second by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Does that include to suspend pertinent rules, so we can place it?

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Negative, Mr. President. However, if it is required, then I move to suspend all pertinent rules so we can put these resolutions in the calendar for adoption.

The motion was seconded by several members.

The Chair recognized Vice President Reyes.

Vice President Reyes: I believe, Mr. President, that the rules do not require the suspension because this is just a resolution.

President J.M. Mendiola: Okay.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, with the motion being seconded and there being no discussions, I also move for placement of SR 15-08, and that is

“Congratulating and recognizing the outstanding achievements of the *Taga Cultural Dancers*, from the beautiful island of Tinian, during the 4th annual Dinaña Minagof dance festival and competition.”

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to place SJR 15-03 and SR 15-08 on the Resolution Calendar has been seconded.

Motion was carried out by voice.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Senate Joint Resolution No. 15-03:** Urging Governor Benigno R. Fitial to rescind his cancellation letter to Micronesian Games Council President William Keldermans, and to host the 2006 Micronesian Games in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Offered By: Senator Luis P. Crisostomo

2. **Senate Resolution No. 15-08:** Congratulating and recognizing the outstanding achievements of the *Taga Cultural Dancers*, from the beautiful island of Tinian, during the 4th annual Dinaña Minagof dance festival and competition

Offered By: Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Senator Henry H. San Nicolas, Senator Joseph M. Mendiola

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-05:** February 21, 2006 – From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez** to serve as the *Secretary of the Department of Public Health*.
2. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-06:** February 23, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mrs. Daisy Villagomez-Bier** to serve as the *Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs*.
3. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-07:** February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mrs. Mathilda A. Rosario** to serve as the *Director of the Office of Personnel Management*.

4. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-08:** February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Jose S. Demapan** to serve as the Secretary of the *Department of Public Works*.
5. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-09:** February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Gil M. San Nicolas** to serve as the Secretary of the *Department of Labor*.
6. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-10:** February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Gonzalo Q. Santos** to serve as the Resident Executive Director of the Indigenous Affairs.
7. **Standing Committee Report No. 15-11:** February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Mathew T. Gregory** to serve as the Attorney General.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-05:** February 21, 2006 – From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez** to serve as the *Secretary of the Department of Public Health*.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-05 has been seconded. Discussions?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-05.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-05 is hereby adopted. Congratulations Secretary. We brought you upfront, so if you guys want to make a comment or anything, if not, we are going to move on.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-06**: February 23, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mrs. Daisy Villagomez-Bier** to serve as the *Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs*.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-06 has been seconded. Discussions?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-06.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-06 is hereby adopted. Congratulations.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-07**: February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mrs. Mathilda A. Rosario** to serve as the *Director of the Office of Personnel Management*.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-07 has been seconded. Discussions?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-07.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-07 is hereby adopted. Congratulations.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-08**: February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Jose S. Demapan** to serve as the Secretary of the *Department of Public Works*.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-08 has been seconded. Discussions?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-08.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-08 is hereby adopted. Congratulations.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-09**: February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Gil M. San Nicolas** to serve as the Secretary of the *Department of Labor*.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-09 has been seconded. Discussions?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-09.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-09 is hereby adopted. Congratulations.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-10**: February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Gonzalo Q. Santos** to serve as the Resident Executive Director of the Indigenous Affairs.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-10 has been seconded. Discussions?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-10.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-10 is hereby adopted. Congratulations.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of **Standing Committee Report No. 15-11**: February 21, 2006 - From the **Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations** reporting on the appointment of **Mr. Mathew T. Gregory** to serve as the Attorney General.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Move to adopt SCR 15-11 has been seconded. Discussions?

The Chair recognized Senator Crisostomo.

Senator Crisostomo: Mr. President, unfortunately, Matt is the last candidate here and I actually wanted to ask Gonzalo earlier this question. There is a Committee Report and I am confident with the Committee Report. I have no problem confirming you gentlemen. Matt, going back to the most hot topic today in the Commonwealth, the N.M.D., as you know we are given the submerge land for N.M.D. Do you have the percentage of the Attorney General that would untangle the litigation today that we have with the Federal Government on the submerged lands?

President J.M. Mendiola: Senator Crisostomo, let's go into a committee as a whole and then you can ask your question, please.

Senator Crisostomo: Okay. Pardon me, President.

The Chair recognized Vice President Reyes.

Vice President Reyes: Mr. President, in order to ask questions in our session, we need to resolve into a committee of the whole and I so move.

The Chair recognized Senator Pangelinan.

Senator Pangelinan: Can I just make a suggestion because this is probably asking for a legal opinion? Can we just confirm Mr. Matthew, then Senator Crisostomo may request for a written opinion. I think that would be the best approach. We don't want to put Mr. Matthew on the spot here.

President J.M. Mendiola: Senator Crisostomo, can we go into a committee as a whole first? There is motion on the floor to conduct committee as a whole.

The Chair recognized Senator Pangelinan.

Senator Pangelinan: Mr. President, I don't think we need to go into committee as a whole. I think the investigation has been completed by the Chairman of the Executive Appointments. We should move on and confirm Gregory Matthew. Any further questions that Senator Crisostomo has that is going to delay his voting or make his decision different from us, that is his choice. But I think we should just move on and confirm Mr. Gregory.

President J.M. Mendiola: I would have to agree with Senator Pangelinan.

Senator Crisostomo: I would have to agree with her too, but I don't see it in the committee.

President J.M. Mendiola: Senator Crisostomo, can we have you ask question on a different venue, maybe, because we're moving this confirmation? I am sorry. I know you asked me earlier because you never had the opportunity to ask during the hearing. But everybody was invited during the hearing, each member. There was no restriction in your participation during the hearing. Unfortunately, you didn't have the to come and participate, so I would have to forego that request. Let's go back to the motion.

Several members voiced, “ready”.

President J.M. Mendiola: Senate Clerk please roll call.

The roll called on the motion to adopt SCR 15-11.

Senator Luis M. Crisostomo	yes
Senator Paterno S. Hocog	yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	yes
Senator Felix T. Mendiola	yes
Senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan	yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	yes
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas	yes
President Joseph M. Mendiola	yes

President J.M. Mendiola: With all nine members voting yes, SCR 15-11 is hereby adopted. Congratulations.

The Chair recognized Vice President Reyes.

Vice President Reyes: Mr. President, may I make a motion for a short recess so we can congratulate the appointees.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: Let’s go into recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:39 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

President J.M. Mendiola: We are back in session. We are under Resolution Calendar.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of SJR 15-03 and SR 15-08.

The motion was seconded by several members.

President J.M. Mendiola: A motion to adopt SJR 15-03 and SR 15-08.

The Chair recognized Vice President Reyes.

Vice President Reyes: Under discussion, Mr. President, on SJR 15-03, I understand that there is no where money could be found and be programmed into this. This is a good gesture. I just

want to recommend that should the governor inform the legislature that there is no money, I recommend that each member of the Senate and members of the House contribute from their account at least \$10,000.00 to commit to the Micronesian Games. It is important that we address this particular funding. I know that, upon discussion with the governor, he indicated that he has been looking for money. If that does not materialize, then I would like to get commitment from the members. Each member puts out \$10,000 from their own account, like we did to purchase the school bus before. I spoke with the Speaker earlier and wanted to find out the reaction of the Senate Members, particularly the author, if we could get his support. Maybe he can spear head the commitment from each member.

President J.M. Mendiola: Is that a recommendation of a maximum of \$10,000?

Vice President Reyes: Yes. I stand corrected from Senator Jude, at one time when we had this Public Hearing, he mentioned over \$100,000? Is that accurate Senator?

President J.M. Mendiola: For the games?

Vice President Reyes: For the games, I think it is slightly over a \$100,000, if I am not mistaken.

The Chair recognized Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, I don't recall coming up with that number. Sorry Vice President.

President J.M. Mendiola: That is a recommendation from Senator Reyes. He is just seeking the sentiment of the members on this issue.

The Chair recognized Senator Crisostomo.

Senator Crisostomo: Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague, Senator Reyes, for the gesture. You know the challenges are ours. If we are going to take that \$10,000 and put it back so that we can have the Micronesian Games, I would even put up \$10,000 more and make it \$20,000 as I originally pledged. I have no problem. If you guys don't want the game, you don't want the resolution, you know it's ... but sometimes we think it is funny that we make this gesture. But if we are sincere, then let's do it. We don't even have to pass this resolution. At least I tried and I echoed to the governor and the members of the legislature that I feel that the games can be achieved, either the \$10,000 that Senator Reyes says. I mean he has got a retirement that could also help. There are other ways that we can put up. I don't have a pension, but I'll be happy to take it from my leadership account as well as my salary, if that would facilitate the game. I welcome you guys. Ennao ha. Mr. President, thank you ni un na'e yu opottunidat ni para ta bota este yan hamyo ni membro. Lao yanggen para ta amenda este ya ta nahalom I \$10,000 or \$20,000 per legislator, it is a challenge for all of us. If this will make the game possible and if this will facilitate and make it successful, then the avenue is ours. We should undertake it and face up to those challenges. Si yu'us ma'ase.

President J.M. Mendiola: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Vice President Reyes.

Vice President Reyes: Mr. President, I support the resolution from the very beginning. I am not making any amendment to the resolution.. I will vote in support of the resolution. All I am saying is that, in the past, we succeed in supporting PSS when every member of the legislature forked up \$10,000 from their account. I am going to take Senator Crisostomo's pledge of \$20,000 seriously. I take him up on that. I'll put in my \$10,000 to match because that is all I can afford. I think that this is a good gesture for members to show support for a very important sports activity that is coming into the CNMI. I commend Senator Crisostomo for coming up with this kind of resolution. But we need to face reality. Reality is that the governor would not have canceled the Micronesian Games have there been funding that can be identified to fund this. But the gesture to ask him to reconsider his cancellation letter to Micronesian Games is a beginning. In the event that funding cannot be found, then I ask each member to participate in putting in \$10,000. Since record would reflect that he had offered \$20,000, that is even better. Maybe what I need to do is to inform the governor that there has been a certain pledge made and then we can begin from there.

President J.M. Mendiola: I think the good gesture here, but like I said is that a maximum? Some of us maybe to donate \$5,000 or \$3,000. I think everybody has agreed on the importance of this game. I just spoke to the governor, prior to conducting the session, and he said he is ready to support any kind of logistical support, bus transportation, everything. He is still looking into the funding. He is not saying that, outright there is no funding. He spoke to the group that are organizing this, to come up with the recommendation as to what other source of avenue he can be part of. He is not against the game. He is supporting the game a 100%. It's just a matter of how we support each other. I think that coming from the Senate would be very good gesture on our part. I would support Senator Reyes's recommendation that we pledge something, either, if we don't have any funding, we can pledge some kind of a logistical support to the organization as we go along. When is this game going to happen?

A member voiced "in four months".

President J.M. Mendiola: So, we have time to really commit ourselves. I urge everybody to make some kind of commitment, be it, real funding or an alternate type of support that will come from the Senate. It will be a very nice gesture on our part.

The Chair recognized Senator San Nicolas.

Senator San Nicolas: Just to thank you Mr. President, I think I have four months to come up with the \$5,000. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Mendiola.

Floor Leader Mendiola: Mr. President, I support this resolution and while in that note, I understand that this also, revenue generating bill in that so many so many people will be coming over here for the games. Yes, the difficulty and even the governor reiterated that we do not have the necessary fund and yes, the effort is there to try and identify funds. But please, I suggest that while I support this resolution, please don't put a cap on the amount. We will give what we can.

As is obvious in this legislature, personally, my budget is really slim. I will try my best to help in every way I can. That is all, Mr. President.

President J.M. Mendiola: Like I said again, we do not have to pledge in terms of actual cash or money funding. Any logistical support or any type of assistance that we can help. It'll be nice to have some funding. I will make that I look into my budget to see what I can give for this event. Any other discussion on SR 15-03.

Several members voiced, "ready".

All members voiced "aye".

President J.M. Mendiola: Motion carries. SR 15-03 is hereby adopted.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, must we read SR 15-08 in its entirety?

President J.M. Mendiola: No.

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Therefore, Mr. President, I have nothing further at this time.

President J.M. Mendiola: So we adopted already SR 15-08, too.

A member voiced "yes, sir".

Vice President Reyes: The motion, Mr. President, is for the adoption of both resolution and only discussion on SJR 15-03.

President J.M. Mendiola: Okay. So it's already passed.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

NONE

ANNOUNCEMENT

NONE

Floor Leader F.M. Mendiola: Mr. President, I move for the adjournment of the session, subject to the call of the Chair.

President J.M. Mendiola: Motion for adjournment has been seconded.

All members voiced "aye".

President J.M. Mendiola: Motion passed. Session is adjourned.

The Senate adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Sablan, Senate Journal Clerk
The Senate

Reviewed by,

Eric M. Lister/B.J. Attao
Senate Legislative Assistant