



# Senate Journal

## ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

**SJ 17-01**

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**Organizational Session**

**Monday**

**January 11, 2010**

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**Mistress of Ceremony (Linda B. Muna):** Good morning. The Swearing in ceremony for Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will begin momentarily. At this time, I kindly ask everyone to please take their seats and respectfully request all pagers and cell phone owners to place their units to silent mode.

### **PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS**

The Mistress of Ceremony presented the Members according to Senatorial Districts.

**MC Muna:** Ladies and gentlemen – I am honored to present to you the Senate members to the **Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature** by Senatorial Districts:

From the **First Senatorial District**, the **Island of Rota**:

- Senator-elect Juan Manglona Ayuyu
- Senator Paul Atalig Manglona
- and Senator-elect Jovita Maratita Taimanao

Representing the **Second Senatorial District**, the **Islands of Tinian and Aguiguan**:

- Senator-elect Francisco Quichocho Cruz
- and Senator Henry Hofschneider San Nicolas

And Representing the **Third Senatorial District**, **Saipan and the Northern Islands**:

- Senator Luis Palacios Crisostimo, Jr.
- Senator-elect Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the **Floor Leader Pro-tem** for this inaugural session, representing the **Second Senatorial District**, the **Islands of Tinian and Aguiguan**, **Senator-elect Jude Untalan Hofschneider**.

It is my privilege to introduce the **President Pro-tem**, presiding for this organizational session of the Seventeenth Senate, representing the **Third Senatorial District**, **Saipan and the Northern Islands**, **Senator Pete Pangelinan Reyes**.

### **PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

**MC Muna:** For now, I ask the Senate Sergeant-at-arms to escort Miss Alexis B. Hofschneider to lead us in the singing U. S. National and Commonwealth anthems. I ask everyone to please rise as I call upon the Marianas High School JROTC Color Guards for the posting of colors.

The Colors were presented by the Marianas High School JROTC Color Guards.

The National Anthem was sung.

The Mistress of Ceremony called upon Reverend Father Isaac Ayuyu to deliver the Invocation.

**MC Muna:** Thank you, Miss Hofschneider. I ask everyone to please remain standing and I request the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort **Father Isaac Ayuyu** for the invocation.

### INVOCATION

Reverend Father Isaac Ayuyu delivered the invocation.

**MC Muna:** Thank you, Father Isaac. Please be seated.

To witness this historic occasion with us, ladies and gentlemen, please recognize and welcome the presence of our honorable and distinguished guests – the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

From the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, Assistant Secretary Anthony Babauta.

From the Commonwealth Supreme Court, the Honorable John A. Manglona, Associate Justice. From the Commonwealth Superior Court, the Honorable Robert C. Naraja, Presiding Judge. The Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Associate Judge. The Honorable Perry B. Inos, Associate Judge, and the Honorable David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge. The Honorable Alana May Leon Guerrero, Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress. The Honorable Ramon Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian, the Honorable Melchor Mendiola, Mayor of Rota. Municipal Council members-elect from Rota Municipal Council, Mr. Arvin C. Ogo, Mr. George O. Hocog, and Mr. Prudencio A. Manglona. Former Senator Edward A. Maratita, Former Congressman Benjamin Sablan, Former Congressman and CNMI Tourism, JM Guerrero. Former Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Council member, Ms. Charlene M. Lizama, from the Bank of Guam President/CEO Ms. Lou Leon Guerrero and Vice President CNMI Regional Manager Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane.

I am also pleased to welcome and recognize our off-island dignitaries from the island of Guam, representing *I Mina Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan*, the Honorable Judith P. Guthertz, the Honorable Rory J. Respicio, and representatives of Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, as well as welcoming and recognizing families, friends, and supporters of our members and members-elect. To each and everyone, welcome to the Commonwealth Legislature.

The Mistress of Ceremony called upon the Honorable President Pro-Tem, Pete P. Reyes to call the Organizational Session of the Senate to the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order.

**MC Muna:** Ladies and gentlemen, I now call on President Pro-tem, the Honorable Pete Pangelinan Reyes, to officially call the Senate's Organizational Session of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Mr. President Pro-tem, please.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** Thank you.

### CALL TO ORDER

The Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its **Organizational** Session, on **Monday, January 11, 2010**, at **10:00 a.m.**, in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Pete P. Reyes, President Pro-Tem of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** I ask everyone to please include in their prayers, our young men and women who are still serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other harms way that the Lord will protect them and bring them safe to their family. As President of the Sixteenth Commonwealth Senate, I preside here today as President Pro-Tem pursuant to request by the Senators and Senators-elect. Without any objection, I would like to appoint Senator-elect Jude U. Hofschneider as Floor Leader Pro-Tem.

There was no objection.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** There being no objection, so ordered. Before we proceed, and without any objection from any of the members, I request the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort Ms. Alana May Deleon Guerrero, Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress to join me up here. Without any objection, I will now appoint, Mrs. Doris Bermudes Senate Clerk, and ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Senator Juan M. Ayuyu        | Present |
| Senator Paul A. Mangloña     | Present |
| Senator Jovita M. Taimanao   | Present |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | Present |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | Present |
| Senator Henry H. San Nicolas | Present |
| Senator Luis P. Crisostimo   | Present |
| Senator Pete P. Reyes        | Present |
| Senator Ralph DLG. Torres    | Present |

**Senate Clerk (Doris Bermudes):** Mr. President Pro-Tem, all Nine (9) members are present.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** With Nine (9) members present, we have the necessary quorum to conduct business. The first order of business today is to appoint a special committee, the Credentials Committee, to review the credentials of the members-elect. For this purpose, I am appointing the following as committee members:

- Senator Luis P. Crisostimo
- Senator Henry H. San Nicolas
- Senator Paul A. Manglona/Chairman

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** These will be the members of the Credentials Committee. I hereby declare the Senate in short recess until the Credentials Committee is ready to report to the full Senate. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:25 a.m.

### RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** We are back to our plenary session. At this time, may I ask the members' indulgence, if we could at this time make a presentation to the Honorable Mr. Anthony Babauta, Assistant Secretary of Interior? We have a Resolution, which members of the Sixteenth Legislature passed. If there is no objection from the members, I would like at this time to go ahead and make the presentation.

There was no objection.

**The Senate recessed at 10:30 a.m.**

### RECESS

**The Senate reconvened at 10:46 a.m.**

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** We are back to our plenary session. Before I ask the Chair to report, I would like to acknowledge the presence of our former Lt. Governor and former Washington Representative, Pete A. Tenorio, in the Gallery. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Now, the Chair recognizes Floor Leader Pro-Tem Hofschneider.

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. The committee you appointed convened and are ready to report. I yield to the Committee Chair, Senator Paul Manglona.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you. Your Senate Credentials Committee to which was given the task of reviewing the credentials of the Senators-elect of the 17<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate begs leave to report as follows:

Upon duly reviewing the pertinent credentials of the Senators-elect Pete P. Reyes, Ralph DLG. Torres, Juan Ayuyu, Jovita Taimanao, Jude Hofschneider, and Francisco Cruz, your Credential Committee finds that each of the affirmation Senators-elect have been duly elected and meet the requirements of Section 2(c) and (d) of Article 2 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Therefore, Mr. President Pro-Tem, your Credential Committee recommends that the credentials of Senators-elect Pete P. Reyes, Ralph DLG. Torres, Juan Ayuyu, Jovita Taimanao, Jude Hofschneider, and Francisco Cruz, be accepted by the full Senate.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** Thank you, Chairman Manglona. We will make this report part of our records. I understand the copies of the report will be made available to the members at a later time. Can I hear a motion for its adoption please, Senator Hofschneider?

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I move for the adoption of the Credential Committee Report as submitted.

Several members seconded the motion.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** All in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** The motion is carried. We have the privilege of having with us today, the Honorable Robert C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court, who will administer the Oath of Office. Presiding Judge Naraja, would you please now administer the Oath of Office to the Senators and Senators-elect.

### **SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS**

The Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja administered the Oath of Office.

**Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja:** Thank you. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

(The following was repeated by all the Senators-elect.)

“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the applicable provisions of the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States of America and that I will faithfully discharge my duties to the best of my ability, so help me God.” Congratulations. (Applause)

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** Thank you and Congratulations. I know that when the Senators from Guam were recognized, Senator Guthertz and Respicio were not in the Gallery, but now they are here and I wish to recognize them again. I now recognize the Floor Leader Pro-Tem.

### **ADOPTION OF THE INTERIM RULES**

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I would like to recognize also the Chair for Board of Education, Mrs. Lucy Blanco-Maratita. I now move for the adoption of the Senate Rules and Procedures governed by the adoption of the Senate Resolution No. 17-01 for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** Any second?

The motion was seconded.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

There was no discussion.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** All in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** With the Rules now being adopted, we are now under Election of Officers.

#### **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** With the Rules now being adopted, we are now under Election of Officers. I now open the floor for nomination of the President of the Senate for the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Pro-Tem Hofschneider.

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth and the wisdom and the desire of the people in this Chamber, I am proud to nominate Senator Paul Atalig Manglona as the President of the Seventeenth Senate.

Several members seconded the motion.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** The motion has been made and seconded. Are there any other nominations? If not, all in favor of the nomination say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Pro-Tem Pete P. Reyes:** At this time, I would like the President to please come up and take over. (Applause)

**President Paul A. Manglona:** *Finenina, ya hu na bai na kadada sa hu tungo na bula i para ta selebra pago na ha'ane. Namagof pago na ha'ane ya malagu yu na bai hu nahi un dankulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase todos i man gatchong-hu siha pot esti na in'angoku in nahi yu na botun konfiansa. Lao mas bai hu nahi lakkue un dankulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase si President Reyes. Si President Reyes ha nahi hit maolek na direksion i membron i Desi Sies na Lehislatura. Hana guaha in'akomprendi yan in'afamaolek gi entalo i membro siha ya yahu na bai hu tatiyi enao na direksion. Senator Reyes, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

### ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

**President Paul A. Manglona:** I now open the floor for the nomination of the Vice President of the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Let me recognize Senator Ralph Torres.

**Senator Ralph DLG Torres:** Thank you, Mr. President. I am proud to nominate our Senator Jude U. Hofschneider for Vice President for the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The motion was seconded.

**President Paul A. Manglona:** The motion has been made and seconded. Any further nomination? If none, Senate Clerk, roll call please.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to nominate **Senator Jude U. Hofschneider as Vice President of the Senate.**

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Juan M. Ayuyu        | yes |
| Senator Luis P. Crisostimo   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Pete P. Reyes        | yes |
| President Paul A. Manglona   | yes |
| Senator Henry H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Senator Jovita A. Taimanao   | yes |
| Senator Ralph DLG. Torres    | yes |

**President Paul A. Manglona:** By a vote of Nine (9) members voting “yes”, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider is hereby elected Vice President for the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations. (Applause)

### ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER

**President Paul A. Manglona:** I now open the floor for the nomination of the Floor Leader for the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Vice President Hofschneider.

**Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider**: Mr. President, I nominate Senator Pete P. Reyes to be the Floor Leader of the Senate.

Several members seconded the motion.

**President Paul A. Manglona**: The motion has been made and seconded for Senator Pete P. Reyes to be the nominee for position of the Floor Leader of the Senate. Any further nomination? If none, Senate Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to nominate **Senator Pete P. Reyes as Floor Leader of the Senate**.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Juan M. Ayuyu        | yes |
| Senator Luis P. Crisostimo   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Pete P. Reyes        | yes |
| President Paul A. Manglona   | yes |
| Senator Henry H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Senator Jovita A. Taimanao   | yes |
| Senator Ralph DLG. Torres    | yes |

**President Paul A. Manglona**: By a vote of Nine (9) members voting “yes”, Senator Pete P. Reyes is hereby elected Floor Leader for the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations. (Applause)

### ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

**President Paul A. Manglona**: I now open the floor for the nomination of the Legislative Secretary of the Senate. I recognize Senator Ayuyu.

**Senator Juan M. Ayuyu**: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to nominate Senator Jovita A. Taimanao to be the Legislative Secretary of the Senate of the Seventeenth Commonwealth Northern Marianas Legislature.

Several members seconded the motion.

**President Paul A. Manglona**: The motion has been made and seconded. Any further nominations? If none, Senate Clerk, please roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to nominate **Senator Jovita A. Taimanao as Legislative Secretary of the Senate**.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Juan M. Ayuyu        | yes |
| Senator Luis P. Crisostimo   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |



|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Pete P. Reyes        | yes |
| President Paul A. Manglona   | yes |
| Senator Henry H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Senator Jovita A. Taimanao   | yes |
| Senator Ralph DLG. Torres    | yes |

**President Paul A. Manglona:** By a vote of Nine (9) members voting “yes”, Senator Jovita A. Taimanao is hereby elected as Legislative Secretary. Congratulations. (Applause)

## NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**President Paul A. Manglona:** I know that members are waiting to deliver their remarks, but at this time, I would like to form a group to notify the House of Representative that the Senate is ready to conduct business and is duly organized. I see our Lieutenant Governor honoring us today with his presence, so I believe we were to appoint some members to make the notification, but I trust that you would let our Governor know about the new Organization here in the Senate. Also, I understand some of the Mayors are here with us. We have the Mayor from Rota, Mr. Melchor Mendiola sitting at the back of the Gallery. (Applause). I also understand that our Congressman to the U.S. Congress, Mr. Gregorio “Kilili” Sablan is in the Gallery. (Applause). To inform the House of Representative, I would like to appoint Senator Ralph Torres and Senator Francisco Cruz to notify the Speaker of the House. I guess the Mayor of Tinian is here, Mayor Dela Cruz, welcome. (Applause). Mayor Rubuenog and Mayor Flores, I understand are not here so I am going to ask Senator Henry San Nicolas and Senator Jovita Taimanao to do the notification. We will take a short recess for now so that we can inform the House of Representatives. Thank you to all the Mayors and the Municipal Council members from all the islands that are here today. Congratulations to all of you.

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

## RECESS

**The Senate reconvened at 11:20 a.m.**

**President Paul A. Manglona:** We are back to our plenary session. Before I recognize the Delegation of the Senate that went to inform the House of Representative and the Mayors, I understand that members of the House are here to make an announcement. At this point, let me recognize Congresswoman Teresita Santos and Congressman Edmund Villagomez. Please come up.

**Congresswoman Teresita Santos:** Good morning everyone. This is to inform your Honorable Senate President Paul Atalig Manglona, officers and members of this Senate that the Seventeenth House of Representatives is now organized and ready to conduct business. Thank you.

**Congressman Edmund Villagomez:** The newly elected Speaker Froilan Cruz Tenorio, Vice Speaker Felicidad Taman Ogumoro, and Floor Leader George Norita Camacho. Thank you. (Applause)

**President Paul A. Manglona:** I understand that we have members from the Saipan Municipal Council. Can I call on Eric Diaz and Councilman Ramon Camacho.

**Councilman Eric Diaz:** Tirow wami yan Hafa Adai and congratulations to you, President Paul Manglona and members of the CNMI Senate. My name is Eric Demapan Diaz and to my right the Honorable Councilman Ramon Blas Camacho. This morning, we had organized our Organizational Session and have established our list of officers, and we are ready to conduct business. Our Chairperson, we have elected the Honorable Ramon Blas Camacho and for Vice Chair and Secretary, I will serve that position. Thank you. (Applause)

**President Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you, Councilman and Chairman. Now, the Chair recognizes Senator Torres.

**Senator Ralph DLG. Torres:** Thank you, Mr. President. I informed the Speaker of the House that we are organized and ready to conduct business.

**President Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you, Chairman. Let me recognize Senator San Nicolas.

**Senator Henry H. San Nicolas:** Mr. President, Senator Taimanao and I have officially informed Mayor Flores and Mayor Rubuenog that the Senate is duly organized and ready to conduct business.

**President Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you, Senator San Nicolas. At this point, I would like to make the appointments to the Chairmanship of the Senate Standing Committee as follows:

Committee on Rules and Procedure & Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies:

- Senator Jude U. Hofschneider

Committee on Fiscal Affairs:

- Senator Jovita A. Taimanao

Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs & Committee on Health and Welfare:

- Senator Ralph DLG. Torres

Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation:

- Senator Francisco Q. Cruz

Committee Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications:

- Senator Juan M. Ayuyu

Committee on Education:

- Senator Pete P. Reyes

Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law:

- Senator Luis P. Crisostimo

Committee on Youth:

- Senator Henry H. San Nicolas

**President Paul A. Manglona:** I congratulate all of the Chairs for the Committees. I am confident that you will be productive, and that you will do what is fair, and we will all work together. *Tafan animo mona sa tatungo ha na mampos makat i komunidad-ta, i taotao-ta siha ya hu gagagao na tafan un korason mona todos guine gi checho-ta. Pago malagu yu na bai hu rekognisa i membro para i statement. Hutungo ha na pago na Inauguration, man chadek gi House, kana esta manmunhayan i statement i membro siha. Ya munga na tafan ma igi mona gi fila. Pues bai hu rekognisa hayi na membro pago.* Senator Reyes, recognized.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

NONE

**STATEMENT OF MEMBERS**

**Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes:** Thank you, Mr. President, and congratulation on your election to the Presidency of the Seventeenth Commonwealth Senate. It is my honor and pleasure to be a part of your support to be our next President. Admittedly, I will miss presiding over our session, but I am pleased that you are again at the helm to lead this body as we carry on our responsibility for the betterment of our people. I look forward eagerly to the Seventeenth Legislature under your leadership. I know the Commonwealth will be in good hands. Let me begin by acknowledging and thanking Almighty God. We often tend to forget where all good things come from. Sometimes it is necessary to listen to speeches of our Youth Congress at their Inauguration Ceremony to be reminded of how seldom we acknowledge God for all his blessings. As we move forward in serving our people, I urge my colleagues to join me pray for our Lord to continue providing us the wisdom and guidance as we work toward improving the lives of our people. In the eighteen (18) years of my tenure here in the Legislature, the Fifteenth and the Sixteenth Legislature are the most memorable legislative terms for me. I say this with much sincerity because my colleagues in both terms are like families. I am quite moved to see those who are not returning and are leaving public office. I chose not to say good-bye and instead prefer to say, "I will see you later", for I am certain that I will get to see them again as often as possible at stores, social functions and when I visit Rota and Tinian. I am grateful for their support of my presidency in the Sixteenth Legislature and for their friendship. I am especially sad with the departure of the only and the first female Senator, Senator Maria Frica Tudela Pangelinan. She has been a mentor to all of us, and for that, I am grateful. For those of us who served with her, knows that Senator Frica is a very serious Senator when it comes to carrying out her responsibilities. Most significant is her attention to details, especially on the formulation and preparations of the budget. No one can say that Senator Frica did not do her job. Every member of the Senate will receive and email from her detailing specifics in the budget, and yes, she expects us to read it and she will catch us if we did not because she will refer to items in her emails. She has a way of making us feel guilty for those of us who did not read her emails. I learned this quickly so I made sure that I read everything that she sends my way. So to Senator Frica, I will miss you dearly. As sad as I am of the departure of Senator Frica, however, I am just as grateful for the election of Senator Jovita Taimanao to the Senate. She will fill the void that Senator Frica left behind. Not only is Senator Taimanao an able female Senator, but is also taking on the most difficult task of chairing the Fiscal Affairs Committee. Senator Taimanao, I am confident that you will be as vigilant on the

use of public funds as well as your predecessor, Senator Frica. I also look forward with high expectations of our new incoming members who represents and brings fresh ideas into the Senate. You now have the opportunity to fulfill your promises to our people. We all have but one common goal and that is, to represent our constituents to the best of our ability. One of the most important aspects of being a member of this body is the art of negotiation and compromise. We may disagree on issues on how to achieve our common goals, but our differences can be unlocked with meaningful discussions, understanding and respecting each others' opinions, and values through reasonable negotiations and compromises. These, only achieves harmonious working relationship among all members. During real trying times, we need to be able to build consensus where controversy ruled. We need to do this by respecting opinions and views of other members, while at the same time, standing by our own principal beliefs. We must treat each other with dignity and conduct the business in the Senate with professionalism and with courteously that would foster cooperation and collaboration. I only hope to see the spirit of cooperation that we had during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Legislature carried on into the Seventeenth. And I ask for each member's support and cooperation in making this a reality. Since the Fifteenth Legislature, the Senate embarked purely based on trust and the desire of a harmonious working relationship on a gentlemen's agreement to rotate the Leadership so that each Senatorial District will have the opportunity to showcase their ability to lead. I ask every member and task the new members to carry on this tradition into the future. Never before did members of the Legislature and more specifically, the Senate, have there been more appealing working environment. I am proud for this arrangement and trust the new members will honor and carry forward this tradition. Finally, I ask that we, as members of the Legislature, remain unified towards resolving our islands' economic and social difficulties. I truly believe that we have some very bright and talented individuals here in the Upper House, and it is my hope that we will put aside any political differences to work towards specific and meaningful goals so that we may see real progress made here in our Commonwealth. While we certainly cannot be expected to think that we can fix all the CNMI's problem during the next three (3) years, however, I do believe that we have the capability along with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, to make good things happen. As Father Isaac who is sitting right there correctly impart during our Red Mass, when you invite in love, success and wealth comes along with it. So please, let us invite love. I will be remiss if I do not take the opportunity to thank the members of the Class of 1989 for their support of their Article V members reelection bid. I also thank all my family, your children, and grandchildren, my children and grandchildren as well, my wife's family, their children and grandchildren, my family in Tanapag, and all the good people of Saipan and Northern Islands for helping out in one way or another to make this election successful for me. Most notable is my dedicated wife, my best friend, who heartedly devoted all her energy and time into my campaign, and to whom I owe my successful reelection to. Thank you my love for your unswerving support to the Seventeenth Senate. Thank you for your support in electing me as your Floor Leader. I will do my best to make your term in the Senate memorable and productive. So thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, God Bless America and the CNMI. (Applause)

The Chair recognized Senator Jovita Taimanao.

**Senator Jovita M. Taimanao:** Thank you, Mr. President. *Buenas dias yan Hafa Adai para todos hamyo.* Good morning to all to our families, friends, and including our distinguished guests from Rota, Tinian, Saipan, Northern Islands and the Island of Guahan. As newly elected Senator, I have high aspirations in the Seventeenth Legislature in addressing challenges with realistic solutions in the livelihood of the people of the CNMI. The need to develop a positive personality in each Legislator

is very important in this leadership. Our citizens have entrusted us and look forward to positive changes and positive results. So let us develop a positive teamwork with open mindedness especially in addressing the Fiscal issues that threatens our CNMI as it requires no less than our best effort. In addressing our economic changes, it is very crucial and even more so in a time of our dire need. As citizens of the CNMI, we need to ask ourselves, what can we do to produce effective results and yet spend less in our financial capability. In closing, I would like to congratulate Senator Paul A. Manglona in taking the position as President in this leadership, and I am very optimistic that we the Seventeenth Legislators will work together, work hard, and make positive changes in our term. I also thank my husband, my children, my mother, my in-laws, all the people of Rota, and most especially my Committee-to-elect in bestowing their trust and support for me to sit here and be part as a Senator in the Seventeenth Legislature. Thank you good people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and let us work together. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Chair recognized Vice President Jude Hofschneider.

**V-President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President and congratulations on your election to the Presidency. As one of your colleagues in the Sixteenth Legislature, I also develop a very strong, and I look up to you on your nurturing the new members especially me back in 2005. Hafa Adai, Tirow and good morning everyone, my colleagues, staff and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I thank you all for attending the Inauguration today and look forward to seeing you often in the upcoming term. As a Senator in the Seventeenth Commonwealth Legislature, I pledge to use my best efforts to bring the members of the Senate and House together irrespective of party affiliation, and to address the challenges that the CNMI now faces. In the next five (5) years, much work will be required to revitalize our economy in bringing back tourists and improve our quality of life. I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of our economic recovery and to witness the renewal of our proud and strong island community. In the spirit of bipartisanship, I will listen to ideas and suggestions of all members and work cooperatively to develop the most effective legislation possible. I will also work hard to see that the government obligations to our people from Public Law 7-31 – for those of you who are aware of this, this is the retroactive salaries of our government employees – to the Retirement Fund and beyond are honored and fulfilled. As one unified body, the Seventeenth Commonwealth Legislature can effect positive lasting change in our community and improve the quality of life for our people. In the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Legislature, we saw what we can accomplish when we work together for the common good. We passed legislation to shore out the Retirement Fund, reduce government spending, improve conditions at CUC and support our Public School System. In the Seventeenth Legislature, we can build on this momentum to bring more positive change to our communities. I also pledge to work with our Honorable Congressman Greg “Kilili” Sablan, the Governor and his administration, with the Mayors and the Municipal Councils and the private sectors to see that the Commonwealth gets back on track. I pledge to work with you the people of our great Commonwealth to address your ideas, your problems, and to support your hopes and your dreams for the next generation. As always, I am grateful to the people of Tinian who have again gave me their vote of confidence. I pledge my full commitment to them – and to my Senate colleagues – to continue to work for a better and brighter future for all the people of the Commonwealth. In closing, I would like to thank God Almighty everyday. I want to thank my family, my wife, my children, Nathaniel, Kimberly, Ashley, Alexis and baby Tosh for their continued support and patience. I love you all. *Un dankulo na Si Yu'su Ma'ase, Olomwaay* and thank you very much.

The Chair recognized Senator Ralph Torres.

**Senator Ralph DLG. Torres:** First, I would like to thank God for everything that he has given me, blessings for my parents, my brothers, sister, my wife and the people of the CNMI both Rota and Tinian, and off-island voters and supporters who have given me that vote of confidence to guide them and continue my goals in the House of Representatives and now in the Senate. After the election, I went to D.C. to meet with the Assistant Secretary to the Interior, Mr. Tony Babauta as well as good Congressman Greg “Kilili” Sablan to address the oversight hearing for Public Health. We did this for numerous reasons; one, obviously the lack of care, lack of doctors, the dialysis patients, equipments, beds that have been there for twenty years and so forth, and doing so, I appreciate our Assistant Secretary for giving me his time and effort on his assurance to assist on health issues here in the CNMI. Congressman Greg “Kilili” is our U.S. Congressman who is able to do work on our behalf for the White House. Tomorrow, we will be going to Tinian and Wednesday, we will be going to Rota to assist on health issues and visit the facilities. The reason why we did oversight hearing is, for every person here in the CNMI whether you are a child, elder or medium age, healthcare here in the CNMI is very critical and crucial. You can have no power, you can have your roads not paved, but healthcare is something that we cannot neglect. I ask every member here for their continued support, both visiting the facility and actually knowing what you are fighting for. I visited the hospital numerous times and every time I visit the hospital, my heart hurts because we should not live the way we are with our healthcare, and that is one thing that I ask every member here – and Tony, you play a very important role here. You can make things happen. When I went to D.C. with “Kilili”, we plead and we asked for your support, with your dedication and your commitment coming out here and showing us that you will be visiting Rota and Tinian’s facility, right away, you have that burden out of my shoulder especially chairing Health today for this Seventeenth Legislature. I appreciate all your assistance and I will be your next best friend as well as “Kilili” in addressing our healthcare, and I thank you very much. I ask again all the people of the CNMI for your continued support. My brothers, thank you for always being there, my sister “Princess”, I always tell everyone that you are my favorite sister – some of them do not know that you are my only sister. To my in-laws, the “Tudela”, thank you very much for all the support. You know, before I start my “MOM” if you guys do not know, she is always on our back no matter what we do – your success is never an issue. She woke me up 4:00 a.m., I do not know if she knows the time zone, I think she does, and she asks whether I went to the Rosary, “Mom it is 4:00 a.m. and I do not think that anybody goes to Rosary” – “You have to wake up and go to work, it is 4:00 a.m. – you have two (2) more hours so get up.” But my Mom is always there for us. Her support and her love is what drives all of us boys together. I know Dad is in Boise with my Nino is not able to be here with me, but I thank you for all the time, your patience and my Mom always tells me that no matter what I do in life, I am always Mom’s little boy. Again, I just want to thank you Mama for everything *I rikuetdo, i languahi, i kuttura, ni un fanague yu. Enague hafa bai hu fanague i famaguon hu. Si Yu’us Ma’ase. Ya i bisinu-mu*, walking in she said to me, this is like getting married all over again, and I said, I guess but without the bachelor party. She likes that. I have a little four (4) years old boy, and we always teach him Chamorro – both respect and language, and he is also my pride and joy. My wife would take them and they would go house to house asking for votes. I am supposed to be the man here, but she has touched so much of my heart and my dedication, my commitment and my success. *Asagua-hu, un dankulo na Si Yu’us Ma’ase ni guinaiya-mu. Yan para todos hamyo ni taotao Marianas, Si Yu’us Ma’ase ni botun komfiansa, i guinaiya, yan mas impotante, i bendision ni in nahi yu. Hugagagao hamyo lorkue todun yan in gihi yu mona gi karera-hu sa sin hamyo lorkue ni*

*ngaian ni bai hu gaige manu ni matatachong yu. Ya hu gagagao hamyo i pinasensia, kinemprendi yan guinaiya. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Mr. President yan ready yu para bai hu fachocho.*

The Chair recognized Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Mr. President, fellow colleagues, family members, manamko's, manhoben, and to our people who are here today to witness our Inaugural address. It is with great honor and privilege for the people of Tinian to have bestowed the sacred trust in me to adhere to all subject legislation to serve in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth. I will uphold rightfully discharge this trust through legislative policy, constituents service guided by this three principles; doing the right thing, doing our best, treating others as they wished to be treated. Now as we begin our journey in the Seventeenth Legislature, we must pledge to lead our Commonwealth with integrity, openness, respect, and honesty. The people of the Commonwealth have entrusted each and one of us to work together and meet the challenges ahead for better of our people. We now vow to challenge each other to make bold decisive and forward thinking decision. I pledge to do everything possible to support our community by always keeping the needs of our people front and center. I look forward to strengthening the relationship that exists and providing input and advice on policies and decisions that benefit all of our constituents. I will work together and support our citizens and strive to merge new ideas with traditional practices. I welcome dialogue with State Municipal partners, private businesses and developers. We are all stakeholders in our Commonwealth future and broad input is the first step to a good decision making. I am optimistic with other levels of government to work together with enthusiasm and confidence to our common goal to create more job opportunities and developments in our Commonwealth. I will explore and concentrate efforts to solidify our competitive advantage working with the existing companies, businesses and interested developers who believe in the Commonwealth and want to stay here and prosper while at the same time, increasing our assessment base with new enterprise looking for home. Now, I would like to thank my sister, my brother, my family who always supported me and helping me to go out and ask for vote of confidence from the people of Tinian. I thank you brother, my sister and my daughter. Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and good morning to all. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Chair recognized Senator Crisostimo.

**Senator Luis P. Crisostimo:** Thank you, Mr. President and distinguished guests in the Gallery, most especially the newly elected Senators that are just coming into the Seventeenth Legislature. I hope that we as one body of the Senate continue to work in harmony as we face many challenges that face our young Commonwealth. Today, we find new Immigration takeover by the Federal Government. Just two days ago, a business friend of mine came in from abroad and this is from our neighboring Asian country and it took them about two and half (2 ½) hours just to clear the federal lines, and during that process, one Japanese couple came in, the lady was cleared and the man was not and ended up being sent back to Japan. I pray that the Commonwealth's challenge in the numerous things that we need to facilitate so that we can open our ports quicker in a speedy entry for our visitors. The only hope that the Commonwealth faces today in terms of economic prosperity is tourism – everything else is almost a bust. I feel that we should also focus on the financial grip that gives the Commonwealth the funding, the certainty of our future leaders, colleagues and even the business community. I want to thank a very special friend and a colleague of mine, Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, she represents the Bank of Guam – thank you for coming. Every Inauguration that I

call, she is here as well as distinguished guests, Senator Respicio, thank you for making it to the CNMI Inauguration. I hope that the Northern Marianas would stay in one unity as we are a small region here in the islands and we need to work in partnership with Guam. I guess as they say, if we need to bring back the air services to the islands or it would be very devastating to the Commonwealth, especially the uncertainty of our tourism and hospitality, and also in the leisure destinations as that of Tinian and Rota. I hope that you can echo this to our Continental Airlines and open some flights because we do not have a jet service that can fly into Manila or Hawaii, especially for our patients. I beg you and I beg your colleagues and the airlines to come back. We here in the Legislature, I think every member here from the President down to me, I say that we are ready to find funding and hopefully subsidize and bring back what we longed missed. In light of that, I want to go on to a very close friend of mine, he is also like a Father to me, he is former Congressman Pete Arriola who is in the Gallery. Chairman Arriola, you are like a Father to me. He teaches at the San Vicente School today and even our Education, we need to look into the Commonwealth's overall picture and hopefully we can share the very little resources that we have. Today, we are faced with the 2010 Budget and we ask ourselves whether it be enough to carry this government to the closing of the Fiscal Year. This is one challenge that when you wake up in the morning, you ask yourself this question whether there is any business to hire people so that these people would be contributing members of the economy or the government, they are the fuel that this government faces today. I also like to ask our U.S. Delegate to Congress, I know that we have differences in terms of submerged policies, although I listen to more than six (6) to seven (7) hundred people from Guam that feel that our resources here in the Commonwealth rightfully belongs to the people of the Northern Marianas or the people of the Mariana Islands. If we were to legislate and get back our submerged land, I would really like to see that the Department of Defense cleans and clears our many toxic and DOD's waste in our lagoon. I hope that when we are deed back to this submerged land that our generations to come will not worry about finding funding to clean our beaches and coral reefs that we find today – even us, we are not sure whether it is contaminated or not, and I look forward to you colleagues in echoing the many challenges that faces us today. I want to conclude in saying that I have three (3) important women in my life and that is my Mother, my wife Maria, and I have a daughter Monica, and I have two other kids and my grands. I am happy that they continue putting up with me and they too have echoed many times the hardships they see in our islands and especially with the people without jobs. Colleagues, if there is any way that we can count today and say, how many jobs are employed today and look two (2) to three (3) years down the line – how many did we keep and how many did we employ, that is probably something that would bring me of more interest. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank you, Ghilisow and Salamat Po.

The Chair recognized Senator San Nicolas.

**Senator Henry H. San Nicolas:** Thank you, Mr. President. *Finenina, Buenas dias para todos ni man presente pago na talo'ani. Finenina, Mr. President, para hago kongradulation para iyonmu election kumo Presidenten i Senate yan parehu ha para i man gatchong-hu ni man gaige gi oficiales i leadership. Mr. President, giya guahu personatmiente, i konfiansa-ku gi iyonmu leadership, gaige giya halom i korason-hu ya ginen enao na motibo, listo yu yan magof yu para tapan machochu mona todos parehu ni para tachagi ninasiñata muna maolek i hinagun yan linala taotao-ta todos. Talo, Mr. President, kongradulation. Para i taotao Tinian, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni botun konfiansa ni ma ekstendi giya guahu gi esti i man mapos siha na election ni ma ekstendi konfiansan niha ya ma pega i bendision giya guahu lakkue. Para i asaguahu as Marie, Marie, hagu yu yan guahu hao. Buenas tatdis talo para todos. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*



**President Paul A. Manglona:** It is now three (3) minutes after twelve (12) and I promised the members that the Session will end at noon. So let me recognize Senator Ayuyu.

**Senator Juan M. Ayuyu:** Thank you newly elected President Paul A. Manglona, members of the Senate, distinguished guests from all over, to the people of the Commonwealth especially from Rota, Tinian as well as Saipan and the Northern Islands. Good morning to all of you. It is with great privilege and honor to be inaugurated today and I believe that I would not be sitting down here without the confidence of the people of Rota, and I will personally recognize all of you who are here today, and those who are back home. I am here to commit myself to the entire Commonwealth not only Rota where I got elected, but to work with the other members Tinian and Saipan in addressing the real issues of our people in the Commonwealth. Number one, our economic crisis needs to be address. Like Senator Crisostimo said, every day we need to open our eyes, minds and our ears, and see how many jobs are lost and what we can bring in. It means that it gives us a challenge. It is not only the Economic Committee, but the entire members and leaders of the Commonwealth. So I am here to commit myself. I might be a good negotiator and I am pretty much sure that I am good one. Also, I know how to compromise. In politics, I think that those are the equation in getting what we need. So, again, I would like to thank all of you who are here this morning who witness this Inaugural Ceremony. To my wife, I would like to extend *Un dankulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*. To my uncle in the back, Tun Ge/Nan lalang, to my Mother and Father in law, my brothers and brother and sister in laws, Thank you very much, but I will not leave here without thanking my two daughters and son John who is serving our Country right now in the Army, and my two daughters who are in San Diego who have been with me throughout my campaign this Election. I thank you all. Mr. President and all the members, Congressman Greg "Kilili", Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the House of Representatives, Municipal Council and Mayors, let us all work together in fulfilling the responsibility in the Constitution as mandated. Again, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todos hamyo ni man gaige pago guine na oga'an. Para hamyo nai komitea, iyoku Committee to elect, Thank you very much. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

**President Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you, Senator Ayuyu. I was just informed by the Sergeant at arms that the House is doing Benediction at this moment. So I am going to have to forego my speech today. I am going to ask the Senate Clerk to include it in the Journal, and like former Senator Frica, I expect the members to read my statement. But let me end by saying that today we are very honored by good friends coming all the way from Washington D.C. with Congressman "Kilili" as well as Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, and from Guam with First Lady Joan Camacho, Senator Guthertz and Senator Rory Respecio and former Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, and many good friends. So I am not going to make a mistake by listing everyone. I am just going to say, thank you to all our good friends who are here today. We ask that you join us very shortly during lunch in front of our building, and thank you to all my colleagues. I am very humbled with the support that you have given me by the challenges that faces us ahead, and I just want to say that it is in the spirit of partnership that we will face the task, and it is with this spirit that I accept this honor of leading this August Body, the Upper House of the Legislature. *Manainahu yan Maneluho, todos hamyo nai bisita, man gaige siha lokkue guine i Mayot siha, Councils, i local leader siha, hu hongge na kumo manmachochu hit mona, man hita mona kumo un korason, ya taimanu ha bidaña si Senator Reyes nai ha nahi siha i membro, hanafan a'komprendi yan uno ha sa un taotao hit ha taotao Marianas, un tasi hit ha sumoperarao ya bai hu chule enao na sensia ginen as Senator Reyes ya bai hu na bonito mona, tapan a'ayuda mona sa man makat i mañeluta guenao huyung siha gi homestead yan*

*gima niha. Mampos bula problema-ta, i espitat, i medical referral, i bandan edukasion, i public safety. Bula problema-ta ya ginagagao na tafañ ayuda. Taya tachochogue esti siha lao pot i famaguon-ta ya propio esti na gaige iyota Youth Congress Speaker guine si Leon Guerrero. Ha representa ti Youth Congress ha lao kontodu i manhoben enteramente giya Marianas. Ya enao na man gaige hit guine para i manhoben ta. Lokue, hu hongge na siña hit mamachochu mona yan i Gobietnota si Fitiañ yan si Lieutenant Governor Inos yan i membron i San Papa na Guma. Pues esti ha, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ya ta kontinua mona i programata. Thank you very much.*

**President Paul A. Manglona's Inaugural Speech**

*FATHER ISAAC, GOVERNOR BENIGNO FITIAÑ, LT. GOVERNOR ELOY INOS, PRESIDING JUDGE ROBERT NARAJA, CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI SABLÁN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TONY BABAUTA AND HIS DELEGATION, I MAYOTTA YAN I COUNCIL SIHA, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MANAINAHU YAN MANELUHU. GOOD MORNING, BUENAS DIAS, TIROW AND WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US HERE THIS MORNING.*

*I AM HUMBLLED AS I SPEAK HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY. HUMBLLED BY THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME AND HUMBLLED BY THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE AHEAD OF US. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE IN THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP, NOT PARTISANSHIP, THAT WE WILL TAKE ON THIS TASK. AND IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I ACCEPT THE GREAT HONOR OF LEADING THIS AUGUST BODY.*

*IN THIS LEGISLATURE, WE BELONG TO DIFFERENT PARTIES BUT WE SERVE ONE COMMONWEALTH AND ONE COUNTRY. TO THIS END, WE ARE UNITED IN OUR PRAYERS FOR OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OVERSEAS. THEY ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR WORLD SAFER AND PROTECT OUR FREEDOM, AND WE IN THE LEGISLATURE MUST ALSO WORK TOGETHER TO TURN THINGS AROUND, TO REBUILD THE COMMONWEALTH AND CREATE A FUTURE WORTHY OF THEIR TREMENDOUS SACRIFICES.*

*I WANT TO THANK MY CONSTITUENTS ON ROTA FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING THEM FOR TWENTY TWO YEARS NOW “I TANO MAME”, IS A POPULAR SONG ON ROTA. ACTUALLY OUR ISLAND'S ANTHEM. AND ONE VERSE STARTS WITH, “DIKIKI NA ISLA BENSIYUN YAN BONITO I LADERANA KAHULO KULANG GUA'OT PARA ISU”. KULANG GUA'OT PARA ISU, **HOPE**. THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH HOLD ON TO. AND IT IS WITH HOPE THAT I WAS SENT, AND ALL OF YOU MY COLLEAGUES WERE SENT, BY OUR CONSTITUENTS TO THE SENATE.*

*LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE SENATE. SENATORS JUAN AYUYU AND JOVITA TAMAINO FROM ROTA. SENATOR FRANK CRUZ FROM THE ISLAND OF TINIAN. AND OF COURSE, SENATOR RALPH TORRES REPRESENTING SAIPAN. I WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE UPPER HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.*

*FOREMOST, I WANT TO THANK SENATE PRESIDENT PETE P. REYES FOR THE ADMIRABLE JOB HE HAS DONE IN LEADING THE SENATE DURING THE SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE. PRESIDENT REYES WAS ABLE TO BRING COHESIVENESS TO THE UPPER HOUSE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWING THE MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK THEIR MIND. TO MY MEMORY, THE SENATE DURING THE SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST HARMONIOUS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CNMI. THANK YOU PRESIDENT REYES FOR A JOB WELL DONE.*

*BUT NOW WE MUST LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE, AND THE TASK BEFORE THIS LEGISLATURE IS GREAT. IT IS A WELL KNOWN TRUTH THAT OUR ISLANDS ARE IN A RENT STATE OF CRISIS AND THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.*

*OUR HOSPITALS ARE STRUGGLING TO PROVIDE THE MOST BASIC OF HEALTH CARE, MANY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY CANNOT AFFORD THE TREATMENT THEY NEED AND OUR MEDICAL REFERRAL PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PLACE A GREAT STRAIN ON OUR PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET. OUR RETIREMENT FUND IS IN A STATE OF DISARRAY WITH MANY OF OUR RETIREES WORRIED THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THE BENEFITS THEY HAVE WORKED FOR AND RIGHTFULLY DESERVE. OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM CONTINUES TO OPERATE WITH INADEQUATE RESOURCES, OUR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM A FAILING ECONOMY. PUBLIC SAFETY CONTINUES TO TAKE BLOW AFTER BLOW. AND OUR PEOPLE HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN US, THE ELECTED LEADERS. WE CAN NOT BURY OUR HEADS IN THE SAND. WE MUST FACE THESE CHALLENGES HEAD ON.*

*WE HAVE THE TALENT AND KNOW-HOW TO CONFRONT AND SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS RIGHT HERE IN THE CNMI. WE MUST, HOWEVER, STOP THE MENTALITY OF BLAMING THINGS ON THE PAST AND POINTING FINGERS AS TO WHO AND WHERE WE WENT WRONG. MANY OF THOSE THAT WILL BE TASKED WITH SOLVING THESE ISSUES ARE HERE IN THIS BUILDING TODAY. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WE WILL WORK WITH TO MOVE THE CNMI FORWARD. WE CANNOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT ELECTION TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. THE WORK MUST START TODAY AND THOSE WHO CALL THE CNMI HOME MUST BE READY TO ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND GET STARTED.*

*TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES WE WILL NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND FOCUS ON OUR MOST PRESSING PRIORITIES. PARTY DIFFERENCES WILL NEED TO BE PUT ASIDE SO THAT EVERYONE HAS A VOICE AT THE TABLE. SELF INTERESTS MUST BE SHELVED AND INTEGRITY IN OUR GOVERNMENT MUST BE RESTORED. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL COME FROM GOVERNMENT ALONE. IT WILL TAKE A COORDINATED EFFORT FROM ALL OF US THAT LIVE IN THESE ISLANDS. LEADERSHIP WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO THOSE IN LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS OR EXECUTIVE CABINET MEETINGS. LEADERSHIP WILL COME FROM THOSE IN BUSINESS MEETINGS, CLASSROOMS AND BACKYARD BARBEQUES. LEADERSHIP WILL BE FOUND IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVIST GROUPS THAT WILL RIGHTFULLY CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO. TO THOSE WHO MAY FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN, OR UNHEARD, I URGE YOU TO STAND UP AND LET YOURSELF BE KNOWN. WE WELCOME ALL TO THE TABLE.*

*I AM COMMITTED TO CREATING A UNIFIED GOVERNMENT WITH HEALTHY DIALOGUE RATHER THAN VINDICTIVENESS AND UNFULFILLED PROMISES. THEREFORE, I WILL MAKE THIS PLEDGE NOT ONLY AS SENATE PRESIDENT, BUT AS A PUBLIC SERVANT TO THE PEOPLE, A FATHER TO A LOVING FAMILY AND A SON OF THE CNMI.*

*AS SENATE PRESIDENT OF THE SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE, I PLEDGE TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR FITIAL AND HIS ADMINISTRATION, OUR DELEGATE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSMAN KILILI SABLAN, AND OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS. I WILL ARTICULATE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TOWARDS SOLVING A HOST OF PENDING ISSUES PLAGUING THE COMMONWEALTH AND WILL ENGAGE IN PROACTIVE WORK WITH OUR LEADERS AND PARTNERS IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.*

*THESE PRESSING ISSUES WILL INCLUDE OUR STRUGGLING ECONOMY, PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, AND OUR ENVIRONMENT. ADDRESSING THESE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH AN ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIBLE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THROUGH THE FORMATION OF NEW AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.*

*HERE ARE THE THREE GOALS I WILL ENDEAVOR TO RESOLVE DURING THE SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE: 1) THE STABILIZATION OF THE RETIREMENT FUND WITH A PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC PLAN TO ENSURE THE SOLVENCY OF THE FUND, 2) THE TRANSITION OF OUR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM INTO A FUNCTIONAL AND RESPONSIVE UNIT, AND 3) A LONG-TERM AND WORKABLE PLAN FOR OUR UTILITY AND LAND USE NEEDS. ESSENTIAL TO ACCOMPLISHING THESE GOALS WILL BE THE PASSAGE OF A TIMELY AND BALANCED BUDGET.*

*I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE CONCERTED AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF OUR LOCAL LEADERS, COMBINED WITH THE PUBLIC'S CONTINUED PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPORT, THE CNMI WILL PREVAIL IN ADDRESSING AND OVERCOMING THE DAUNTING TASK WE CURRENTLY FACE.*

*AS AN OPTIMIST, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT DIFFICULT TIMES SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A PREREQUISITE TO SUCCESS. AS SUCH, LET US ACCEPT THESE CHALLENGES NOW AND MOVE FORWARD IN UNISON WITH OUR SHARED COMMITMENT AND GOAL OF IMPROVING THE LIVES OF EVERYONE WHO CALLS THE CNMI HOME.*

*Hu ekstetiendi un sen dangkulu na "Si Yu'us Ma'ase" para todos i manga'chong-hu ni ma pega i inangokkon niha giya guaho ya baihu prometi hamyo na baihu na'e todo i ni na'siña-ho ya tafan macho'cho'mo'na para ta na'guaha un decision, un direksion, yan un sensia anai para ta adelanta i lina'la' todos i taotao-ta (ta tungo ha na mampos man ma madedese i taotao-ta siha guenao huyon) para ta atbansa i tano'-ta yan i kuturata para i famagu'on-ta. Hu nana'e dangkulu na kongratulasion todos i manga'chong-hu ni man man hula' pa'go na ha'ane yan lokue todos i oficiales ni man ma elih. Congratulations para todos hamyo. Huhonge na siña hit man macho'cho' mo'na mauleg yan i gobietno-ta Governor Fitial yan Lt. Gov. Inos, i Congresuta, Greg Kilili, yan i mayotta siha. Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todos i manatungo' yan i familita yan i asaguata siha na magof ni talilie pa'go na og'an yan todo i tiempo man gagaigi gi fion-ta.*

*SI YU'OS MA'ASE, OLOMWAAY, AND MAY GOD BLESS THE COMMONWEALTH.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

## BENEDICTION

**MC Muna:** Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I request the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Father Isaac Ayuyu to lead us with the Benediction prayer. Please stand.

**Father Isaac Ayuyu:** Let us conclude by singing the traditional Chamorro Song, Atan Jesukristo.

*[Fr. Isaac led the congregation in the singing of “Atan Jesukristo.”]*

### ADJOURNMENT

**MC Muna**: Thank you, Father Isaac. This concludes our Inaugural Ceremony for the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the newly elected Senate President and our Senate members, thank you, *si yu’us ma’ase, ghilisow*, for your presence.

**President Paul A. Manglona**: Just to officially end our session, I would like to ask for a motion to adjourn. Senator Reyes, recognized.

**Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes**: Mr. President, I move for the Senate to adjourn subject to your call.

The motion was seconded.

**President Paul A. Manglona**: All in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Paul A. Manglona**: All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Paul A. Manglona**: The Senate Adjourns subject to the call of the Chair.

Victoria T. Guerrero  
Journal Clerk