



# Senate Journal

## ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

**SJ 18-01**

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**Organizational Session**

**Monday**

**January 14, 2013**

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**Master of Ceremony (Joel Camacho): [Inaudible]**

### PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS

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

*[Inaudible due to faulty recording]*

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

- Senator Juan M. Ayuyu
- Senator – elect Victor B. Hocog
- And Senator Jovita M. Taimanao

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

- Senator-elect Francisco M. Borja
- Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
- Senator Jude U. Hofschneider

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

- Senator Pete P. Reyes
- Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres
- Senator – elect Ralph N. Yumul

**MC Joel Camacho:** Presiding as President Pro-tem, for this inaugural ceremony is Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres from the Third Senatorial District, the island of Saipan and the Northern Islands.

**President Pro-tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** I guess this is where I ask everyone to sit down. Thank you, Masters of Ceremony Mr. Camacho.

## PRESENTATION OF COLORS

**MC Joel Camacho:** And now I call upon the Marianas High School, JROTC Color Guards for the posting of Colors. I now as the Sergeant-at- arms to please escort Ms. Ashley Hofschneider to the podium to lead us in the singing of the US National and Commonwealth Anthems and I ask everyone to please rise.

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

The National Anthem was sung.

The Masters of Ceremony called upon Father Celso Magbanua

**MC Joel Camacho:** Thank you Ms. Hofschneider and the Marianas High School JROTC Color Guards. I ask everyone to remain standing for the invocation and I request the Sergeant-at-arms to please escort Father Celso to the podium.

## INVOCATION

Father Celso Magbanua delivered the invocation.

**MC Joel Camacho:** Thank you Father Celso. 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 Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Honorable Robert C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court, the Honorable Associate Judges, David Wiseman, Joseph N. Camacho, and Perry B. Inos. Representing the local governments, The Honorable Donald G. Flores, Mayor of Saipan, The Honorable Tobias C. Aldan, Mayor of the Northern Islands, The Honorable Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. Also present with us are the honorable members of the Municipal Council from Saipan and Northern Islands, Tinian and Aguiguan. I am also honored to welcome and recognize on behalf of the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature our off-island dignitaries, The Honorable Judith Won Pat, Speaker of the Guam Legislature. The Honorable Senator Frank Aguon, Senator from Guam and the Attorney General JP San Nicolas and the Rota Municipal Council members as well as recognizing families, friends and supporters of our members and members elect. To each and everyone, welcome to the Commonwealth Legislature. Ladies and gentlemen, I now call on President Pro-tem The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres to officially call the Senates organizational session of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Mr. President Pro-tem, please.

## CALL TO ORDER

The Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Organizational Session on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, President Pro-Tem of the Senate presided.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** The Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature succumbs to order and convenes its organizational session. Good morning everyone. Pursuant to an appointment by members of this august body, I shall preside as your President Pro-Tem for this organizational session. Before proceeding further and without any objection from the members, I hereby appoint Senator Victor B. Hocog from Rota to serve as our Floor Leader Pro-Tem. Thank you members. At this time, I also would like to appoint Ms. Doris Bermudes to serve as our Senate Clerk, and Mr. Juan Santos as Sergeant-at-arms. Clerk, may I please get a roll call.

Senator Juan M. Ayuyu	Absent
Senator Victor B. Hocog	Present
Senator Jovita M. Taimanao	Present
Senator Francisco M. Borja	Present
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Present
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Present
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Present
Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres	Present
Senator Ray N. Yumul	Present

**Senate Clerk (Doris Bermudes):** Mr. President Pro-Tem, eight (8) members are present, one (1) absent.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Thank you Clerk. With eight members present, we do have the necessary quorum to conduct business. First order of business today is appoint a special committee which is the credentials committee, to review the credentials of senators –elect Victor B. Hocog from Rota, Francisco M. Borja from Tinian and Aguiguan, and Senator-elect Ray N. Yumul from Saipan and the Northern Islands. I hereby appoint Senators Francisco Cruz, Jovita M. Taimanao, and Pete P. Reyes. Senator Cruz, you shall serve as the chairman of the committee. At this time, the Senate shall stand in recess until the credentials committee is ready to report its findings to the full Senate. Short recess.

**The Senate recessed at 10:20 a.m.**

**And**

**The Senate reconvened at 10:35 a.m.**

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** *[inaudible]* At this time, I would like to ask the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Senator Cruz to report to the body of their findings on the elected senators. Senator Cruz?

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. Your credential committee to which was referred to reviewed the credentials of Senators-elect Victor B. Hocog, Francisco M. Borja, and Ray N. Yumul to the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature begs me

to report as follows: Upon reviewing the credentials of Senators-elect Victor B. Hocog, representing Rota, Francisco M. Borja, representing Tinian and Aguiguan and Ray N. Yumul representing Saipan and the Northern Islands, your committee finds that the Senators-elect are duly elected and met the requirements of Section 2, C and D of Article 2 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Therefore, Mr. President Pro-Tem, your credential committee recommends that the credential of Senators-elect Hocog, Borja, and Yumul be accepted by the full Senate. Copies of the committee's report have been distributed to the members. Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. I ask that the report of the credentials committee be made part of our records. May I hear a motion to adopt the report?

Seconded by a member.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** The motion has been seconded. If there is no objection or debate to the motion to adopt the report, the motion is put to vote. Clerk, please roll call.

Senator Juan M. Ayuyu	Absent
Senator Francisco M. Borja	Present
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Present
Senator Victor B. Hocog	Present
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Present
Senator Jovita M. Taimanao	Present
Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres	Present
Senator Ray N. Yumul	Present
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Present

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** Point of clarification.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** State your point, Senator Hocog.

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** Having accepted us in the full senate, do we have to vote our self first?

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Counsel?

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** I mean we are a new elected member here and...

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Senator Hocog, the answer is yes. You do need to vote.

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** I do?

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Yes sir.

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** Therefore my vote is yes.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Thank you. With that, motion to adopt the credentials committee, with eight (8) members voting yes, we are now ready to take our oath of office. We are

honored and privileged with the presence of The Honorable Robert C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court who will administer the oath of office. At this time, I ask the Sergeant-of-arms to please escort Judge Naraja for the signing of the Oath of Office. I ask that all the members to stand please.

### **SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS**

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

**Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja:** Please stand up. Senators this is your Oath of Office. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, please state your name, 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.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Short recess.

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

**And**

**The Senate reconvened at 11:10 a.m.**

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** We are back in session. Thank you Judge Naraja and congratulations to my colleagues. We shall move on to the order of business and at this time I would recognize a motion for the adoption of the interim rules of procedure. As appended to Senate Resolution No. 18-01, that would govern the proceedings of this Senate, Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem Senator Hocog.

### **ADOPTION OF INTERM RULES**

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Victor B. Hocog:** Yes, Senate President. I move to adopt Senate Resolution No. 18-01, Senate Rules for the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Seconded by several members.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** The motion has been seconded without any objection or debate.

The Chair recognizes Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** May I make a subsidiary motion to allow the full body of the Senate to be sponsors of this resolution.

Several members voiced, “no objection.”

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** The motion has been seconded. Clerk, roll call for the subsidiary motion.

Senator Juan M. Ayuyu	Absent
Senator Francisco M. Borja	Present
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Present
Senator Victor B. Hocog	Present
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Present
Senator Jovita M. Taimanao	Present
Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres	Present
Senator Ray N. Yumul	Present
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Present

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Thank you Clerk. Now for the main motion. All those in favor of the motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 18-01 of the interim rules of procedure say “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** My next order of business is the election of President.

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** Point of information President Pro-Tem. I believe we have two members of the House that are with us. Unless they want to join us in the rest of our session, I think we need to dispose of their reason why they are here so that they can return and resume their session.

Several members voiced, “no objection.”

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** No objection. Go ahead.

The Chair recognizes Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero and Representative Richard Seman.

**Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero:** Mr. President Pro-Tem, members of the Senate, my colleague Representative Richard Seman and myself are here to advise the Senate that the Eighteenth House of Representative are fully organized and are ready to transact business.

## ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Thank you, Congressman Larry Guerrero and Congressman Richard Seman. Thank you. We are back to the order of business. The election of President, the floor is now open for nomination.

The Chair recognizes Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Jude U. Hofschneider from the Second Senatorial District to serve as President of the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Islands Commonwealth Legislature.

Seconded by several members.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** There is a motion on the floor nominating Senator Jude Hofschneider to the office of President and the motion has been seconded. Are there any other motion?

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** Mr. President, I move to close and vote by acclamation.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Is there a second on that motion?

Seconded by several members.

**President Pro-Tem Ralph Dlg. Torres:** There being no objection to Senator Jude Hofschneider nomination, and there being no other nomination, Senator Jude Hofschneider, you are hereby elected President to the Senate, Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth by acclamation. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort our President.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Senator Torres *ni hun kupa i* President Pro-Tem *para pagu na* inaugural session and to all of you my fellow colleagues for your confidence and support. I am very honored to be elected and serve as the President of this Eighteenth Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature, and before proceeding, I respectfully solicit everyone's patients again and understanding as I ask you all to please stand one more time for a moment of silent prayer. At this moment of silence, let us remember our young men and women in uniform who are still fighting for freedom or in other harms way that the Lord will protect them and guide them and bring them home safely to their families. We also remember in our hearts the opening prayer offered to us as we begin another chapter in our lives as leaders of our Commonwealth. Please stand.

A moment of silence was observed.

## ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** At this time, the floor is now open for the nomination of the Vice President of the Senate for the Eighteenth Commonwealth Northern Marianas Legislature and I recognize Senator Ray Yumul.

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I am proud to nominate Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres to serve as the Vice President of the Senate for this Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, I so move.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** The motion has been made for Senator Ralph Dlg. Torres to serve as Vice President and it has been seconded. Is there any discussion?

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** Mr. President, I further move that we vote by acclamation. Thank you.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** There being no other discussion and there is a motion to vote by acclamation, all those in favor of Senator Torres being the Vice President of the Senate say “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** At this time, we shall now move to the election of Floor Leader. The floor is now open for nomination and I recognize Senator Torres.

### ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER

**Vice President Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Mr. President, it is my great honor to nominate Senator Victor B. Hocog to serve as our Senate Floor Leader for the Eighteenth Legislature.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** There is a nomination made for Senator Victor B. Hocog to serve as the Floor Leader of the Senate, do I hear a second?

Seconded by several members.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** It has been seconded. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognizes Senator Ray N. Yumul.

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** I also therefore move to close nomination and vote by acclamation for the position of Floor Leader, I so move.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** There is a motion to close nomination and it has been seconded, all those in favor say “aye”.



Several members voiced, “aye”.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Again, I would like to recall for a voice vote on the nomination of Senator Victor B. Hocog to be Floor Leader. All those in favor say “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

### ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Congratulations Senator Hocog. Moving on, on our order of business, I would like to entertain a motion or do I hear a motion for the nomination for Senate Legislative Secretary and I recognize Senator Frank Borja.

**Senator Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, I am honored to nominate Senator Jovita Taimanao to serve as our Legislative Secretary for the Eighteenth Legislature.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** There has been a nomination for Senator Jovita Taimanao as Legislative Secretary for the Eighteenth Senate. It has been seconded. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognizes Senator Ray N. Yumul

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** Mr. President, if no objection, I would like to move to close nomination and vote my acclamation.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** There is a motion to close nomination. Do I hear a second for that motion?

Seconded by several members.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** It has been seconded. All those in favor of that motion say “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Back to the original question for the nomination for Senate Legislative Secretary for Senator Jovita Taimanao.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All those in favor of that motion say “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

## **NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Congratulations Senator Taimanao. Fellow colleagues, the Senate of this Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature has elected its officers and is duly organized. At this time, I would like to appoint members to notify the House of Representative as we are not in need to notify the Governor because the Governor is here with us on this inaugural session. Thank you, Governor. Mr. Governor, please accord that information to our Lt. Governor as well, sir. Thank you. At this time, I appoint Senator, Floor Leader Victor Hocog and Senator Francisco Cruz to notify the House of Representative that the Senate is in order and we are ready to conduct business. At this time, I would like to call for a short recess.

**The Senate recessed at 11:45 a.m.**

**And**

**The Senate reconvened at 11:48 a.m.**

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** *[inaudible]* I call on Senators Hocog and Cruz. I want to go on record and recognize that the members of the Municipal Council and the Mayors of each respective island are present today as well as the State Board of Education, welcome. We are ready to conduct business as we organize this morning. At this time, I would like to call on Senators Hocog and Senator Cruz to report to the Senate.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Mr. President, the Eighteenth House of Representative acknowledges that the Eighteenth Senate is well organized and ready to conduct business sir.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. At this time, I would like to go down the order of business by allowing the statement of members to take place and with this I recognize Senator Francisco M. Borja.

## COMMUNICAITONS

NONE

### STATEMENT OF MEMBERS

**Senator Francisco M. Borja:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Mr. President. Finéne'na malagu yu na bai congratulate i officers i Eighteenth Senate ni man ma elect pa'go na dia. Lökkue' para i otro member congratulations lökkue ni man ma swear in hit pagu na dia para ta tutuhon sumetbe i taotaota Commonwealth. Finéne'na lökkue ya-hu na bai rekognisa siha i dignitario siha ni man gaige pagu na ha'ani ni ma join hit para hu ma witness i swearing in i inaugural ceremony ni para i Eighteenth Senate. Espesiát lökkue na recognition para I Mayorn Tinian, I ofisiát Tinian, I supporters, familia, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni konfiansa na para bai setbe hamyo ta'lo kuarto años guini gi Senate yan dánkolo lökkue na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni en join yu pagu na ha'ani ni para un witness iyo-ku inauguration and I swearing in na seremonias. I guess I message para iyo-ku colleagues siha enao ha para bai faisen I man ga'chonghu na maila ta na suha I sinentin política. Man ma bota hit ni taotao para ta representa I taotaota Commonwealth. Serious problemata, siriosu problemaña iyo-ta Commonwealth ya malagu yu para bai faisen todú I miembro na maila ta fan a 'ayuda. Ta na fan dañá todú I tiningo', eksperensiata. Parafa ta fan achá'ikak hayi mas bula na bills ha introdusi. Iyo-ta Commonwealth esta bula lai. Bula eyi ti ma'ma chechechu, ti man prisisu. Ya malagu yu para bai faisen hamyo instead of ta fan achá'ikak hayi mas bula iyoña bills maila ya ta na fan dañá I hinassota. Ya ta atan hafa na bills prisisu. Or hinasso hafa na lai presente chumuchuma para guaha mas adilanto yan chumuchuma I development siha gi Commonwealth ya ta amenda enao na lai insigidas. Lökkue ta atan hafa siha na lai prisisu ni para ta accommodate sino ta enhance I economic growth giya Commonwealth. Ya enao gue ta fa a 'ayuda, ta fan achá'ikak ni enao siha na klasen bill I para ta arekla I problemata gi Commonwealth. Todú hit ha tumungo siriosu I problemaña I Retirement, iyo-ta Health Corporation, CUC yan I education. Maila ta fan dañá ta fan serious gi chechota ya ta address este siha na problema sa siguru yu komu ta satba I probleman I ekonomia tinatiyi todú sinatba este siha lökkue I pumalu siha na agency ni man siriosu probleman niha I ekonomia. Pues enao ha Mr. President malagoho I bai faisen I Eighteenth Senate ta fan dañá, lets work hard. Guahu man hongge yu ni ayu ti bulan palabra. Action nu? Maseha ti burukento hit lao ya-hu action. Pues enao ha hu fafaisen members lets work hard ta accomplish hafa I guinifin I taotaota I mas maolek, I la maolek or sino mas maolek ni hinemlo, lina'la yan ekonomia. Este ha iyo-ku colleagues, Si Yu'us Ma'ase lökkue ni opottunidát. Thank you Mr. President.*

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** At this time I recognize Senator Jovita Taimanao.

**Senator Jovita M. Taimanao:** Thank you Mr. President and good morning everyone, my colleagues. Good morning to all the dignitaries, justices, leaders of prospective titles, families, friends, and honored guests. I wish to focus on this topic or rather the word family because when we are at home we work together with our family members and when we are here in the legislature in the Senate we are going to work together as family. So within that concept, I pledge and look forward to work with each and every one of my colleagues here at the Senate that's a Senator just like what Senator Borja said, we need to work openly, honestly, and build in the integrity of our legislature in the Senate. We need to restore public trust. Right now our people in the CNMI they

have mixed feelings over us in the legislature. And when I look at this mix feelings it's a very, very important aspect to resolve because it is understandable that nothing will be accomplished if we continue to have head ons, either in our professional career or within our families. That is one of the topic that I wish to share this morning. As I serve the remaining years of my term here in the legislature, I commit to work harder and more assertive in making positive changes and results especially in this hard times and challenges in the CNMI. I ask all mighty God to continue with his blessings in giving me good health and patience to work collectively with my colleagues and all the leaders especially in our small island of Rota and the entire CNMI. I continue to acknowledge and appreciate just like I said earlier about families, my family, my husband Ricardo and our three beautiful girls, Rachel, Renita, Renea and their spouses and also my grand children for being so patient in all the times that I have been away and when I come home. I just pour out my anger and I pour out all kinds of questions like why, why, why and they sit there very patiently waiting for me to finish and they say mom if you don't succeed you need to try again. So within that in my heart and in my mind, I always look at my job professionally. I say to myself I will carry on this recommendation from my family and my children and not only do I give respect to the family and recognition but I do recognize our LB here in the legislature because without them, our work will not be easier to go along in our daily basis. I recognize our LB Director, Director Melchor Mendiola and all the staff and all the staff of each member here in the Senate and not to forget my office assistant Lori and Bridget. They have been tremendously very helpful. I always believe again that as we continue to serve the people of the CNMI in the Eighteenth Legislature, we need to look at each other, protect each other and help each other as we pledge like every session that we have harmony, respect, and tranquility. If we move forward in that direction, then I believe that towards the end of this Eighteenth Legislature we will succeed. I always believe too that positive changes will continue to happen in the CNMI. Once again thank you all for coming this morning and being with us in this ceremony. *Buenas dias.*

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Senator Taimanao. At this time I would like to recognize Senator Pete Reyes.

**Senator Pete P. Reyes:** Thank you Mr. President. Good morning fellow members of this august body and to all that are here today to witness the inauguration of the Senators into the Eighteenth CNMI Legislature. We are honored by your presence. Before I offer my congratulations to those who are joining us as the newest members of the Eighteenth Senate, I would like to first congratulate Senator Jude Hofschneider on his election to the presidency. You have a huge challenge ahead and I am glad that you are up to the challenge, Mr. President. The next two years will greatly test your leadership, as I know that it will take a committed and seriously focused individual to demand for cooperation in dealing with the work we face together for the common good for all the people of the Commonwealth. I am confident that you possess the quality of leadership skills and the drive to meet those challenges. We can understand the frustrations and disappointment of our people and their resolve not to tolerate any more abuses in government. Politics and personal agenda should not take priority over the people's business. No longer will they allow us, any of us to disregard their interest. For too long their sufferings did not receive the kind of attention it deserves and in the election booth they send an unmistakable message to all of us that they will no longer sit idle while the servant remain complaisant. High in their message is the need for complete transparency, full public accountability of public funds, support for our children in the Public School System, and the continuing higher educational institution. They want us to fix the Retirement Fund for those who the Government by Constitutional requirement have full obligation to protect, to reduce the cost of power and water generation to an affordable level, to fix the mess in the Public Health Corporation,

to restore trust and confidence in the safety of our people, and to be vigilant in protecting the scholarship funding of our children. I call on each member to take heed of the warning. Let me offer my congratulations to the Vice President, Senator Ralph Torres, Floor Leader Victor Hocog, a good friend, congratulations *bradda*, Legislative Secretary Senator Jovie Taimanao. Finally permit me to express my deepest gratitude to all the families and most especially the wives of every single member here and in the House of Representatives for giving the people your spouse's as their public servants. This is a very difficult career choice and I know that there are times when wives wonder where their husbands are, why they are meeting in committee meetings, and how come it's taking too long. Believe me it's a very, very tedious and worrisome yet awesome responsibility, and members let your wives know where you are. I will be remised if I did not take this opportunity also to extend my most humble gratitude to all the people who believed in honesty and transparency in government during the last election. The silent majority spoke loud and clear and it is now our job to roll up our sleeves and attend to the interest of our people. We salute all of you and may the good Lord bless everyone. Thank you, *ghilisow, meslulang kalangat, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, arigato gosaimas and maraming salamat po.*

The Chair recognizes Senator Ray N. Yumul.

**Senator Ray N. Yumul:** Thank you Mr. President. I am actually in shock. It is the first time I have been called to speak midway through the alphabet. I am usually the last since I can remember in pre-school. Before I begin, I would like to thank my wife Maria, my grandmother Thomasa Camacho Naraja, my father Jess for being with me today and of course Presiding Judge Robert Camacho Naraja who had sworn us in today and his wife Aunty Frances. I would also like to thank my supporters who have given me my support of confidence and thank you Mr. President for inviting my doctor, Doctor James Hofschneider who is here today so I am in good hands. My fellow citizen, today marks a special day. We observe it not as a victory of independent candidates who are not of a political party but a celebration of freedom. You have witnessed not just an end of a legislative term of a significant renewal as well and especially that of change. This is the freedom of democratic choice this past November election that was exercised by our citizens. This midterm election saw the seats of three of the nine senatorial offices and all twenty seats of the House of Representatives and the Municipal Councils. There is a continuity of political debate as I a new member of this body prepare to work with the other members to shape policy. I have sworn before you and the all mighty God and the same solemn oath that our forbearers describe in our Constitution over a quarter century ago. Although I may not be new to the legislature, I am new to this senate body as a former member of the House of Representatives, I must admit the bifocus was mainly on issues pertaining to Precinct Three where I *[inaudible]* and the issues confronting the rest of Saipan and the Northern Islands. The Seventeenth House of Representatives have never held House Sessions on Rota or Tinian the three years we were in office except for committee work. This may have deprived those of our fellow citizens the opportunity to be heard by the full body. My family and I have always been attuned to the economic distresses of the respective islands. My father and mother had invested on both islands and I must admit that it has lagged. I resolve to my fellow colleagues that I will focus on assisting your respective agenda as to bring economic prosperity. The CNMI as a whole is struggling. We are struggling to raise ourselves from this economic rot. There was no open and transparent communications between the administration and the legislature. Say for the House leadership who kept most critical information away from the body until the last minute. Yes, the Governor did state that he had misjudge his political colleagues who are not of his political affiliation and yes the community itself did not receive critical information that will bring hope and understanding but we can overcome the present state of political and economic condition we are now

in. Because of this lack of transparency and cohesiveness, clear and present division clearly existed between the two branch of government but we will overcome for the sake of our people we will move forward with the peoples agenda. I would like to extend my hand in friendship to the leadership and people of Guam to forge a new, renewed bond of friendship. Our election are now synchronized and we share a common goal. I am here to listen and I am here to help. Mr. President, I reserve the rest of my time allotted and move that if there is no objection, I will submit the rest of my inaugural speech in writing to the Clerk for inclusion on today's journal. Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, ghilisow, and maraming salamat po. I na'an hu si Ray Naraja Yumul ya dispensa yu sa sen banidosu yu para bai hu sangan sa si tatahu ha yan si Yu'us mu osgun.*

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Senator Yumul. At this time, I recognize Senator Frank Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning distinguish guest, elected leaders, dignitaries, visitors and the people of the Commonwealth. I would first like to express my appreciation to my family and the citizens of Tinian and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands for allowing me this opportunity to serve them in this capacity. I am a firm believer in the rights and values of our people and will always base the decision I make on what is best and what is right for them. I am confident that the members of the Eighteenth Commonwealth Legislature posses the work ethic and dedication to continue improving our islands and the quality of living for our people. With our economy, we must work together to create stringent legislative policies to create both a balance budget and adequate services to our people. In all that I do, I ask that I be blessed with the strength and guidance to make some fiscal policies and bring about common sense to law and regulation. Again, thank you all for your support and I look forward to working with all of the members of the Eighteenth Commonwealth Legislature to better our Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity.

The Chair recognizes Vice President Ralph Dlg. Torres.

**Vice President Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Thank you Mr. President. Good morning everyone. In the last three years it has been very difficult up here addressing certain departments both education, the hospital, CUC and it made it even harder that we address the issues on the departments and in the lack of communication between the Administration and the House. For example, education, PSS, the House passed twenty nine million dollars last year. It came up here, the Senate passed thirty three million dollars because we believe in it. We voted on it. It went down to the conference committee, unfortunately it was dropped down to thirty million dollars, 30.7. We already had a shut down in 2010 and we did not want to go through it again because at the end it's always our people. It really bothered me that it dropped because if we don't as a leader decide and give them the opportunity and the resources who do we expect them to gain that knowledge and who do expect to give them those resources if we the leaders up here can't even prioritize them and it wasn't about not enough funding. It was about prioritizing what the limited resources we have. It was very difficult working with the House, I am sorry to say but there are a lot of other issues that I will have to explain. The responsibility to provide resources for our children is beyond critical. They rely on us and they are our next leaders and I ask the House and the Chair that we should not allow anymore reduction then what they need. It doesn't make sense for us to be up here fighting for something yet we cannot provide our *[inaudible] esta maolek ha?* For example, the hospital..

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Recess.

**The Senate recessed at 12:05 p.m.**

**And**

**The Senate reconvened at 12:08 p.m.**

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Back in session.

**Vice President Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Back again. *espitát*, look at the hospital. The corporation was passed in 2010. It had a whole year to be created. We consistently ask the administration to please do the transition before the corporation kicks in. January came in the following year, yet there was nothing. Not even a single board member was created or nominated. It was an additional six months, came June, nothing. We asked the House is there any communication, the answer is no and the reason why I say all this is because the lack of prioritizing both education and public health. If any of our children that goes to school or elderly for that matter *ya man malangu yan man hanao para iespitát ya todú siha tumungu ti nahong medico atensión. Ya na piniti sa gof siña mon yan gin dinanche I administration iyoña prioritize siempre hit ta atendi. Ya parehu ha estigue ni hafa ma susedi ni un hungok ha guini* the lack of transparency both working in the House and the Senate and I am very confident that the Eighteenth Legislature in the House would work with the members in the Senate to address this critical issues. Back again, just to see how much collaboration. We introduced a governing body for the corporation. Nine months *man ma go'te gi* House. We just read a couple of weeks ago that it's recommended by the health professions that came in from Washington D.C. that its critical part of the corporation to have a governing board rather than just an advisory board. We moved here last year to get a brand new CT scan. The House again held it for nine months. They said that it's not as critical as the other departments. Last year again the hospital corporation was cited by Medicaid that it is indeed, we need it and I thank the corporation that last week there was a new shipment that came in of CT scans, of sixteen slice. We are far from the newest technology but we are better off than one slice that was here since 1986. We have a long way to go but with the consistent communication between the Administration, the Senate and the House we need to sit down and prioritize what we have and we start out with our children and as well as their health for all of us. Last year *a dingo hami si tatan mami. Sen piniti lao parehu ha na momentu ha dingu ham kontentu. Mona rasón na hu sa'sagan estigue para hamyo ney ni lalala tatan miyu atendi yon guiya. Para hamyo ni man tata atende I famagu'on miyu sa si tata hu ha atendi hami todú. Mom, táigue hao guini, gaige hao Boise. Thank you lokkue ni todudu ni bidamu ni hami. Parehu ha masa'pet miyu yan si dad. Everyday un agang yu para un sangani yu hafa para bai cho'gue dinanche guini gi leyeslatura. Bai kontinua enao gue chomogue. Mañeluhu yan asaguan miyu Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni ayudun miyu todú yan I abisu. Be close pagu Mr. President para bai dánkolo saluda I asaguahu ni gaige ha guini gi tatteku. Sasaonao yu asaguahu, sasaonao yu ma lalatde an pupuengi ngai'an hao magi, ki ora hao magi, hayi para meeting mu. Ya kada biahi hu sangani hao ha para manu yu. Gaige ha telephone hu agang ha yu. Fino kantaña si Alex Sablan, agang ha yu sa bai fatto. Siña ga atrasáo yu asaguahu lao pot sirosu na manera hamyo todus guini atendi I famagu'on miyu yon guiya. Yan todú hamyo ni man lalala I tantan miyu tan I nanan miyu siempre un dia lokkue ma dingo hit ya maila ta aprobecha siha buentas man gaigaigi. Si Yu'us*

*Ma'ase yan thank you lökkue ni un nai yu no opottunidát para bai yun miyu Vice President gi Eighteenth Legislature. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Victor B. Hocog.

**Floor Leader Victor B. Hocog:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Señót Presidente yan member's siha na man ga'chong guini gi para disiocho na leyeslatura. Anai gaige pagu i katgo para ta asigura i taotaota nay mu na'i hit pattikulátmenti hami ni man nuebu nay man ma li'e guini na leyeslatura para i disiocho. En dinaña' i otro siha na miembro nai ma sesetbe ha esta pagu i pueston niha komu senadót ginen i ma'pos na disisiete na leyeslatura guma senadót. Ya gi hulo este na dinaña pagu nafanelos yahu na ta se'se' mona kada unu i sensiata. Ya ta sesa dídide i sinentin i didok na política gi halacha ya enago'te gi dinisehan i taotaota parehu ha Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Gaige pagu gi me'nata, gi hulo lamasata, gi halom i ulu ta yan i na kanta para siha. Lao antes ni bai hu kontinua mona sumangan hafa Señót Presidente, guahu hinassoku na i man sangan na yanggen hagu uttimo taya esta mas pon sangan. Lao dispensa Señót Presidente ya bai chule dídide tiempon este man gaige pagu na mañe'lo, mañaina taotao Marianas. Ya finéne'na bai rekognisia todú i man dignitaro i akague, i kada isla ni man gaige yan i west yan todudu i dignatarion i gobiernamentu i notre Marianas. Mañe'los sumen mannge' sinienteku nai para bai bira yu tatte para bai fanetbi gi tano i taotao Marianas ya parehu ha yu yan si Senator Frank Borja i fino'ña na ti nuebu ham guini gi satgen i parehu ha i Senadót or i satgen i kongresu na guma. Lao i prisisu mas i hafa i megahit i mandon i taotao. Pattikulátmenti para hami ney pagu man ma na'i ta'lo chansa para bin setbe hamyo. Ya ilék'léku na i mando ni man ma na'i ham ni nuebu yan parehu yan i mando ney hagas man matatachong gi mina disisieti na leyeslatura, i mandon i taotao i hafa taimanu i koriente i lina'la hinanaoña mona anai para ta chagua i pinadesi gi parehu ha los kuatos klasen dipattementu sistema patikat ni man umbrabrasa yan ta sisienti i hafa i dipattementu hana fan ma dedesi i pupblikun Marianas. Es komu ta alok i finéne'na yan i mas tákkilo gi hinengeku para ta aligao alibiu ni bandan i hinemlo. Bandan i hinemlo fanelos yan i mangga'chong-hu taya baliña para ta patte hafa na dipattementu ya ti ta arekla i nisisario na fondo anai i hinemlo kada unu na patgon, kada unu na taotao, yan kada unu giya hita ni man matatachong gi hilo' este na satge para ta guifiyi mona libianu i hinemlo i taotao. Hu fafaisen hamyo mangga'chong-hu gi sensaratmenti na mandon i taotao i para ta na lala i hinemlo. Yanggen taya hinemlo, taya lina'la. Ya yahu na ta fan hasso este guenao na hinasso. Ti bali para ta fatachong ya ta fan man guiguifi hafa na dipattementu para bai na'i mas salape ya bai maleffa nu hinemlo i kada unu. Munga mangachong hu na soda hit guini man ma ta'tachong ya sigi ha hit man man guifi para ta na'i este na dipattementu sa amigota yan man maleffa hit ney hinemlo sa yanggen hafa sinisedita guini yan nisisita i setbisiun i espitát yan taya amot, taya mákina, taya balita ni ta representa i pupbliku. Pues hu gagagao hamyo mangga'chong-hu maila ya ta guifiyi i finéne'na i mandon i taotao ni para ta na maolek i fasilidát i hinemlo. i sigundo ti ta sotta este lökkue i CUC para kontinua mana matinas atten laimi para hu sigi hit mu na'i sakrifisia i taotao pinadesi anai gago' yan ñateng i trobus na ekonomia para hu bisita hit gi tanota Marianas. Impottante ney hita pagu ni man matatachong para ta guifiyi este dánkolo para ta aligaoyi este solosion yan fondasión ney para ta fan a 'li'e i manu siña na chinaddek yan i libation i komparasión i Commonwealth Utility anai para ta aligao ya ta satba i pinadesin i pupblikun Marianas i bandan i kandet. Hamyo ta'lo otro na gaige i mando guiya hit todudu i bandan i Retirement. Kololo'ña hamyo na man ritiráo ti hu tungo hafa yanggen ti man animu este na leyeslatura pagu i mina disiocho yan ti man man guaddok para hu fan mañodda maseha dídide para hu sunesteni i alibiun hamyo ni man ritiráo ni monhayan esta i kontribusióni guatu i dipattementu or i organiyasion i Retirement Fund. Hu fafaisen lökkue i mangga'chong-hu na bai fan hami gi hulo este ya bin atan mona ya ta ayuda todudu. Hao komprende ha fanelos na*



*meggai ta nisisita lao debi lakkue hu gagagao hamyo ni pupbliku i dánkolo na kinenprende na debi ta na finéne'na i debi na po finéne'na. Ya iléléku i bandan edukasi6n i mas tákkilo lakkue gi sinienteku lao i mas hu fafaisen maila ta atan finéne'na hi hinemlo sa i hinemlo giya i lina'la i famagu'on, i hinemlo giya para hu ásostieni i fondasi6n i edukasi6n. Anggen baba i fasilitadat i edukasi6n ti hu lala mas ki ta espepekta ni hita.* My dear people of the Commonwealth, yesterday during the inaugural mass the sermon of our paster really touched my heart on the issue of the expression familiar expression that most people use or almost everyone use. What would this Eighteenth Legislature do or will do? However my dear people and colleagues, let us all ask ourselves what did the legislature in the past not do so we will do it. The rule of others as what was said yesterday by our paster, the Eighteenth Legislature will not try in any way to rule over one another instead we will hold together, bond ourselves together to ensure for the common good to the people of the Commonwealth in general. It was said again yesterday about judgment. Again, my dear people and my dear colleagues, the Eighteenth Senate will have a better judgment for our people. Not to consider it on a reasonable basis nor Senatorial basis but to consider it in trying to save the Commonwealth in general to revive and recover our economy and lastly my dear colleague and people that are here this afternoon with us, we have to continue to build humility amongst us not only to becoming or being modest or being respectful, but thus far I would say that humility in this Eighteenth Legislature and ahead will facilitate the cleansing out of 2012 that was not done and that we will renew our commitment to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to revive and recover the priorities. And my last statement to everyone to my dear colleagues over the horizon, somewhere out there, there is a dream that everyone once have and you know that if our dream is out there on the horizon we will achieve those dreams by having to commit our self to build a pipeline to create revival to the Commonwealth and therefore I believe that my Mission Statement during this Eighteenth Legislature is revive and recover the Commonwealth in new revenue generating measures that can withstand to assist all the Commonwealth, the Senatorial Districts. I consider the island of Saipan as the tree and the root of the Commonwealth and therefore I ask my dear colleague that we must focus and concentrate our self how can we make this tree continue to grow strong so that it will produce a healthy leaf and branches to bear us fruits. Not having a healthy trunk and a healthy root, the branches will produce a very weak and tasteless fruit. I ask all of you that this Eighteenth Senate are committed to revive the Commonwealth. The Eighteenth Senate are committed to find opportunities for our people. The Eighteenth Senate also are committed to bring in more trade and commerce to the Commonwealth and the Eighteenth Senate, I ask that they will find alternative development that will levelize the pay so that our people can feel this sustainable livelihood in the Commonality of the Northern Mariana Islands. Having this said, if we all believe that this is the way this Eighteenth Senate will lead itself then I will say that we have connected the pipe, the pipe dream that our people have long awaited to realize. Lastly Mr. President, I will be remised not to recognize my lovely wife Vilia, my sister Lydia Aldan, and my mother in law Fermina Mendiola and to the rest of my family here that flew from the mainland. I would like to recognize by brother-in-law Frankie and his wife, Judy, Patty and Andrew and of course, I would like to recognize my lovely dear girl there from Houston Veralyn and my daughter Viola and Ton and my granddaughter Vionni and lastly I would like to recognize my son Victor Val and I would like to thank him dearly for having excel his full potential last election to work together with the rest of the members and the members of my committee and excel his manhood to show me that he is a responsible boy from here on. I will also be remised really not to recognize my former colleague Angel, Congresswoman Tina Sablan, thank you and to all my supporters from the island of Rota. The people of Rota, I give you thank you for excelling and propel me to represent you and Rota have just made history in the Senate House. Thank you Mr. President, members, thank you very much and good morning.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Senator Hocog. That was indeed a very beautiful speech and normally the last one to talk. Since you all covered the basis of the economy, the hospital and everything else let me squeeze in a little and first again recognize the distinguish members, the community and also from off-island, the Speaker of the Guam legislature, Speaker Won Pat and to all the families and the people of the Commonwealth, I welcome you all to this inaugural ceremony of the Senate. and Before I begin, let us remember in our prayers the person whose life was taken during the tragic incident that occurred early yesterday morning, and hope for the speedy recovery of the other victim still at our hospital. *Buenas dias* to everyone. I stand here ready today, humbled by the honor bestowed upon me to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as the Senate President of the Eighteenth Commonwealth Legislature, and ready to face the challenges before us. On behalf of the Senate, I would like to thank former President Paul Manglona for leading the Senate in the Seventeenth Commonwealth Legislature and for over twenty years of service to the CNMI. I would also welcome our new members to the Upper House, Senator Victor M. Hocog of the First Senatorial District, Senator Francisco M. Borja of the Second Senatorial District, from the island of Tinian and Senator Ray N. Yumul of the Third Senatorial District. Our Commonwealth has seen its fair share of triumphs and hardships throughout history, and it is no secret that, today, we are in the midst of one of the worst crises to date. Because of our weakened economy, our public agencies have suffered significant reductions in funding, and our public services, including Healthcare, Education, Public Safety, Utilities and Retirement, are all in desperate need of assistance and improvement. These services are fundamental to our well-being, and it is imperative for their shortcomings to be addressed. Just last year, we received an award from the LOHAS Award Ceremony in Beijing, China, declaring our islands of the CNMI, most notably the island of Saipan, The Most Popular Island Destination for 2012. The HANMI, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a hotel occupancy rate of 74.53 percent a 9 percent increase over the previous year and with the increase in military trainings, the ongoing purchase of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and over 80 percent increase in China tourist arrivals, it seems as though our economy is on the verge of a turnabout. So now, more than ever, there is a need for our government to close the divide that exists between branches. We must set aside our differences and work together with the House of Representatives, the Executive Branch, our business community, and most especially our citizens to improve our operations, update our procedures, and lay the foundation for the revitalization of our tourism industry. Without this collabertive effort, we will be unable to meet these challenges we face, and the needs of our islands will remain unfulfilled. In revitalizing our tourism industry, we must remember the uniqueness of our Commonwealth, as tourist can come to one island destination, and experience three different islands, each with their own distinct qualities and characteristics: Saipan, with its shopping, golfing and nightlife; Tinian, with its casino; and Rota, with its eco-tourism and casino. Add this to the fact that our islands played a vital role to the shaping of our world history, I believe we have a quality product. However, in order for this to be effective, it is essential for us to find a way to make transportation between or islands affordable and reliable. Furthermore, we must have every citizen's support to foster a welcoming environment here in the Commonwealth for our island visitors. Our culture is centered on family and friendships, on helping one another. So, in the spirit of our culture, let us welcome our tourists into our family and show them a good time, so that they may go back to their countries with warm memories of our people and our islands. To paraphrase President Obama's inaugural address, I quote "*The challenges we face today are serious and many. And although they will not be met easily or in a short span of time, they will be met.*" The future of our Commonwealth relies on the foundation we set today, and with hard work and dedication, I am confident that this group of elected officials and its staff, and everyone else here in the legislature will have a positive influence on our islands. I would like to thank the Legislative Bureau Director

Mendiola and his staff for their hard work and commitment in serving the needs of the Legislature and for putting a well organized preparation for this important event today. You all play an integral role in today's event and your efforts are much appreciated. In closing, I would like to thank my family. Most of my siblings are here and to my siblings that are in the states, I thank you for your undying support, and your patience and understanding to Jude. And to the great people of Tinian and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands, thank you for affording me this opportunity to lead our islands and better our future. I most especially will be remised if I don't recognize my daughter today, Ashley. Thank you for joining me and I would like to thank my kids and grandkids, Nathaniel, Kimberly, Jarvin, Tash and Eli, Ashley you are here and Alexis who is unfortunately not able to join us and the mother of my kids, a good friend of mine, Liz, for your undying support over the years. I sincerely appreciate your confidence in me and would do my best while serving you all here in office. In closing, I also would like to recognize the only surviving member of my father's brothers, who is very patient and who is here with us today, si Uncle Bernard Hofschneider. Thank you, *non join ham pagu na dia yan para todu lokkue ghilisow familiaku gi familian i Untalan side, Si Yu'us Ma'ase*. With that, thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, yan marangmin salamat po*. At this time, I would like to go to our order of business if there is any announcements, Clerk, any announcements?

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Victor B. Hocog.

**Floor Leader Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible]*

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Before doing so, I would like to extend an invitation to everyone here today to join us for lunch in front of the building and thank you for being with us here today. Now I call on our MC for the closing of our organizational session.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

## BENEDICTION

**MC Joel Camacho:** Thank you President Hofschneider. At this time I request for the Sergeant-at-arms to escort Father Celso to lead us with the benediction prayer. Everyone please rise.

Father Celso Magbanua delivered the benediction.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Everybody please be seated.

**MC Joel Camacho:** Thank you Father Celso. Honorable members of the Senate, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen that concludes our inaugural ceremony for the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the newly elected President, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, and our senate members, thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, ghilisow* for your presence.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. Camacho. At this time, I recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible]*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Floor Leader Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible]*

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** Motion to adjourn. It has been seconded. Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All those in favor say “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider:** This session is now adjourned.

**The Senate adjourned at 12:25 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.**

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Geraldine T. Cruz  
Senate Journal Clerk

**APPEARANCE OF SENATE LOCAL BILLS**

LEG. NO.	TITLE
	NONE

**The Senate may consider, debate, and/or act upon any item contained in this Order of Business at the time and place described herein.**