
TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
**THE SENATE****FIRST REGULAR SESSION – 2019****ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION**

SJ 21-01

First Day

Monday, January 14, 2019

PRESENTATION OF THE MEMBERS***Master of Ceremony:***

Mr. David S. Demapan: Good morning and welcome to the Legislature. The Swearing-in Ceremony for the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will begin momentarily. At this time, I kindly ask everyone to please be seated and at the same time please turn off all electronic devices. Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to present to you the Senate Members of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature by Senatorial Districts: From the First Senatorial District, the Island of Rota; Senator-Elect Victor B. Hocog, Senator Paul A. Manglona and Senator-Elect Teresita A. Santos; representing the Second Senatorial District, the Islands of Tinian and Aguiguan; Senator Francisco M. Borja, Senator-Elect Francisco Q. Cruz and Senator-Elect Jude U. Hofschneider; and from the Third Senatorial District, the Islands of Saipan and Northern Islands; Senator Sixto K. Igisomar, Senator-Elect Justo S. Quitugua “JQ” and Senator-Elect Vinson F. Sablan. I now call upon the DPS Color Guards for the posting of Colors and Mr. Gus Kaipat accompanied with June Lizama to the podium to lead us in the singing of the U.S. National and Commonwealth Anthem. I ask everyone to please rise.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

DPS Color Guards

SINGING OF THE UNITED STATES AND COMMONWEALTH ANTHEMS

Gus Kaipat & June Lizama

MC/Mr. David S. Demapan: Thank you, DPS Color Guards, Mr. Gus Kaipat and June Lizama. I ask everyone to please remain standing for the Invocation and I call upon Father Reyes to the podium.

INVOCATION

Father Jesse Reyes: In the name of the Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit, Amen. In today’s Gospel from Saint Mark, “This is a time of fulfillment, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.” *Yu’us tata gi langet, na magof hao humu-ekstendi i kanai-mu gi hulo este siha na lalahi yan famala’an ni un hayek para Senadot, para huma representa-hao gi maulek na na’anmu. Munga manafan gagu siha para hufan machocho simparad para hago yan para i*

minaulek i taotao-mu siha guini giya Marianas. Na'i siha tinemtom yan maulek na hinasu para hu ma setbi i maulek na taotao-mu siha. Gracious Father, we thank you for this day, I ask you to pour out your spirit upon these sons and daughters of yours, Bless our CNMI Senators. Enlighten their minds and their hearts to work collaboratively for the betterment of our islands. Give them the heart of a leader not to be afraid to defend those who have no voice. Let them be aware that from this day forward, their duty and obligation is not for themselves, but for the people of the Commonwealth. Give them the wisdom to listen to the people whom they serve, so that at the end of their day they may rest peacefully knowing in their conscious that they make the right decision for the betterment of our people. We ask this to our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

MC/Mr. David S. Demapan: Thank you, Father Jesse. 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 Ralph DeLeon Guerrero Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with First Lady Diann; The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with Lady Wella; The Honorable Edward Manibusan, CNMI Attorney General; The Honorable John A. Manglona, Associate Justice, CNMI Supreme Court; from the Commonwealth Superior Court the Honorable Roberto C. Naraja, Presiding Judge; The Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Associate Judge; The Honorable Wesley M. Bogdan, Associate Judge; from the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands The Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge; The Honorable Heather L. Kennedy, Magistrate Judge; Representing the Local Government, The Honorable David M. Apatang; Mayor of Saipan; The Honorable Vicente C. Santos Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands; The Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan; and The Honorable Efrain M. Atalig, Mayor of Rota. Also present with us are the honorable members of the CNMI State Board of Education and PSS Administration; the honorable members of the Municipal Councils from Saipan and Northern Islands; Tinian and Aguiguan and Rota. I am also honored to welcome and recognize on behalf of the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature our off-island dignitaries; *Ginen i mina Trentai-Sinko na Leyislaturan Guahan:* Honorable Tina M. Barnes, Speaker; Honorable William M. Castro, Minority Leader; Honorable Amanda L. Shelton; Honorable Dr. Kelly Marsh; Honorable Sendilina Lekka, Senator, Pohnpei State Legislature. At this time, I also like to recognize the presence of the Customs Border Patrol (CBP), Port Director, CNMI, Jeffery Hofschneider Jr.; Resident Department Head-DPS Tinian, Colonel Matt Masga; Tinian Casino Gaming Commission Members: Chairwoman Esther H. Ban; Vice Chair Joe P. Kiyoshi and Commissioner Patrick San Nicolas. I also like to recognize Justice Inos, he is here with us as well as welcoming and recognizing families, friends, and supporters of our members and members-elect to each and every one, welcome, to the Commonwealth Legislature. Ladies and gentlemen, I now call on President Pro Tem, the Honorable Francisco M. Borja, to officially Call to Order the Senate Organizational Session of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Mr. President Pro Tem, please.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Thank you, Master of Ceremony. Before I call this Organizational Session to Order, I would like to ask everyone to please bow your head in silent to remember and keep in our prayers, the late honorable Congressman Francisco S. Dela Cruz and his families. Thank you, everyone. At this time, I call the Organizational Session to Order.

[PRESIDENT PRO TEM HITS THE GAVEL AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION BEGINS]

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Pursuant to an appointment by the members of this body, I shall preside as your President Pro Tem for this Organizational Session. Before proceeding and without objection from the members, I appoint Senator-Elect Justo S. Quitugua from the Third Senatorial District to serve as our Floor Leader Pro Tem. Any objection?

There was no objection raised.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Thank you members. At this time, I also would like to recognize our LB Staff: Ms. Dolores Bermudes, our Senate Clerk; Ms. Joan Kaipat, Journal Clerk; Mr. Juan Santos and Ms. Jennalyd Babauta, Sergeant-At-Arms; Ms. Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel, Legislative Assistant; Ms. Antonette R. Villagomez and Mr. Jose A. Bermudes, Senate Legal Counsels. Moving down, I call this Organizational Session to order and the next agenda Item on our Order of Business is the Roll Call. Clerk, can you take the roll by each Senatorial District?

CALL OF THE ROLL

The Senate Clerk called the roll by Senatorial Districts and reported to the Chair that all nine members are present.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Thank you, Clerk. With all nine members present, we do have the necessary quorum to conduct business. Next on our Order Business is the Appointment of Special Committee, which is the Credential Committee to review the credentials of Senators-Elect; Victor B. Hocog, Teresita A. Santos, Francisco Q. Cruz, Jude U. Hofschneider, Justo S. Quitugua and Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan. Also, I appoint Senator Igisomar, Senator Quitugua and myself, as members of this Special Committee, which is the Credential Committee. At this time, the Senate stand recess until the Credential Committee is ready to report its findings to the full Senate. Short recess.

The Senate recess at 11:44 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:51 a.m.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: We're back in session. I would like to ask the Chairman of the Credential Committee, are you ready to report to the full body?

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Thank you, President Pro Tem. Your Senate Credential Committee to which was given the task of reviewing the credentials of the Senators-Elect of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate, begs leave to report as follows: Your Credentials

Committee recommends that the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature accept the credentials of Senators-elect:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Victor B. Hocog | 4. Jude U. Hofschneider |
| 2. Teresita A. Santos | 5. Justo S. Quitugua; and |
| 3. Francisco Q. Cruz | 6. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan |

Your Credentials Committee finds that Article II, section 2 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands requires that senators be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least twenty-five years of age, a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least five years immediately preceding the date on which the senator takes office, and registered to vote in the senatorial district where he or she is a candidate. N.M.I. Constitution Article II, Sections 2(c) and (d), your Credentials Committee finds that Victor B. Hocog and Teresita A. Santos are Senators-elect from the First Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that they are qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, were born prior to January 14, 1994, have been residents and domiciliary of the CNMI since at least January 14, 2014, and are registered to vote in the First Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that Senators-elect Hocog and Santos meet all the requirements of the CNMI Constitution and Code such that there is no provision with which compliance would prohibit the acceptance of their credentials. Your Credentials Committee further finds that it is unaware of any defect in morals or character that would militate against Senators-elect Hocog and Santos being seated as members of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate. Your Credentials Committee finds that Francisco Q. Cruz and Jude U. Hofschneider are Senators-elect from the Second Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that they are qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, were born prior to January 14, 1994, have been residents and domiciliary of the CNMI since at least January 14, 2014, and are registered to vote in the Second Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that Senators-elect Cruz and Hofschneider meet all the requirements of the CNMI Constitution and Code such that there is no provision with which compliance would prohibit the acceptance of their credentials. Your Credentials Committee further finds that it is unaware of any defect in morals or character that would militate against Senators-elect Cruz and Hofschneider being seated as members of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate. Your Credentials Committee finds that Justo S. Quitugua and Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan are Senators-elect from the Third Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that they are qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, were born prior to January 14, 1994, have been residents and domiciliary of the CNMI since at least January 14, 2014, and are registered to vote in the Third Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that Senators-elect Quitugua and Sablan meet all the requirements of the CNMI Constitution and Code such that there is no provision with which compliance would prohibit the acceptance of their credentials. Your Credentials Committee further finds that it is unaware of any defect in morals or character that would militate against Senators-elect Quitugua and Sablan being seated as members of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate. Based on the foregoing, your Credentials Committee recommends that the credentials of Senators-elect Victor B. Hocog, Teresita A. Santos, Francisco Q. Cruz, Jude U. Hofschneider, Justo S. Quitugua, and Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan be accepted by the full body of the Senate, so move, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Thank you, Senator Igisomar. I ask the Clerk that the report of the Credential Committee be part of the record. I think Senator Igisomar earlier move for

the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 21-01 and it has been seconded. All in favor of the motion for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 21-01 please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. Special Committee Report No. 21-01 is hereby adopted. Moving down on our Order of Business, which is the Swearing in of Members. We are honored and privilege with the presence of the honorable Roberto C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth's Superior Court, who will administer the Swearing-In of the Senate Members. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the Presiding Judge. And I ask all the members to please stand for the Oath of Office.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

Judge Roberto Naraja: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

"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 abilities, so help me God."

Judge Roberto Naraja: Congratulations! [APPLAUSE]

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Please be seated. Thank you, Judge Naraja. I now congratulate all my fellow colleagues, "Congratulations!" I would like to call for a short recess for the signing of the Oath of Office. Short recess.

The Senate recess at 11:58 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:03 p.m.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Next on our Order of Business is the Adoption of the Official Rules of the Senate would govern the proceeding of the Twenty-First Senate, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

ADOPTION OF THE OFFICIAL RULES OF THE SENATE

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: It's Senate Resolution No. 21-01 and I recognized the Floor Leader Pro Tem for the proper motion.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Justo S. Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President Pro Tem. I move for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 21-01, "To adopt the Official Rules of the Senate for the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature."

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: There is a motion and it has been seconded for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-01 that will govern the proceedings of the Twenty-First Senate of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, all in favor of the motion say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 21-01 is hereby adopted. Moving down in our Order of Business the next item is the Election of the President.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: The floor is now open for nomination., I recognize Senate Jude U. Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, President Pro Tem. It is an honor and privilege to nominate Senator Victor B. Hocog, from the First Senatorial District to serve as the President of the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Any second?

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Recognized, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you, President Pro Tem, I move to close nomination.

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: There is a motion to close nomination and it has been seconded all in favor to close nomination say, "Aye." Oppose say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. We'll be voting on the nomination of Senator Victor B. Hocog, for the President of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Victor B. Hocog	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Yes
Senator Vinnie F. Sablan	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President Pro Tem, all nine members voting "yes."

President Pro Tem Francisco M. Borja: With all the members voted for Senator Victor B. Hocog, congratulations, you are hereby elected Senate President for the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations! [APPLAUSE] Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the President to the dais so that he will preside over the remainder of this Organizational Session.

President Victor B. Hocog: Good morning and thank you. I like to extend my sincere appreciation and *dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase* to all my colleagues who have chosen me to be their next Senate President during the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. And with this confident, I like to assure the general public that we will come together to ensure the delivery of important necessary public service to the whole Commonwealth in general. Without further ado and in the essence of time, I would like to further proceed with the Order of Business to continue to elect the officers for the Twenty-First Commonwealth Legislature in the house of the Senate. We are now going down in the Order of Business to elect our Vice President for the Senate. Do I hear a motion, Senator Igisomar?

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: *Yeew tumoghul gillisow ngalugh*, Senate President, *rell yom afili yeey bwe ibwe afililong aramas yeel*. I'm honored and privilege to nominate Senator Jude U. Hofschneider from the Second Senatorial District to serve as Vice President of the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion on the floor to nominate Senator Jude U. Hofschneider to be the Senate Vice President, Senator Vinnie Sablan, recognized.

Senator Vinnie F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to close nomination.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion to close nomination, those in favor of the motion say, “Aye.” Those who oppose say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion carries. The position for the Vice President is closed. I would like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Vinnie F. Sablan	Yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Victor B. Hocog	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine members voting “yes.”

President Victor B. Hocog: With all nine members voting “yes” for the Office of the Vice President, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, you’re elected. Congratulations, Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider. [APPLAUSE]

Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu’us ma’ase.*

President Victor B. Hocog: Going down to our next Order of Business is the Election of Floor Leader for the Twenty-First Senate. Recognized, Senator Borja.

ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER

Senator Francisco M. Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored and privilege to nominate a good Senator, the honorable Justo S. Quitugua from the Third Senatorial District to serve as Floor Leader for the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: Recognized, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to close nomination.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion to close nomination has been seconded, those in favor to close nominate say, “Aye.” Those who oppose say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion carries. Clerk, roll call please.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Vinnie F. Sablan	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Victor B. Hocog	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine members voting “yes.”

President Victor B. Hocog: With all nine members voting “yes” Senator Justo S. Quitugua is hereby elected as the Senate Floor Leader. Congratulations, Senator Quitugua on your new position. [APPLAUSE] On our next Order of Business is the Election of Legislative Secretary, recognized, Floor Leader Justo S. Quitugua.

ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Floor Leader Justo S. Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored and privilege to nominate my colleague from the Third Senatorial District, Senator Sixto K. Igisomar to serve as the Legislative Secretary of the Senate for the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion on the floor and it has been seconded, I recognized, Senator Vinnie Sablan.

Senator Vinnie F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to close nomination.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: There is a motion on the floor to close nomination, those in favor say, “Aye.” Those opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion carries. Nomination is being closed. Senator Cruz, do you want to make any comment?

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: No, Mr. President, I am ready to vote.

President Victor B. Hocog: By that request from Senator Cruz, I ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Imuscheel (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Vinnie F. Sablan	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Victor B. Hocog	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine members voting “yes.”

President Victor B. Hocog: With all nine members voting “yes” Senator Sixto K. Igisomar is hereby elected the Senate Legislative Secretary.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Victor B. Hocog: Congratulations, Senator! [APPLAUSE] At this time, I would like to ask Senator Vinnie Sablan and Senator Francisco Cruz to convey to the Governor and the House of Representatives that the Twenty-First Senate is dully organized and ready to conduct business with them. At this time, I would like to call for a short recess for the communication to both the House of Representatives and the Governor. Short recess.

NOTIFICATION OF GOVERNOR AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Senate recessed at 12:15 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

President Victor B. Hocog; Prior to recess we were on agenda Item L. Now, we are moving down to Item M.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Victor B. Hocog: We have already received communication from the House that the House of Representatives is also dully organized and they are ready to conduct business with the Senate. Going down further on agenda Item N.

STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS

President Victor B. Hocog: I like to take this time now to give each member to make their statement to the audience and families and if I may ask, if we can limit our time to also provide some of the families to attend the Governor's Inaugural Ceremony. At this time, I would like to recognized, Senator Cruz to make his statement.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: My message will still be the same. As a Senator for the Second Senatorial District, I will honor the trust of my family and the people of Tinian through stringent legislative policies and quality services to our people. I am a firm believer in the rights and values of our people, I will always base the decision I make on what is best and what is right for them. I thank the citizens of Tinian and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for allowing me this opportunity to continue serving them in this capacity. In all that I do, I ask that I may be bless with a strength and guidance to make sound policies bring about common sense to law and regulation and promote decision-making for what is best for our islands and mine. Thank you. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*. Thank you, Mr. President. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Senator Vinnie Sablan?

Senator Vinnie F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll try to make it shorter than Senator Cruz's message. Good morning. First, I would like to thank God for yesterday, for today and for tomorrow, and also like to thank the people of the Third Senatorial District for giving me this distinguished honor to serve you in the Twenty-First Senate. I would like to thank my mom, Angeline, my mother-in-law, Sofina, for their support. Also, I would like to thank uncle John Santiago for his guidance, my family and friends, to my Committee Team Vinnie, all twenty of you, thank you guys for being right behind me and at my side during this journey. And last, to my wife and children, I would like to thank them for giving me the chance to serve in the House of Representatives in my last tenure and also here in the Twenty-First Senate. With that, I know all of you have the program and have read my mission statement and my vision, but it is my desire for you guys to hear it from me personally. To have a

clear and unwavering commitment to doing what is right for the common good of the people of the CNMI. I envision a society and government that is able to work together to provide services that would enhance the quality of life for its people. Leaders that will make decisions and craft solutions for current issues and most importantly make decisions that would bear fruit for future generations. I plan to be an active proponent in the advancement of our healthcare system that would ultimately create a sense of comfort in our community. I see an educational system that continues to focus on our children's learning and by shaping future productive citizens in our Commonwealth. It is vital that we find and keep a sustainable economy to support the services for our people and an economy that would upkeep our future plans for the CNMI. Preserving our environment, lands, natural resources and physical state of our islands will continue to provide for the paradise that we our visitors share with and borrow from our children, and last but not least, to have a great Commonwealth through the actions of its people that would preserve its cultures, traditions, customs and unique way of life which will sustain our identity for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. President and members and I am ready to work with all of you. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Sablan. Senator Cruz, you forgot to say something?

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Than you. I know that I am breaking the rules, Mr. President, but how can I forget my love one behind me.

President Victor B. Hocog: I was about to ask you that.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: I would like to recognize my wife, Jessa Jade, thank you for always being there to support me and also my two sisters, Lillian and Rosita. Thank you, Mr. President. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Next, Senator Santos.

Senator Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. First, like Senator Vinnie Sablan mentioned earlier, I too would like to thank God and our electives from Rota for giving me this privilege to serve the Commonwealth during this tenure. So, as we begin the Twenty-First CNMI Legislature, there are numbers of key issues that I will continue to strongly advocate for especially on critical issues concerning our Healthcare System. We must ensure that quality care is available to all our people and the quality of care is provided high. We must also support and promote healthy living to prevent and control non-communicable diseases that has taken a drastic toll on our people. Let us focus on the quality of healthcare system equates to positively transforming the lives of our people. In both healthcare and educational system, the NMI must recently work to implement the benefits of information technology. In medicine, it facilitates stronger healthcare delivery that includes full use of telemedicine among others. And education, the concept of cyber classrooms, is it anything new that could advance the tools in learning including cuts in cost in the way we deal with educational infrastructure? These are areas that will benefit tremendously with the use of information technology. We must also commit ourselves to providing the highest quality of education for the Commonwealth children if we are to continue to compete in the future for jobs and economic prosperity. Prosperity also requires that we increase our investment in developing a skill work force to fill the demands of today and tomorrow. It also requires that we invest in skilled workers in trades; plumbing, masonry,

carpentry and others, materials, methods and tools have changed. A skill workers were in such high demand today that we have to go out of the Commonwealth to recruit them. A strong skilled work force ensures economic prosperity for all our people in the Commonwealth, we must be bold, aggressive, alert and we must take long term. With growth comes balance, our economic growth and the preservation of our natural environment are not opposing objectives which must be balanced as in competition one against the other, instead they are complimentary, intertwined and in separable each dependent on the other let us always be mindful of mother nature's beauty. The beauty of our lost islands also has a dark side, we are no strangers to the raft of mother nature. In the past three years, we have suffered from Typhoon Soudelor, Typhoon Mangkhut and the process of recovering from the destructive aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu. We are recovering faster and we are sternly and stronger and it's important for us to remember that it has been a volatile few weeks in the Commonwealth. But our economy has long been moving and showing signs of recovery and growth and unemployment continues to come down and our work is not yet done, but we have to have that sense of steadiness and vision and purpose in order for us to sustain this recovery so that it reaches everybody and not just some. It's why we need to do everything we can in our government to make sure that our economy keeps growing that requires us to protect our momentum and the need to invest in our growth and our security. Today, as we continue our unified recovery efforts let our strength stand as a symbol of the extra ordinary resilience of our people the extra ordinary resilience of our Commonwealth and the extra ordinary resilience of our brothers and sisters in our neighboring islands, and that of the United States of America. We're all an example of what is possible when in the face of tragedy and in the face of hardship good people come together to lend a hand and pole by pole, block by block, village by village we built a stronger future. Our issues are hugely significant, it is therefore imperative that we work together with all sectors of the Northern Marianas community in an exclusive fashion to read the benefits of collective wisdom in everything we embark in the formulation of beneficial and lasting policies it can be done because we are Marianas Strong as our honorable Governor Ralph Torres has repeated over and over again. We are all on the same team with ultimate goal, which is a property and wealth of the people of the Commonwealth and us let us put our best foot forward addressing each issue with conviction and commitment. In doing so, as our honorable and historical Governor of Guam, the honorable Lou Leon Guerrero has stated, we must not leave no one behind. And so with this, I would like to exit to the members and you, Mr. President, in a Biblical Verse, Philippians 4:13, when God says, "I can do all this through him who gives us strength." *Sen dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase*. Thank you, *Ghillisoo, Maraming Salamat Po*, and may God Bless our Commonwealth. Thank you, Mr. President, I yield for now. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Santos. I recognize now Senator Mangloña for your statement.

Senator Paul A. Mangloña: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*. Thank you, Mr. President. First, let me extend my congratulation to you and the newly elected Officers of the Senate and newly elected Members, both re-election and new member, we have here with us Senator Vinnie Sablan. *Kongratulasion para hamyu todos manma elihe guine gi malofan na eleksion henerat. Lokkue para i Gobietno-ta, gaige ha guini earlier ni manihita, congratulations para siha. Para todo bisitata, man gaige guini siha i man mange na familia-ta, man atungo-ta yan* to the people of the Commonwealth. *Buenas dias yan si Yu'us ma'ase* to all of you for joining us this morning. I'm going to keep my remarks very short. I have a prepared speech here I'll just provide the Clerk a copy so that she can incorporate it into our

journal so that I can limit my statement this morning. Mr. President, I just want to thank the Almighty God for all the many blessings you have bestowed upon my family and me over the years. Again, I ask for your continued blessings of help and guidance as I represent the people of the Commonwealth. Help me to always remember that while the honor is mine in representing our people, this Senate seat that I hold belongs to the people we serve. Indeed, it is the people's seat. Mr. President and fellow members, I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you as we address the many issues before us. We are very fortunate that we have lots of generous friends and good neighbors who came to our aid after the atrocious devastation of Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu. If there is a lesson to be learned from our typhoon experience, it is that, in whatever work we do, we must have a plan and we must take concrete steps. My colleagues, we may not always agree on everything but we need to continue to work together for a prosperous future of our Commonwealth and its people. *Dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase*, thank you and God Bless us all. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Mangloña. Senate Legislative Secretary, Sixto Igisomar.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. *Resaumwaar me Re-ilimwaar, tirow, faischo, sangi igha aw atolonga yaay llol Senate bwe ibwe tepengiighami aramasal CNMI, eghi ssogh meta i akkabwung me meta ee arepiya yaay ngare asarama yaayla reemi towap. Au si ghekkey fengal, meseigh fengal me saang fengal rel weires kkewe eghal tori ghiisch llal ragh kkewe elo. NGE lal yaay sulula nge alongal milikkal nge ese bwuuri ghiisch, ese schaangi ghiisch, bwe ee farr bwal amawawa ghisch lo nge au siya metaf bwe fal yeew ngare ebwal toori ghiisch weires kkal nge au siya repiya ebwe faisil yasch parengi yaasch angaang. Ighal tingar ngali Luugh bwe ebwe kke asarama yaay schaagh alongaay raal bwe ibwe ghuleey ebwe faisul yaay ibwe feeru yaay angaang rel yaay ibwe tepengiir aramasash school CNMI. Eghi ssogh schaagh meta ye Gobetnamento iye yasch ebwe feeru bwe ow sibwe mwetela mmwal. Yaami apilughulugh reemam essabw mwaluschla-eula. Apilighulugh mille sighi nisita me eghi impotante bwe sibwe aiyiww mellal gobetnamento iye yasch. Ebwe bwel rel yasch sibwe affatala mwoghutughul yasch gobetnamento nge au siya aghatchula bwe ebwe fil ngaliir aramasash school CNMI. Ighal tingar meschatchar ngalighami bwe owsibwe meletei ngali Luugh bwe ebwe asarama ghemam bwe aibwe melat llal yamem angaang me yaami au sabw ayiwwla yaami lughulugh wooy me schokka scheeley.* In the short time that I have been in office, I have learned and experience so much with our CNMI people, we have shared laughter and happiness but at most certain times to be croakily covered tears and sadness. As days of our lives is always filled with either the inevitable passing of love ones, local community challenges, loss of job or CUC disconnection, shortage of funds for medical referral for loves ones, sudden hardships caused powers outside of our geographic boundaries or the expected yet uncertain draft of Mother Nature. Truly, although we are fully aware of such uncertainties we somehow always find ourselves in a sort of conundrum even though we believe we have done everything we possibly can. There are many verses in our Bible which alludes to such phases and I believe they're all in for acceptance but with a prerequisite of at a minimum to having faith. I pledge to continue to work hard for better CNMI and I pray every day to our Lord to give me the strength and the courage and wisdom to make a difference and to accept what I can't do. In our current state of disaster, I see an opportunity for us to reflect and immediately made clear and concise decisions to immediately comfort our citizens effectively bring back lives to normalcy through incisive recovery a longer stability through the transparent community feedbacks on our actions. Our government needs

to further strengthen public trust inclusive of our residents, businesses and foreign investors, we need to bring back credibility back into the CNMI. This is the best time to shake up every departments and agencies and evaluate their need and performance to our people. Our services up to par to the need of our people, our regulations promulgated or follow our businesses paying their fees or taxes or regulatory agencies. Is there a clear concise and equal processes to every customer or businesses doing business in the CNMI? Our policies and laws are they still relevant? Our primary objective of serving the people are we for fulling it or have we failed and how? Again, we must bring credibility back to the CNMI and we as government leaders must do everything we can promote our honor. I ask our people have faith in us give us courage and to continue to pray for us so we can make the best decisions for them. I, thank the people of the CNMI for all your support in giving me the opportunity and privilege to continue to serve you. To my Chairman Peter Camacho and our Committee to Elect Senator Sixto two years ago, thank you very much, and I hope to continue to garner your favor in the next two years and all the people. To my hardworking staff Cheryl Salalila, my Office Manager who works in the background 24/7 and holding the office in one piece, and for Jesse Salalila and John Wabol for delivering all the water to our community and Joey Arriola for your service and researching for all my bills. And before I forget, sensible CNMI, thank you for all your research and support on the CNMI Taulamwaar Sensible Cannabis Act. To my family and friends, my sons; Keneth John, Keneth Dominic and my wife, Catherine, I love you and thank you for your patients. My wife who is not here with us today as she has a career and she's eight months pregnant with our baby. Her career is what's keeping me financially afloat. Thank you for giving me so much strength and courage, you my wife are indeed the man of the house and my pillar and I am just a mascot, I love you. To all the people of the CNMI, God Bless. *Tirow, Faischo, Hafa Adai, si Yu'us ma'ase.* Thank you.

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Igisomar. That was a very eloquent statement that you made. And I just hope that the Governor will sign the new law that will not infringe and embed the forthcoming baby to feed. Next, Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Buenas tadis para todo ni man gaige guini espisiatmenti i publiko. Malago yo finenena baihu ekstendi un sinseru na apprisiasion para finaton miyo pago na buniton ha'ani. Lökkue para baihu ekstendi i yoku congratulations para hagu, Senate President yan i membron i Twenty-First NMI Legislature the Senate. Baihu na'i agradesimento i yoku colleagues siha ni ma ilihe yo para baihu Vice President. As I was listening to the remarks by the members I couldn't help but to respect and absorb the number of quality people and experienced people that have been through these halls and I give my ultimate respect to every single member of the Senate, every single member of the Leadership of the CNMI. Before I proceed on with my further remarks I wish to recognize special people, espisiat na indibiduat gi linala-hu, finenena i agradesimento para si Yu'us, antesdi biahu rekognisa i taotao, ni kada diha hana'i hit guidance gi dia ni para ta choggue direchu gi hafa ta cho'chogue pra taotao-ta i obligasion-ta. Malago yo lökkue na baihu rekognisa i familiaku, taotao Tinian, i familiaku ni man gaige pago guini na dia espisiatmenti i manana-hu, Auntie Denang, thank you ni un join yo guini na boniton oga'an. I manelu-hu ni man gaige guini na Leyislatura pago na dia, si Dr. Hofschneider, si Corrine yan familiana, si Alice yan familiana yan todo siha i man primo ni yumuti tiempon niha para ma join yo pago na oga'an. Malago yo lökkue para biahu rekognisa i familiaku, i famaguonhu, i gacho'chonghu si Sheryl, ni esta la'atman na tiempo ni tima join yo ni familia, i famaguonhu espisia,t yahu gof agradesi finaton-niha, Kimberly, Ashley, and Alexis and I also have my fabulous four, my four grandchildren that*

are here today, Tosh, Eli, Izaiah and Kyrie, magahet kulan emotional este sa taimano ha ilekhu, Mr. President yan members, la'atman timan ali'e ham ya espisiat ese na dia ya dispensa yo ni kulan mampos emotion i yon miyu colleague. I taotao Tinian ni todo i konfiansa ni kada manera yahu faisen ni pudet ni para biahu representa siha gi ofisinin publiku, ofisinin Senadot mana'i yo. Para todo i man gachong-hu, familial-miyu, si Yu'us ma'ase, yokkue Committee to Elect, Chairman Patrick San Nicolas yan i membru siha, si Yu'us ma'ase gi dian miyu mona gi duranten fina'checho-ta. Para todo i man gachong-hu gi 2018 na slate, in tungo ha hayi, si Mayor Aldan, Senator Cruz, Congressman Borja, Municipal Council yan of course i Presidenti ni dumiririh ham mona si Senator Francisco M. Borja, si Yu'us ma'ase nu enao, hu gof appreciate todo ayudon miyu ni taotao Tinian. Desdi tutuhon, anai hu tutuhon este na career, I've learned, hu eyak numerous na trades fuera di sigiha yo humamku, i cooperation, part of cooperation, communication, compromise and service yan inangoku enague siha na component. I've learned quite a few over the years and I've grown and this would make me an effective representative guini ni para ta deliver what is good for the people of the Commonwealth and I vow to continue that cooperation, Mr. President. As we have witnessed over the last few years because of the value and the cooperation of all the leaders we're able to deliver a substantial amount of services we made our people very happy out there because our decisions that we rendered here and that is my commitment and I will continue doing that for the CNMI. I've always comment on diversification, diversity of our economic activity in the CNMI in addition to what we have that is the only way for us to sustain the diverted economy. We have tourism industry, we have the casino industry, we have the other associated business and we also have partnership knocking and we continue to work for the Department of Defense as all of you know, we supported the development and the choice for the U.S. Air Force Divert Field on Tinian. I trust the people that we entrust to negotiate that we continue to path the way on what is beneficial for our people, that I will vow to continue that. Before, I yield, Mr. President, I have contemplated on saying this, but I asked Sheryl this morning if I should say it, but this is a special few months.

President Victor B. Hocog: Say it.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: You know, I am for numbers and I really believe in numbers. I'm born on July 11, 7/11, I've always been told, you are lucky and all that, but I've always tried to think what does that mean? So, I must say this, that during the election year my ballot number is number four, this would be my fourth-term in four years, I have four beautiful children and four fabulous grandchildren and my only granddaughter is only four years old. So I guess, other than 7/11, four is a good number for me as well, and of course in the Delegation there are four of us. *Si Yu'us ma'ase ni todo pinasensian-miyu gi kada manera espisiatmenti taotao Tinian. Si Yu'us ma'ase ni enkatgu-ham yan i pinasensian-miyu ya bai in tutuhun mona este i mina Benti-Uno na Leyislatura ni para ta stabilized para tana mauleg maas linala-ta ta espaha empenio.* Thank you, Sheryl, thank you to my family and thank you everyone. *Si Yu'us ma'ase.* [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Vice President. I must try to keep that number four. Next, Senator Francisco M. Borja.

Senator Francisco M. Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon everyone yan Hafa Adai! Thank you for honoring us this morning with your presence. It is with great privilege and honor to continue serving our people in the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and

my goal as with my term in the Twentieth Senate remains steadfast in continuing to support economic developments that will benefit Tinian and the CNMI as a whole. Our people are currently facing trying times as we continue to recover from the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. However, I am very optimistic that through collaborative efforts of our leaders, our community partners and other agencies that have come to aid our islands during these difficult times, we will triumph together through this recovery. your continued confidence and support in me is greatly appreciated and I will continue to work with the entire leadership to ensure that the progress we built upon continues to move forward and that we see a full recovery from the devastation. A special appreciation to my wife and children for always supporting me during all my political journey, thank you. In closing, I ask all my colleagues that we focus our efforts in legislation that will enhance economic opportunity and prosperity to our islands and our people. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Borja. Senator Justo S. Quitugua, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Justo S. Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President. Dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase, Ghillisoow* to the people of the Commonwealth! I will endeavor to reflect and live with the utmost honesty, integrity and compassion with and by you all. You have generously contributed your ideas, thoughts, observations, and I am willing to discuss what really matters to you. With your openness and involvement, I believe we can make the CNMI a better place for all of us. I remain your Senator that listens and speaks for what is the greater good of the CNMI, your concerns, aspirations, ideas and feedback are valued and appreciated. Thank you for entrusting me to think and speak to respond and act on what matters in our CNMI. We have a lot of heart that will get us through the hard works that needs to be done to rebuild and heal and bring resemblance of normal scene. I thank my fellow Senators in the Twenty-First Senate, and humbly solicit your continuous collaborative support that dialect spirit to move our CNMI forward. I thank my wife, Jackie, family, relative, friends and loyal supporters who generously gave their all during this election journey along with my campaign Chairman, Juan "Liling" S. Reyes and George Camacho. Above all, I thank God, it is with him that I continue to serve you our people. Again, as your servant leader I humbly thank you, *si Yu'us ma'ase*. [APPLAUSE]

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you, Senator Justo S. Quitugua. I guess I am the last to speak. Before I make my official statement once again, greet and extend to all family members dignitaries that are with us this morning. Councilman Ton, thank you for staying with us and other members from the Tinian Municipal Council and to the family. *Finenena, yahu baihu ekstendi un dangkulul na saludu yan apresiasion para i man gachong-hu guini gi mina Benti-Uno na note' Marianas i guma Leyislatura na in nahi yo pudet para baihu dirihi mona i gurupu-ta guine gi gimina Benti-Uno na Leyislatura anai dangkulu i fino-miyo siha na i guinifi para tana lala i tano-ta todo islas Marianas. Ginen enao, yahu para baihu bira lakkue tatte ya baihu na'i un dangkulu na aprisiasion si nanan-mami, Fermina Mendiola, gaige guini pago na dananaiyo yan asaguaho si, Villia Sasakura Mendiola Taya (Hocog), yan i haga-hu as Viola yan asaguana as Ton Atalig, todo tiempo man gaige gi fihon-hu yan todo tiempo mana'i yo siha i bendision yan hafa finaisen para tafan ayuda mona. Baihu na'i lakkue tododo i presente ni man gaige guini ginen i Tano Luta, si Yu'us ma'ase na in gasta talo tiempon miyu para in danahi este na memorablem okasion pago na ha'ane, si Yu'us ma'ase. Para i Presidentin i Republican Party giya Luta, hu ekstetendi un sen dangkulu na rekognision para si Señora Laura Inos Mangloña, yan i ofisialis siha, si Alvery Mangloña Hocog*

yan si Sandy Masga. Yan maas patikulamenti yahu na baihu nota huyong i anumo na i yokkue Chairman, dumirihí mona i karera-hu giya Luta para este na puesto si, Señor Dennis Mendiola yan i asaguana ni animu na che'cho niha yan todo siha i kumite. Yahu na biahu rekognisa lokkue si Señor Antonio Quitugua, animuña mona gi durantín i kareran este na pulitika yan para tododos etyu i kinentos sisenta na botu nai humentrega i konfiansa guato giya guaho para baihu representa-siha talo un tetmino guini gi guma Senadot. In embrarasa este siha na supotadot i man ginen lago giya Amerika, status sinidos, Guam yan Saipan, yan maas patikulamenti lokkue para eyu siha taotao Luta i guma'gaige-ha i respetu, i hinangoku para baihu representa tano Luta yan para baihu representa siha guini gi mamaila kuarto años na tiempo. I karera-hu nai malago yo para baihu bira yo' tatte guini na guma, guaha siha laimi pulitika ya gracias adios na este na laimi man pinika tatte ya sombras ni guaho tihu tungo hafa taimano na hu fatinas este na eleksion. Lao, para hamyo ni taotao Luta nai guaha konfiansa angoko-yo na ti baihu napan tekón hamyo bai'in fan machocho yan i gurupu guini gi mina Benti-Uno na pison Kongressu parehu ha i san papa na guma yan san hilo, ya baihu ekstendi guato lokkue i inayuda guato gi eksekatibu anai siña tana muntohon i inayuda kumo uno na Marianas. Ya i mensahi guini pago na tiempo-ku, I want to let everybody know that my commitment is to leverage the present along with my members to secure the future. This is a very broad way of saying it, is to secure the future to enable the present generation and the generation to come that we as their present leader will make sure that they have something when we all exit from this public service. We must unite the Commonwealth as one and not a senatorial thinking but we need to help our capitol island to ensure the good service by promoting and making the foundation of this government, this Commonwealth a stronger one to move on the whole CNMI. We cannot be regional at any given time we cannot be senatorial thinking we have to come together as one Commonwealth. It is going to be a very exciting and challenging years to come and if we as leaders in this Commonwealth Legislature becomes divisive then we are going to have difficulty coming together for prosperity and growth. Our action in coming our true vision that we represent the Commonwealth is with this body and we commit under my leadership toward just that. We are very mindful and concern with today's generation and without navigating the destiny for the future we may with this leadership they are not sensitive we may fail that navigation path for our generation and we don't want to fail that we will continue to prioritize our economic growth activities. Needless to say, our speech that we are concern about the future and prosperity of the Commonwealth if the mind set of each and every public servant are not bonded to do just that. By bonding our commitment our oval office, we can achieve what the people so expect. And this, I want to make very clear, whenever we do here as a legislator people criticize us whether it is good or bad, but I am going to ask my colleagues to be vigilant and to be mindful of whatever criticism there is forthcoming. If we do the plan to ensure that growth will come around to the CNMI let us do it together. And I will also continue to ask our Lord to guide this leadership the Twenty-First Legislature to guide us and shine this Twenty-First Legislature including the House and the Senate to shine us all like a brighter star in the sky and hope and pray that with this shining stars, bright stars the Lord will ground us in all four corners in this world. And once we are all grounded together, we are set to roll and move on to serve the people diligently, honestly with their expectation to see growth and prosperity in every household and family. So I ask the audience, the public, just bear with us, there is nothing we can do tomorrow that our plans can be realize tomorrow. There are plans that can be accessible and accelerated, there are plans that takes time. So I ask the general public to bear with us as we continue to put our plans in action and we pledge to you people. These group at the Senate and the House of Representatives, we will move the Commonwealth forward into the right direction with just care for each and one of us. Again, I

extend my sincere appreciation to our legal counsel in the Senate, Antonette and Joe, and to our Clerk, Journal Clerk, thank you again to work with us during this Twenty-First Legislature and we hope to see more productive members in this House. With this again, mom, thank you *ni animumu lakkue maseha malangu-hao lao sigiha un kontinua, si Yu'us ma'ase*. And to you my dear lovely wife, thank you for never saying no but I promise this will be the last journey as all my children ask me to be this term in office to be my last journey to serve the public and that is why I am going to ask my members, the delegation, let us work together for the benefit of all. Thank you very much. [APLAUSE]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Victor B. Hocog: Before we adjourn, I would like to make a public announcement, after the session today, I would like to ask the members to join all we are going to have a group photo for the Twenty-First Senate. I would now like to make an announcement on the assignment of the Committee Chairman. On the Committee on Rules and Procedure, I appoint Senator Justo S. Quitugua, Floor Leader, to Chair that committee and the Chairman of that committee will pick his member who will work within. On the Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs, I appoint Senator Francisco M. Borja to Chair that committee. On the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, I appoint Senator Francisco Q. Cruz to continue chairing his beloved committee. On the Committee on Fiscal Affairs, I would like to appoint Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Vice President, to be the chair on that committee. And in the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, I appoint Senator Sixto K. Igisomar to chair that committee. Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, will be chaired by Senator Justo S. Quitugua, Floor Leader. And the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, I hereby appoint Senator Vinnie F. Sablan to chair that committee. So those are the Committee Chair that have been designated within the Senate to work with. So I ask the Chair to pick your own committee members to help you serve in that prospective appointment. With that, the announcement has been set, I would like to move for the adjournment of our session. Is there any motion, Floor Leader?

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Justo S. Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, a motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Victor B. Hocog: Those in favor of the motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair say, "Aye." Those opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Victor B. Hocog: Motion carries. I now recognize our Master of Ceremony, Mr. Dave Demapan to close our program for today.

BENEDICTION

MC/Mr. David S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen and Honorable guests, this concludes our Inaugural Ceremony for the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the Senate President, Officers, and our Senate Members, Thank You, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, *Ghillisoow*, and have a good day.

President Victor B. Hocog: Thank you and that concludes our program for this afternoon. Thank you again. [APPLAUSE]

The Senate adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk