

THE SENATE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2019

SJ 21-09

 First Special

 Friday, August 9, 2019

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Victor B. Hocog, issued a session call on August 08, 2019 that the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at www.cnmileg.gov.mp.

The Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Special, Second Regular Session, on August 09, 2019, at 10:20 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Victor B. Hocog, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll, seven members are "present" and two "absent."

President Hocog: Thank you, madam Clerk. With seven members present, we hereby constitute the necessary quorum to conduct the Order of Business for today. And for the record, I would like to mention for Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider and Senator Paul A. Mangloña are hereby excused for today's session. Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Hocog: Anyone from the gallery would to make any comments before we move on to our Order of Business? Recognized.

Ms. Agnes McPheters: Thank you very much, Mr. President and the whole Senate here. I am very thankful for having this session so that three of our trustees are in the agenda. And I urge this body to confirm them so that we can move on. It is very essential to have completed Board of Trustees we still have two more, but with these three, it will help us and make us feel much better that we are moving in the right direction. Thank you.

President Hocog: Excuse me, can you just state your name for the record?

Ms. Agnes McPheters: I am very sorry again, I always forget my name. My name is, Agnes Mangloña McPheters, CEO of NMTI.

President Hocog: Thank you, Mrs. McPheters. Any other members from the gallery would like to make any statement? If none, I would like at this time to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, before I make a motion, may we ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to bring the nominees into the Chamber?

President Hocog: Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort all the nominees to the front of the Chamber? Let me call for a short recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:23 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

President Hocog: We are back again to our plenary session. Floor Leader, you may proceed.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, if there's no objections from the members, I move that we will first go to Item M, on Reports of Standing Committees on our agenda so that we can address the reports on the nominees.

President Hocog: There is a motion and it has been seconded, any objection from the members?

There was no objection raised.

President Hocog: Those in favor of the motion to move to Item M of our agenda say, "Aye." Those opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced "Aye."

President Hocog: Motion carries. Floor Leader, you may proceed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 21-31, from the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Mr. Wally F. Villagomez to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: Discussion on the motion? Chairman Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 21-31, and this is the executive appointment of Mr. Wally F. Villagomez to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Correction. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Wally F. Villagomez to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections begs leave to report as follows: After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Villagomez's appointment to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the executive appointment of Mr. Villagomez to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Wally F. Villagomez's overall credentials to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 10 written and 24 oral testimonies in support of the appointee. No written or oral testimonies in opposition of the appointee were received by the Committee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointee that are included in this report. Based on the overall assessment of Mr. Villagomez's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for the department, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Mr. Villagomez has the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to serve as Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections. Mr. Villagomez was appointed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios on May 17, 2019 to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections. The appointment packet was forwarded to the Senate on May 28, 2019. On May 31, 2019 the appointment of Mr. Villagomez was referred to your Committee for consideration. The public hearing was conducted on July 24, 2019 - Tinian Court House, San Jose, Tinian and on July 25, 2019, Senate Chamber, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. During the hearings certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the appointee to address and look into when confirmed as a Commissioner. Mr. President in conclusion, all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the appointment of Mr. Villagomez to serve as a Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections in accordance with Article III, Section 14 of the Commonwealth Constitution and 1 CMC § 2852. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Wally F. Villagomez to serve as Commissioner of the CNMI Department of Corrections. Again, I ask the full Senate members to support Standing Committee Report No. 21-31. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hocog: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other member would like to make any statement? If none, madam Clerk.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Hocog: With all seven members voting “yes” for the confirmation of Mr. Wally Villagomez to serve as a Commissioner of the Department of Correction, we are happy to report that you are hereby confirm by the seven members of the Senate. Congratulation, Mr. Villagomez. [APPLAUSE] Chairman Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if there is no objection from the members, I wish to allow the Clerk and the counsel to make corrections on any typo errors on the conclusion of this report.

President Hocog: Do you see one?

Senator Cruz: Instead of “Secretary” it is “Commissioner”.

President Hocog: Do you see one, Chairman?

Senator Cruz: Yes, sir. Thank you.

President Hocog: Clerk, take that note and make any necessary corrections on any typo. Thank you. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 21-38 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Mrs. Carmelita R. Faisao to serve as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to represent the Carolinian Community.

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: There is a motion and it has been seconded, discussion on the motion? Recognize Chairman Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to report Standing Committee Report No. 21-38 and this is the appointment of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao to serve as a Member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao to serve as a Member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI) Board of Trustees, begs leave to report as follows: After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao's appointment to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the executive appointment of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao's overall credentials to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 1 written and 6 oral testimonies in support of the appointee. No written or oral testimonies in opposition of the appointee were received by the Committee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointee that are included in this report. Based on the overall assessment of Ms. Faisao's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for the department, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Ms. Faisao has the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao was appointed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios on April 5, 2019 to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. The appointment packet was forwarded to the Senate on July 9, 2019. And on July 9, 2019 the appointment of Ms. Faisao was referred to your Committee for consideration. The public hearing was conducted on July 31, 2019 here at the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. During the hearing, certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the appointee to address and look into when confirmed as a Trustee. And in conclusion all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the appointment of Ms. Faisao to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees in accordance with 3 CMC § 12112. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao to serve as a member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Again, I ask the full members of the Senate to support Standing Committee Report No. 21-48. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hocog: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. We are still under discussion, any other member? Ready? Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Excused

Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Vinnie F. Sablan	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Victor B. Hocog	Hunggan (Yes)

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

President Hocog: Again, with all seven members voting “yes” for the confirmation of Ms. Carmelita R. Faisao, wish to report that you are hereby confirmed by the full Senate. Thank you and congratulations. [APPLAUSE] Continue, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 21-39 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Mrs. Berthillia C. John to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: There is a motion and has been seconded, discussion? Chairman Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to report Standing Committee Report No. 21-39 and this is the executive appointment of Mrs. Berthillia C. John to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred appointment of Mrs. Berthillia C. John to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission begs leave to report as follows: After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Ms. Berthillia C. John's appointment to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the executive appointment of Ms. Berthillia C. John to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Ms. Berthillia C. John's overall credentials to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 3 oral testimonies and 1 written testimony in support of the appointee. No written or oral testimonies in opposition of the appointee were received by the Committee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointee that are included in this report. Based on the overall assessment of Ms. John's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for the department, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Ms. John has the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Berthillia C. John was appointed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios on March 20, 2019, to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. The appointment packet was forwarded to the Senate on May 30, 2019. And on June 3, 2019 the appointment of Ms. John was referred to your Committee for consideration. On June 12, 2019 Ms. John’s nomination was withdrawn by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios and was resubmitted the nomination of Ms. John on June 14, 2019. On

July 9, 2019 the re-nomination of Ms. John was referred to your Committee for consideration. The public hearing was conducted on August 6, 2019 here in the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. During the hearing, certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the appointee to address and look into when confirmed as a Member of the Commission. And in conclusion all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the appointment of Ms. Berthillia C. John to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission meets all the necessary requirements pursuant to 1 CMC § 8111 and 1 CMC § 2902. Therefore, your Committee consents to the confirmation of Ms. John to serve as a Member of the Civil Service Commission. Again, I ask the members of this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 21-39. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hocog: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other member? Ready? Madam Clerk, can you please take the roll?

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Hocog: Again, with all seven members voting “yes” to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 21-39, I wish to report that the nominee is hereby confirmed by the full Senate. And wish to extend our congratulation as you have a lot of duty ahead of you to address also the committees concern during your public hearing. So again, Mrs. John, congratulations for your time to serve as our Civil Service Commission. Congratulations! [APPLAUSE] Floor Leader, continue.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 21-40 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

President Hocog: There is a motion, it has been made and seconded, discussion on the motion? Chairman Cruz, please proceed.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, Mr. President, your Committee is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 21-40 and this is the executive appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Governments Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors begs leave to report as follows: After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez's appointment to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the executive appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez's overall credentials to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 1 written and 2 oral testimonies in support of the appointee. No written or oral testimony in opposition to the appointee was received by the Committee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointee that are included in this report. Based on the overall assessment of Mr. Villagomez's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for the department, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Mr. Villagomez has the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez was appointed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios on June 19, 2019 to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. The re-appointment packet was forwarded to the Senate on July 9, 2019. On July 9, 2019 the appointment of Mr. Villagomez was referred to your Committee for consideration. The public hearing was conducted on July 31, 2019 here in the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. And during the hearing certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the appointee to address and look into when confirmed as a Member of the CPA Board of Directors. In conclusion all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the re-appointment of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors meets all the necessary requirements in accordance with 2 CMC § 2123 and 1 CMC § 2902. Therefore, your Committee consents to the confirmation of Mr. Thomas P. Villagomez to serve as a Member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. Again, I ask the members of this body to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 21-40. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hocog: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other member? Ready? Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Excused

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Excused
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Vinnie F. Sablan	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Victor B. Hocog	Hunggan (Yes)

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

President Hocog: Again, with seven members voting “yes” for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 21-40, I wish to report that Standing Committee Report No. 21-40 is being adopted. Therefore, giving Mr. Villagomez the confirmation to serve as a Members of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors. And I understand, Mr. Villagomez, the Committee have quite lots of issues that they are hopeful for you to bring before the board and with that on behalf of the members, I would like to extend our congratulations for your service to provide again CPA in the next four years. And with this, the CPA is now in full members of the Board to move the CPA programs and projects forward. Again, congratulations and welcome aboard. [APPLAUSE] Floor Leader, continue.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 21-41 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Mr. Ray Pangelinan to serve as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to represent the island of Tinian and Aguigan.

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: There is a motion and it has been seconded, discussion? Chairman Cruz, recognize.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Against Mr. President, your Committee is ready to present and report Standing Committee Report No. 21-41 and this is the executive appointment of Mr. Ray Pangelinan to serve as a Member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Ray Pangelinan to serve as a Member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI) Board of Trustees, begs leave to report as follows: After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Ray Pangelinan's appointment to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the executive appointment of Mr. Ray Pangelinan to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Ray Pangelinan's overall credentials to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 4 written and 4 oral testimonies in support of the appointee. No written or oral testimonies in opposition of the appointee were received by the Committee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointee that are included in this report. Based on the overall assessment of Mr. Pangelinan's credentials, experiences, testimonies,

goals for the department, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Mr. Pangelinan has the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Mr. Ray Pangelinan was appointed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios on June 25, 2019 to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. The appointment packet was forwarded to the Senate on July 18, 2019 and on July 18, 2019 the appointment of Mr. Pangelinan was referred to your Committee for consideration. The public hearing was conducted on August 7, 2019 Tinian Court House, San Jose Village, Tinian. During the hearing, certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the appointee to address and look into when confirmed as a Trustee. And in conclusion all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the appointment of Mr. Pangelinan to serve as a member of the NMTI Board of Trustees in accordance with 3 CMC § 12112. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Ray Pangelinan to serve as a member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Again, I ask the members of this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 21-41. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hocog: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Further discussion? Ready? Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Hocog: With seven members voting “yes” to adopt the Standing Committee Report on the nomination of Mr. Ray Pangelinan to serve as the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees, I wish to inform that you are hereby confirmed as the result of this Standing Committee Report’s adoption. So, congratulations Mr. Pangelinan for your time to serve the NMTI Board of Trustees. Congratulations again. [APPLASUE] In spite of Mr. Mario Valentino is not here, I have asked the members if we can proceed and act accordingly as the other members of the appointee are here, and the plea of our CEO, McPheters request to ensure that NMTI Board of Trustees have the necessary number to conduct business. So with that, I would like to ask the Floor Leader to proceed and make the motion to take on Standing Committee Report No. 21-37.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, since Mr. Mario Valentino attended his confirmation hearing, I move to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 21-37 from the

Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the appointment of Mr. Mario Valentino to serve as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to represent the Business Community.

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: There is a motion and it has been seconded, discussion on the motion? Recognized, Chairman Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this is the last Standing Committee Report from your Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to report Standing Committee Report No. 21-37 and this is the appointment of Mr. Mario Valentino to serve as a Members of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Mario Valentino to serve as a Member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI) Board of Trustees, begs leave to report as follows: After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Mario Valentino's appointment to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the executive appointment of Mr. Mario Valentino to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Mario Valentino's overall credentials to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 1 written and 6 oral testimonies in support of the appointee. No written or oral testimonies in opposition of the appointee were received by the Committee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointee that are included in this report. Based on the overall assessment of Mr. Valentino's credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for the department, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Mr. Valentino has the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Mr. Mario Valentino was appointed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios on April 8, 2019 to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. The appointment packet was forwarded to the Senate on July 9, 2019 and on July 9, 2019 the appointment of Mr. Valentino was referred to your Committee for consideration. The public hearing was conducted on July 31, 2019 here at the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. And during the hearing, certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the appointee to address and look into when confirmed as a Trustee. And in conclusion, all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Official Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the appointment of Mr. Valentino to serve as a member of the NMTI Board of Trustees in accordance with 3 CMC § 12112. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Mario Valentino to serve as a Member of the NMTI Board of Trustees. Again, I ask the members of this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 21-37. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hocog: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Further discussion on the motion? Ready? Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

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

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

President Hocog: With all seven members voting “yes” Standing Committee Report No. 21-37 is hereby adopted therefore giving the blessing and confirmation for Mr. Mario Valentino to serve as the NMTI Board of Trustees. I would like to inform the CEO that on behalf of the Senate, we extend our congratulations to Mr. Valentino and NMTI. Thank you very much. Congratulations, Mr. Valentino. [APPLAUSE] At this time, I would like to call for a short recess before we continue our agenda.

The Senate recessed at 11:00 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:26 a.m.

President Hocog: We are back to our plenary session after the recess. Prior to our recess we are on Item O, of our agenda. I would like to recognized now the Floor Leader, to make a motion to move back to our Order of Business.

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, we will now return to Item C on today’s Order of Business.

President Hocog: No objection from the members, we will return back to Item C of our agenda.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

None

President Hocog: Clerk?

Clerk Bermudes: Mr. President, we don’t have reading and approval of the Journal.

President Hocog: Item D.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governors Messages Nos. 21-94 to 21-100.

President Hocog: Any comments from the members on the Governors Communications? None. We proceed to our next, Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEAD OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTEMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 21-34 to 21-43.

President Hocog: Any one from the members would like to make any comments from the House Communications? If none, continue Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 21-60 to 21-67.

President Hocog: No discussion on the Senate Communications. Washington Representative, none. Next, Floor Leader?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PRE-FILED OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Senate Legislative Initiative No. 21-07: To present to the voters in the Commonwealth in the next general election the question: "Shall there be a constitutional

convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" **ISEN. SIXTO K. IGISOMAR-08105/19]**

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, on Item K, there is one pre-filed Senate Legislative Initiative and we'll give the author the opportunity to officially introduce.

President Hocog: I recognized, Senator Igisomar.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. This is to introduce Senate Legislative Initiative No. 21-7, "To present to the voters in the Commonwealth in the next general election the question: "Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" *Si Yu'us ma'ase*.

President Hocog: Thank you. Item L.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Hocog: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Quitugua: Mr. President, there is no item on Item L. We completed Item M, and there is no report on Item N, and we will now move to Resolution Calendar.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Quitugua: There is one resolution on the Calendar, I now move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 21-5, "To recognize and acknowledge the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women by recognizing the week of August 19th through August 23rd, 2019, as 'Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week'."

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: There is a motion to adopt House Joint Resolution No. 21-5 and it has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution No. 21-5 say, "Aye." Those opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Hocog: Motion carries. House Joint Resolution No. 21-5 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

BILL CALENDAR

None

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, there is no item on the Bill Calendar.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Misc. Comm. No. 21-35: July 25, 2019 – MVA's 2nd Quarter Report for FY 2019.

Floor Leader Quitugua: And since none of the members wishing to comment on Item Q, I move to Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hocog: On the Announcements, I just like to mention that the presentation of this resolution will be on Monday, August 19 at eleven o'clock at the House Chamber. So, if anyone of you are here, I ask that we join the House in making this presentation on August 19 at eleven o'clock. Any other Announcements? Senator Sablan?

Senator Sablan: Thank you, Mr. President. Just to announce that the tentative date for the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations and Communications committee meeting on the 22nd and details will follow as it gets closer. Thank you.

President Hocog: Any other would like to make any announcements? Senator I?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I think similarly to the PUTC the JGLFR Committee will be meeting on the 21st which will be after our proposed session by the Senate. Thank you.

President Hocog: Thank you. If no other announcements to be made, I recognized the Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion has been seconded.

President Hocog: There's a motion to adjourn and it has been seconded. Those in favor of the motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair say, "Aye." Those opposed say, "Nay."

All member voiced, "Aye."

President Hocog: Motion carries. The Senate Session hereby adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk