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ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

SJ 23-01

First Day

Monday, January 9, 2023

PRESENTATION OF THE MEMBERS

Master of Ceremony Devin Macaranas: *Buenas tattedes, Tirow wóomi,* and good morning. Welcome to the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Memorial Building to witness the Inaugural Ceremony and the Organizational Session for the Senate of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you the Senate members of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature by Senatorial Districts: Representing the First Senatorial District from the island of Rota, Senator-Elect Donald Manalang escorted by his sister, Ms. Charlene Ogo, Senator Paul Atalig escorted by his wife, Mrs. Lydia M. Manglona, Senator-Elect Dennis James Camacho Mendiola escorted by his wife, Mrs. Ana Maria Salas Mendiola. Representing the Second Senatorial District from the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan: Senator-Elect Francisco Quichuchu Cruz escorted by his wife, Mrs. Jessa Jade Cruz, Senator-Elect Jude Untalan Hofschneider escorted by his wife, Mrs. Cheryl Sizemore, Senator Karl Rosario King-Nabors escorted by his better half Mrs. Melanie Cruz. Representing the Third Senatorial District from the islands of Saipan and the Northern Islands: Senator-Elect Celina Roberto Babauta escorted by her husband, Mr. Franklin Babauta, Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero escorted by her son, Mr. Rafael Mafnas, Senator-Elect Corina Lorraine Magofna escorted by her daughter, Miss Aiyani Rios. To facilitate today's Organizational Session, it is my privilege to recognize President Pro Tem, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider. I now call upon the Department of Public Safety Color Guards for the posting of Colors and Mr. Alfred Saures to lead us in the singing of the U.S. National Anthem and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands Anthem. I ask everyone to please stand.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

DPS Color Guards

SINGING OF THE UNITED STATES AND COMMONWEALTH ANTHEMS

Alfred Saures

Master of Ceremony Devin Macaranas: Thank you DPS Color Guards and Mr. Alfred Saures. I ask everyone to please remain standing for the Invocation as I call upon Reverend Father Michael Linden.

INVOCATION

Father Michael Linden: Let us pray and bow our heads to God of our religious faith, or who, or the transcendence which informs our human understanding. Lord Almighty God, today we assemble and begin our work of the 23rd Senate for the people of this Commonwealth. Our people have selected us to discern, to lead, to govern, to respond, to care, to be good stewards. They have called upon us. We recognize that ultimately all power and responsibility invested in us and in our people is also a gift from the creator. We pray today that we may use all of these gifts well in the exercise of our office and in the stewardship of the gift. And so we pray first in Thanksgiving for the joyful duty of service of your people, may we serve them well in a compassionate and caring way, as you would. We pray in humility for the honor of recognition by our people as leaders, may we always honor and respect our people, especially the poor and needy as a shared special concern with you, our God. We pray in commitment to govern well and wisely. May we discern carefully under your grace. May we live ethically under your demands of justice. May we speak truly and openly under the influence of your virtues of honesty and respect for difference. And may we stay far away from opportunism, personal gain, and corruption, the major temptations of our calling with your graces of restraint, transparency, human friendship, and the seeking of counsel and advice. We pray in solidarity with your will to help all of your people achieve dignity, respect, and productivity. May we work well with each other, with our various coworkers and members of the civil service and the agencies with entrepreneurs, our clergy, our national leaders, all with your help, almighty God, who call all of us to be and to become your sons and daughters. We pray all of this today at our beginning. We accept your summons to serve by human leadership and example, and we submit ourselves to help and support from on high may our service benefit our people and be to your glory now and forevermore. Amen.

Master of Ceremony Devin Macaranas: Thank you, Reverend Father Michael Linden. Please be seated. To witness this historic occasion, it is an honor to recognize the presence of our distinguished guests. Representing the Island of Guam: Honorable Christopher Barnett, Senator of the 37th Guam Legislature, Honorable Amanda L. Shelton, Senator of the 37th Guam Legislature, Honorable Roy A.B. Quinata, Senator of the 37th Guam Legislature. Accompanying them this morning are Ms. Rennae Meno, Clerk of the Guam Legislature, Mr. Ed Pocaïque, Sergeant-At-Arms of the Guam Legislature, and Mr. Jamie Leigado. Representing the Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Honorable Roberto Camacho Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Representing the Local Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Honorable Aubry Manglona Hocog, Mayor of the Municipality of Rota, Honorable Edwin Palacios Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, Honorable Ramon Jose Blas Camacho, Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, Honorable Jim Michael Atalig, Council-Elect of the Rota Municipal Council, Honorable Jonovan Hocog Lizama, Council-Elect of the Rota Municipal Council, Honorable Frederick Atalig Manglona Jr., Council-Elect of the Rota Municipal Council, Honorable Estevan Pangelinan Cabrera, Council Member of the Tinian Municipal Council, Honorable Ana Marie Cruz San Nicolas, Council Member of the Tinian Municipal Council, Honorable Joseph Evangelista Santos, Council Member of the Tinian Municipal Council. Joining us from the respective offices of the Senate, we recognize the presence of family members, friends and staff of the Senators and Senators-Elect. Also joining us this morning via live broadcast, we recognize the people who call the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands home. Thank you for tuning in. It is with great honor and privilege that I recognize President Pro Tem, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider to officially call the Senate's

Organizational Session of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature to order. Mr. President Pro Tem, please.

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

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: *Buenas dias, Tirow yan Hafa Adai.* Thank you, MC/Mr. Macaranas. Good morning to our distinguished guests, family, friends, and the viewing public on Channel 23 and the legislative Facebook page; Welcome to your chamber. I now call is 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Organizational Session of the Senate to order. Pursuant to an appointment by the members of this body, I shall preside as your President Pro Tem for this Organizational Session. At this time, I would like to recognize our Legislative Bureau Support Staff assisting the Senate: Senate Clerk Dolores S. Bermudes, Senate Journal Clerk Chanele C. Borja, Sergeant-At-Arms, Ben Terlaje, Senate Legal Counsels, Antoinette R. Villagomez and Jose A. Bermudes, Fiscal Analyst Dave Demapan, Legislative Assistants Jolyn B. Duenas-Tagabuel and Devin C. Macaranas and Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms and assisting us this morning is Mr. Simeon Lisua, IT's Jonathan Diaz and Delbert Camacho. Moving on. On Item (D) under public comments. This is the portion of our session where we allow members of the public to offer testimony with regards to our meeting in order of business for today's Organizational Session. Let the record reflect that there's no public comment delivered this morning.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CALL OF THE ROLL BY SENATORIAL DISTRICTS

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Moving on to Item (E) Call of the Roll by Senatorial District. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

Senate Clerk called the roll by Senatorial Districts and reported to the Chair that all nine (9) members are present.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you Madam Clerk. With nine (9) members present, we do have the necessary quorum to proceed with today's order of business. Before proceeding, without any objection from the members, I hereby appoint Senator Karl King-Nabors from the Second Senatorial District to serve as our Floor Leader Pro Tem. Thank you, members. Under Item (F) Appointment of Credential Committee. Under Item (F) of our Order of Business is the appointment of the members to the Special Committee on credentials to review the credentials of Senators-Elect as follows:

1. Celina Roberto Babauta
2. Francisco Quichuhu Cruz
3. Jude Untalan Hofschneider
4. Donald Manalang Manglona
5. Corina Lorraine Magofna

6. Dennis James Camacho Mendiola

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: I hereby appoint Senators Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero, Paul A. Manglona and Karl R. King-Nabors to the Special Committee on Credentials. And further, Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero, you shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee. At this time, I call for a recess until the Credentials Committee is ready to report its findings to the full Senate.

The Senate recessed at 11:22 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: We are back to our Organizational Session. At this time, I would like to recognize the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Senator DeLeon Guerrero, to report to the body on their findings regarding the elected senators. Senator DeLeon Guerrero, recognized.

Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. Copies of the special committee report have been distributed to the members to read as follows: Your Senate Special Committee on Credentials to which was referred the task of reviewing the credentials of Senators-Elect to the Senate of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature begs me to report as follows: Your Credentials Committee recommends that the Senate of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature accept the credentials of Senators-Elect Celina Roberto Babauta, Francisco Quichuchu Cruz, Jude Untalan Hofschneider, Donald Manalang Manglona, Corina Lorraine Magofna and Dennis James Camacho Mendiola. 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. Your Credentials Committee further finds that Senator-Elect Celina Roberto Babauta from the Third Senatorial District, Senator-Elect Francisco Quichuchu Cruz from the Second Senatorial District, Senator-Elect Jude Untalan Hofschneider from the Second Senatorial District, Senator-Elect Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District, Senator-Elect Corina Lorraine Magofna from the Third Senatorial District and Senator-Elect Dennis James Camacho Mendiola from the First Senatorial District are qualified to vote in the Commonwealth and we're born prior to January 14th, 1994, and have been a resident and domiciliary of the CNMI since at least January 8th, 2018, and are registered to vote in their respective First, Second, and Third Senatorial District. Your Credentials Committee finds that Senators-Elect Celina Roberto Babauta, Francisco Quichuchu Cruz, Jude Untalan Hofschneider, Donald Manalang Manglona, Corina Lorraine Magofna and Dennis James Camacho Mendiola meet all the requirements of the State of my 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 Celina Roberto

Babauta, Francisco Quichuchu Cruz, Jude Untalan Hofschneider, Donald Manalang Manglona, Corina Lorraine Magofna and Dennis James Camacho Mendiola being seated as members of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Senate. Based on the foregoing, your Credentials Committee recommends that the credentials of Senators-Elect Celina Roberto Babauta, Francisco Quichuchu Cruz, Jude Untalan Hofschneider, Donald Manalang Manglona, Corina Lorraine Magofna and Dennis James Camacho Mendiola be accepted by the full Senate and that they be seated as members of the Senate and granted all the rights, privileges, immunities, and responsibilities, appurtenant and thereto. As Chairperson of the Special Committee on credentials, I respectfully ask the full members of this legislative body to support the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 23-01. Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Senator DeLeon Guerrero. At this time, the Chair recognize, correction, thank you Senator DeLeon Guerrero. Do I hear a motion for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 23-01? And I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem Senator Karl King-Nabors.

Floor Leader Pro-Tem Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I move for the adoption of the Special Committee Report No. 23-01. So move.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Motion offered by the Floor Leader Pro-Tem for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 23-01. Do I hear a second to that?

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: It's been seconded. Discussion. Ready? Madam Clerk, please call the roll for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 23-01.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i>
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Edith E. Deleon Guerrero	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Yes
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Hunggan</i>
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i>

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members present voting "yes."

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: With all nine (9) members voting "yes" Special Committee Report No. 23-01 is hereby adopted. Moving on to Item (G), swearing in of members. We now proceed with our next order of business Item (G).

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: My fellow colleagues, I ask that we all rise for the swearing in as members of the Senate. Sergeant-At-Arms Terlaje kindly escort the Honorable Roberto C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the CNMI Superior Court forward to administer the Oath of Office.

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja: Good morning. Please remain standing and 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."

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja: Congratulations. [APPLAUSE]

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Members, while the Presiding Judge is signing our documents, we are officially on recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:35 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

ADOPTION OF SENATE RULES

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: We rise back to the Organizational Session. On behalf of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, we extend our deep appreciation to Presiding Judge Naraja for your presence and commitment to swear in the members of the Senate, to the newly sworn members. Congratulations and welcome to the Senate. Next in our Order of Business, Item (H) is the adoption of the Senate Interim Rules, and I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem, Senator Karl King-Nabors.

Floor Leader Pro-Tem Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Mr. President Pro-Tem. I move for the adoption of Senate Resolution 23-01, the Interim Rules of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So move.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: So offered by the Floor Leader Pro-Tem for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 23-01. Do we hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Seconded. Discussion? Ready? All those in favor of the motion, please say “aye”. All those opposed say “nay”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Motion carries. Senate Resolution 23-01 is hereby adopted.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Moving on to Item (I) on our Order of Business, the election of the Senate President of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and at this time the Chair recognizes Senator Corina L. Magofna to officiate the motion.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero from the Third Senatorial District to serve as the President of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So move Mr. President Pro-Tem.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Do I hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Second. There's a motion on the floor nominating Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero from the Third Senatorial District to serve as President of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? Recognize Senator Donald M. Manglona.

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I move to close nomination.

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: The motion has been made to close nomination and has been seconded. All those in favor of the motion, say, “aye”. All those opposed say, “nay”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Nomination for the President of the Senate is hereby closed. There is a motion made and seconded for one nomination on the floor for the President of the Senate, nominating Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero. Once again, all in favor of that motion, say, “aye”. Those opposed say, “nay”.

All members voiced, “aye”.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: The “ayes” have it. Senator Edith DeLeon Guerrero, you are the Senate President of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations, today you made history as the first Madam Senate President, and I ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort Madam Senate President up to the dais.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you members for your vote of confidence in allowing me to lead the Senate body as your next Senate President for the 23rd Legislature. We now move on to Item (J) for the election of Vice President.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Now we will proceed to the next order of business Item (J) the election of the Senate Vice President of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and I recognize Senator Celina R. Babauta to officiate the motion.

Senator Celina R. Babauta: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, tat-kilu na onru yan untsu na pilibrehu para bei* nominate Senator Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District to serve as Vice President of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So move Madam President.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Babauta. It has been moved to nominate Senator Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District to serve as the Vice President of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Do I hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: There's a motion on the floor nominating Senator Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District to serve as Vice President of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? Recognize Senator Corina L. Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Thank you Madam President. I move to close nomination.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Do I hear a second to close the nomination?

The motion has been seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: There's a motion has been made to close the nomination and has been seconded. All in favor of that motion say, “aye”. Those opposed say, “nay”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Motion carries. Congratulations Senator Donald Manalang Manglona. You are now the Senate Vice President of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Moving right along on our agenda this afternoon is the election of Floor Leader on the next order of business, Item (K) the election of the Senate Floor Leader of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Senator Donald M. Manglona to officiate the motion.

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Madam President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Corina Lorraine Magofna from the Third Senatorial District to serve as the Floor Leader of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So move Madam President.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Manglona. Do I hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: There's a motion on the floor nominating Senator Corina Lorraine Magofna from the Third Senatorial District to serve as Floor Leader of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? I recognize Senator Paul A. Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you, Madam President. I move to close nomination.

The motion was seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: A motion has been made to close the nomination and has been seconded. All in favor of that motion, say "aye". Those opposed say, "nay".

Several members voiced, "aye".

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Motion carries. Congratulations, Senator Corina Lorraine Magofna, you are now the Senate Floor Leader of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and shall be the Floor Leader for the remainder of this organizational session.

ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you. We're moving right along for the election of the Legislative Secretary. Next is Item (L), the election of the Senate Legislative Secretary of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Senator Paul A. Manglona to officiate the motion.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Madam President. *Sen magof hu pao bei* nominate *si* Senator Celina para Legislative Secretary *gi* 23rd Commonwealth Legislature.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Senator Paul. Do I hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: There's a motion on the floor nominating Senator Celina Roberto Babauta from the Third Senatorial District to serve as the Senate Legislative Secretary of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? I recognize Senator Corina L. Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Madam President. I move to close nomination.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Do I hear a second to close the nomination?

The motion has been seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: A motion has been made to close the nomination and has been seconded. All in favor of the motion say, "aye". Those opposed say, "nay".

Several members voiced, "aye".

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Motion carries. Nomination for the Legislative Secretary of the Senate Senator Celina Roberto Babauta is hereby closed. Motion carries. Senator Babauta, you are now the Legislative Secretary of the Senate.

NOTIFICATION OF GOVERNOR AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: We are now moving to Item (M), notification of the Governor and House of Representatives. At this time, I would like to appoint Senator Paul A. Manglona and Senator Corina L. Magofna to notify the Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature is duly organized and ready to conduct business. We will take a short recess to allow Senator Paul A. Manglona and Senator Corina L. Magofna to notify the Governor and the Speaker of the House. Short recess please.

The Senate recessed at 11:50 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:06 p.m.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: We are now back in session and I would like to recognize Senator Corina Magofna to report to the full body on the communication to the Governor regarding the organization of the Senate. Recognize Senator Corina Magofna.

Floor Leader Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Paul Manglona and I officially notified the Governor and the Speaker of the House that we are duly organized and ready to conduct business.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Magofna for the message from the Governor and the Speaker of the House. We shall now proceed to our next item on the agenda, which is on Item (N) Communications, and I recognize the Floor Leader Senator Magofna, if there's any communications addressed to the Senate.

COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Leader Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Madam Chair. There are no communications.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Magofna. Moving right along for the next order of business is Item (O), which is the statement of the members. At this time, I would like to recognize Senator Jude U. Hofschneider from the Second Senatorial District to deliver his remarks to the people.

STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Madam President. Greetings, *hafa adai*, and *memorias* to everyone that took the time to join us today. I would like to thank God for today and for every waking moment of my life. Today marks a new beginning in our islands. Many new faces entering the service of an elected public office. Few of us are given another opportunity, once again, some serving at a different capacity, but nonetheless, we are afforded an opportunity by the people, the privilege to represent them during a time of uncertainty, and not just here on our islands, but the entire Western Pacific. The most glaring is the instability in the geopolitical issue that is directly affecting the way we think, the way we plan, the way we engage, and ultimately the way the decision. Coming out of the pandemic we are still trying to identify how to best recover. How to put the plans to paper effectuate them the quickest way possible so that we can have a general context if the executed plan is the plan to continue to support. I want to share a conversation that I had a few weeks ago with a member of a delegate or codell visit to our islands. He mentioned that during the pandemic, there are four pillars of economic activity on how they survive when COVID shut down the world. And he emphasized the value of having economic diversity and how critical it is that they must complement each other. Tourism, military, construction, agriculture, when the place that is representing shut down tourism. They were very fortunate. That the presence of military activity in their region allows them and allows the construction company to operate to function. And because it does have that where you have workers, businesses and the likes, there are people to feed and that gave way to having a vibrant agriculture industry and everything else follows. I highlight that, Madam President and members, because economic diversity in the islands is a must. Our tourism will be back. It wants to be back,

but history has shown it's not going to happen as quickly as how we want it and need it to be. So, what can we do? I wish to share what, not only myself, but previous leadership, previous governors and lieutenant governors, members of the legislature we have been doing in the past, roughly nine years ago, we engaged with the possibility of having these blueprints turn to footprints, and I am referring to the military development, the U.S. Air Force Diver Field. The initial phase of six has begun. It's currently providing jobs for our residents of the CNMI, supporting local businesses in the islands and further exposing our region as the focal point of economic opportunity for economic recovery, economic diversity. Madame President and colleagues, it's up to us. Let's roll up our sleeves and work alongside with the Palacios Apatang administration so that we can ease the burden on our people as we navigate our way through these challenging economic times. I'm confident that with your leadership, this can be possible. In closing, I wish to extend a heartfelt appreciation to many people who are in my life. I want to begin with my family, my wife Cheryl, who's here with us today. Thanks for being my rock. My best friend, my confidant, my AM FM radio, just listening to me, my children, Alexis my neni, who is somewhere in the building and my son was here today with us today, U.S. Air Force Major Select Nathaniel Hofschneider and he just reminded me that this is the first time that he joined us with this ceremony over the years so I'm pleased that he's here. U.S. Air Force Major Select Kimberly Hofschneider, who just recently finished her tour as the Liaison Officer for Indo Paycom, United States Air Force. She's in the office with us today, along with Nikayna and the Brabu Boys. My grandsons Ashley and granddaughter Kyrie was unable to join us today. Eddie, CJ, Thomas, Celine, and Gianna. To my siblings for always having my back every time I seek their support and to all the miñaina's my extended families, my palentenas, my supporters on Tinian and throughout the Mariana Islands and in different parts of the U.S. and to the people of Tinian. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, ni pasiensian miyo na kinaprendon miyo.* Madam President, *kon respetu yan nobidi yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase, talo un biahi.* Now back to work.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Senator Hofschneider. That was a very beautiful statement to the people. I now would like to recognize Senator Francisco Q. Cruz from the Second Senatorial District to deliver his remarks to the people. Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you, Madam President. First, I would like to congratulate you as the 23rd Senate President and the newly elected officers. Congratulations. I wish you Madam President the very best and the officers to lead this 23rd Legislature for the betterment of our Commonwealth and our people. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase.* Now as a Senator for the Second Senatorial District, I will honor the trust of my family and the people of Tinian to stringent policies and quality services to our people. I am firm believer in the rights and values of our people. I will always base the decision and make on what is best and what is right for them. I thank the citizens of Tinian, 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 blessed with the strength and guidance to make sound policy bring about common-sense to law and regulation, and promote decision making if what is best for our islands in mine. *Para i todo taotao Tinian man chagu na manehot ginen Marianas. Un sinseru na Si Yu'us Ma'ase pot i supottan miyo na kontinua monahe yo bei kontinua kao macho'chohe ham guini gi Senate para minaolek i taotao ta Tinian yan i entieramente islas Marianas. Puru sottu mas malago yo extende un sinseru na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para i familia siha, i asagua hu ni todos tiempo gaige gue gi fi'on hu si Jade yan i hagao*

si Mia yan i primu ha si Kevin Castro. Un dankolo Si Yu'us Ma'ase para i supottasion miyo yan todos siha mañe'lo hu yan i familia siha na ma attong guiya Tinian un sinseru na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni todo anoku ya ni pinasensia i kinenprende na en nahi talo bei kontinua sumetbe hamyo guini gi Senate. Un dankolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Madam President.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Senator Cruz ni yo'mu remarks para i taotao Marianas. Malago yo' pago bei recognisa si Senator Karl R. King-Nabors from the Second Senatorial District para bei deliver i yo'ña remarks para hamyo ni taotao. Senator Karl.*

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Madam President. I want to start off by extending my congratulations and welcome to our newly elected colleagues. Today is a monumental occasion for many reasons. For the first time in history, we have three women serving in the Senate, and also for the first time in history, we have a first female Senate President. I'm grateful for this privilege to be a part of this chapter in our history. It is truly an honor. There is no greater honor bestowed upon me than the privilege to serve the people of the CNMI and Tinian. Over the course of these past two years, every decision and vote I've casted has been guided by what will ultimately best serve and improve the lives of the people I've been sworn, I've sworn to serve. In the beginning as I begin the second half of my term as a junior senator, I renew my oath of office and commitment to serve. I want to thank the people of Tinian and the CNMI for their continued faith and trust in me. We all know that the next two years are going to be quite challenging as we begin adjusting to an economy that's not supported by federal aid. And to that end, while it is important to have conversations as to the propriety of how these federal funds were spent, is my deepest hope that we can come together and prioritize figuring out how we're going to keep federal crucial federal government funding employment services programs in the absence of these federal funds. Because at the end of the day, that is what I care about, is how to help our people put food on the table and also pay the pensions of our retirees 100%. So once again, congratulations to our newest members of the Senate and I look forward to working with you all. Thank you.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator King Nabors, for your remarkable remarks to the people. I would like to recognize Senator Dennis C. Mendiola from the First Senatorial District.

Senator Elect Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you Madam President. Colleagues and everyone in attendance of this ceremony. Thank you for your time and attention. Madam Pres, if I were to follow the rooted culture of political dissection, I would be impeding my ability and desire to work with all the members of the Senate and the House. Therefore, I am dedicated to working collaboratively with the senators and the House members to use our collective knowledge and skills to improve the quality of life for the CNMI. As a freshman senator, I am interested in learning from all of you coming from different backgrounds and experience. I want to work on maximizing our talent to prevent our Commonwealth from the verge of an economic disaster. I want to harness knowledge from our individual experience. Do not repeat the mistakes of the past as we go through this inauguration at this very moment. There are people throughout the CNMI who are stressed and worried lately because of the uncertainty and dismay of our economy. The CNMI should be in a state of high alert, because in less than one year the federal financial assistance that was made available to the passage of the American Rescue Plan will expire. This chamber cannot afford to

be divided and pursue a better alternative. As prices of commodity continue to inflate as the outlook of employment security becomes increasingly diminished. I acknowledge that I must surrender my political interest in this chamber. A former president once said a Philippine former president once said that when the loyalty of the people begins, the loyalty to the party must end this moment, regardless of political affiliation. In the interest of the people of the CNMI, the interest of the CNMI is top priority. I will devote my energy and focus on helping promote the economic wellbeing of our people. First and foremost, our creative imagination must be on display to put forth achievable legislative agenda to work, support and sustain an economic development. When the federal financial aid expires, the thought that in less than one year into our term, a significant number of government employees may likely be displaced. This is very anguishing and personally very devastating. The responsibility to our people does not rest with any of the political faction, but instead, it is our collective and mandated duty to protect our island and its people from financial harm. Madam President, as the leader of this chamber, I will respond to you affirmatively to your call for duty in exploring economic remedies. I am a military veteran and I am not driven by political ambition. I do however willingly accept my responsibility as a public servant, just as I did in defending our nation. I trust that your leadership will be one that unites the Senate members and put the interest of the people at the forefront. In closing, I must thank the Lord above for guiding me in the blessing in all my endeavor. To my wife Ana and my children, I did not get here by myself. You all provided me the comfort and support to continue to work hard, and I must thank you for all the encouragement and patience. Similarly, I must acknowledge my family, friends for their untiring support and motivation. Your candidness and constructive criticism kept me on my feet. To my chairwoman Jackie King, thank you for believing in me. Since 2015 when I returned, you've inspired an alternate course of energy motivating me to fight for our people and instill positive change. Seven years later, you are still on my sixth. Former Senators Victor Hocog, Paterno Hocog, Felix Mendiola, Former Congressman Alejo Mendiola, Antonio Quitugua and Vianney Hocog, thank you all for inspiring a more collective mindset in public service. Although many argue against your political views, I saw passion and fearlessness displayed when it comes to the good of all. I would also like to acknowledge Uncle Joe Aldan, we spent many hours reflecting on issues facing family and the CNMI, and you tend to influence objectivity in my principles. I thank you for that. Finally, to the great people of Rota, I am honored and humble by your trust and confidence to serve you. As your representative in the upper house of the Legislature, I will not take this duty lightly and I will devote my time and attention. Ensuring the quality of life for the people of Rota and the CNMI are my utmost priority. I will remain true to value-driven mission focused. Congratulations to all my colleagues. Madam President, congratulations on your ascension. Thank you and *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Mendiola. I would like to now recognize Senator Paul A. Manglona from the First Senatorial District to deliver your remarks. Senator Paul.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Buenas dias and *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* para todos man presente na ogga'an. I would like to extend first my congratulations to you Madam President and to all newly elected officers of the 23rd Senate and to all newly elected members. Lokkue I like to extend dankolo na *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* to our Presiding Judge Robert Naraja and to all our mayors, our municipal council members, and all our distinguished guests. Many were here earlier this morning

for your presence here with us. I also want to recognize my lovely wife, Lydia, with our two-month-old grandson, Damien behind me and our son Denny and Joy, who are both here also with us and of course our families and friends, and my dear people of the Commonwealth, both at home and abroad, who are joining us live on Facebook or YouTube. I would like to thank my colleagues, the people of the Commonwealth, and most specially Rota, for taking the time to share with us their thoughts and concerns. During the last election, our people demanded that the Legislature upholds its constitutional mandate and conduct more oversight hearings to ensure that we deliver information to our people in a way that creates transparency, full accountability and good governance, our people demanded that the Legislature provide them with information on allocation of limited resources, government spending, public services and infrastructure. Our people demanded that the Legislature is strengthened our sunshine laws to ensure government activities are conducted in an open and ethical nature. Finally, our people made it known loud and clear last November that we work for them and we must not ever forget that. I will never forget the stories and challenges that many of them have shared with me from the hardships of trying to find a job off-island college students having a tough time making ends meet or seek being unable to afford adequate healthcare, lack of funding for medical referral and stipend assistance. Our youth being introduced to drugs and alcohol, the high cost of food commodities, unbelievable on Rota. The lack of basic infrastructure is more businesses struggling to pay its employees and debts to the hardships of our retirees. As a matter of fact, these are the reasons why hundreds of our people and their families from Rota are living temporarily on Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland. I will continue to work hard to address your concerns. I know the 23rd Legislature looks forward to the urgent work before us that is needed to rebuild our economy back better and stronger. In doing so, let's keep in mind the caution adage. I quote, "It takes less time to do things right than it does to explain why you did them wrong." It is my hope for us to start right in this new year. Let us make decisions that are right, honest and fair, even when it is tough. Finally, again, I want to thank the people of Rota from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to serve you. Every day for the next two years that I hold this office, I will continue to give my all to the people first. *Ti ma afan tekkun hamyo sen ta'kilo este na onru i pa bei representa hamyo na mu'natago guiya Luta yan Marianas entierumente. Bei choggue mono siha na ti bei afan mamalo hamyo.* Most of all, I will remember that the honor is mine, that while the honor is mine, this Senate seat, as I have always said over the last 35 years, belongs to the people we serve. Indeed, it is the people's seat. *Ginen taya mas gi fuetsan publiku. Si Yu'us Ma'ase nu ya si Yu'us hu bendisi hit todo bendisi [inaudible] taotao ha Commonwealth.* Thank you, Madam President. Congratulations talo.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Senator Paul. I would now like to recognize Senator Donald M. Manglona from the First Senatorial District to deliver your remarks. Senator Manglona.

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Madam President, and congratulations again on your election to serve this Legislature as our next President. *Hafa Adai* and good afternoon. Today officially marks the start of a new season, a new season of change and optimism for our people. The road that got us to this point was indeed a challenging one. Sharp turns and bumps, tested our abilities along the way, but that never, that did not deter us from arriving at our destination. In my first term, we had to deal with the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut, which devastated Rota and Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated the islands of Saipan and Tinian. And we are still feeling

the effects as our people are still trying to recover and rebuild. But in the midst of reclaiming our lives back, we were then struck with another event that changed our lives forever. In my second term, the COVID-19 pandemic tested our resilience and response as a community to combat the virus. These were unprecedented times that challenged the core of who we are as citizens of this Commonwealth with over half a billion dollars in federal assistance, and with the amazing response from the health and safety personnel, our government and community was able to get back to a new sense of normalcy. Now, going into my third term as a public servant, but this being my first term as a Senate member, our islands, yet again, is faced with economic uncertainties. As we've witnessed millions of dollars questionably spent, it is concerning that the federal dollars that could have helped everyone and not just a few is running out. We've approached the fiscal cliff and it is now our duty to find solutions to ensure that our government can keep up with providing the essential services and to protect the wellbeing of our people. Our journey is far from over and there's still much work to be done. But one thing that has been constant in my passion and determination to continue fighting to improve the lives of everyone that calls this great Commonwealth home. I will work diligently with my colleagues in the Senate, and with our counterparts in the House of Representatives, and with our new administration to keep moving this road, to keep moving along this road, to rebuild our economy and bring new opportunities that will facilitate economic growth. So, to my colleagues, congratulations to each one of you, and I am deeply honored to work alongside you. While we each sit here representing our districts. When we come together, we are one, and together we will overcome the challenges ahead. So, before I conclude my speech, I just want to say that I would not have been here if not for the hard work and dedication of my support system; my parents, Charles and Lorna, my siblings and their partners. My chairman Paterno Hocog, my aunts and uncles, some of them who took time out and who flew here just to be with us here today. My staff and their family, my childhood sitter, who is now a family friend, my friends and families who volunteered their efforts in reaching out. You all share the same passion of wanting to help our island and Commonwealth, and I truly am grateful and blessed to have you. So last, but certainly not least to our dear people of the First Senatorial District. It is my distinct honor and privilege to continue serving you and our people. As your former Representative to the House, we were able to accomplish as much as we could with the little we have. And as your Senator, we will strive to achieve so much more. And so, thank you for your continued trust and faith in my ability to fight for, defend, and protect our islands. Your interests have always been about politics, and I promise to remain committed to serving you the good work and the good fight continues. Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Maraming Salamat Po'*.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Donald Manglona. I now would like to recognize Senator Celina R. Babauta from the Third Senatorial District to deliver her remarks to the people. Senator Babauta.

Senator Celina R. Babauta: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Madam President, and to my fellow colleagues, Father Michael Lindon, representing the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, our elected officials who were here earlier, including the Delegation from Guam under Darryl Barnett, Amanda Shelton, and Roy Quinata, and their delegation fellow colleagues, Presiding Judge Naraja and the Judiciary. I am deeply honored by our Marianas for bestowing their trust in me to represent their interest and their collective voices. Undeniably, my success is your success too. The oath I took, I just took, and in

your presence is one I hold close to my heart. I understand that the actions I may take as a contributing member to the 23rd Senate represent a symbol of public authority and trust, and I resolved to uphold my duties in the halls of the Legislature with the same tenacity I had during my previous term as a member of the 22nd House of Representatives. *Esta mampos apmam na tiempo ni man tinampe i tano'ta ni hinemhom. Måtto chiña bula despitdisio yan deskuido ginen unos kuantos man officiât siha gi gobietnamentota. Kumeke ilekhu, malachai i salape' federât ya desde pâ'go sigi ha manman gâsta kulan mohon tai fundo na botsa, ya ti mapo'luye i mamaila' na tiempo. Pâgo' na ha'âne ta tutuhon muna' derecho i batkota sa' mamaila' dângkulon napu ginen este siha na finaposgue.* As we begin today, we have been given a sacred trust to work for our communities and our families. We will respect those who came before us and protect the future for those to come. I will discharge this trust through legislative policy, guided by three principles, doing what is right, doing my best, and doing what is just. Our Commonwealth is drifting toward the reef with no rescue insight. The challenge to restore confidence in our government is daunting, but we must demand these principles not as partisan goals, but as moral mandates being a Democrat or a Republican is irrelevant to the daunting task at hand. We must put away our Democrat and Republican guide-on and hoist to full staff our flags of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We will get through the challenges of 2023, one step at a time, one foot in front of the other. But, our challenges are not over. In extraordinary times, only courageous leaders who are willing to walk into the fire at the risk of getting scorched will put our islands and its citizens priorities before any political party. I stand ready to do that. I stand ready to do what is right. I stand ready to do my best, and I stand ready to do what is just. *I muna' subebetbio yu' mâs i fiet na hineggekku na guaha Yu'us, metgot yan mahulat, guiya hu pipet yu mo'na gi kâyonni ha ayik para hita todos.* There's a saying in the military, mission first, families always! In fidelity and in gratitude, *dânkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'âse para i asaguahu,* Retired Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Babauta, i famaguon mame' Specialist William Babauta, Captain Francine Babauta, Kolina and Specialist Franklin R. Babauta, Jr. for their sacrifices to our nation and for their love, support and prayers. *Achaka manaiña gi fion'hu mame todo i tiempo akkaga siha gi ina soku i guinai'yaku yanggen gina yo'tu.* They have been my battle buddies through this journey. Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Ghilisou.* I yield Madam President.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Celina Babauta. I would now like to recognize Senator Corina L. Magofna from the Third Senatorial District to deliver your remarks to the people. Senator Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: *Si Yu'us Ma'âse,* Madam President. Congratulations again on your ascension. *Hafa Adai yan Tirow mañe'lo hu yan mañainahu familia'ku yan todos taotao Marianas. Fiñeñe'ha malago yu' nu bei hu na'i i saina un sen dânkulu na agradesimiento para todo i bendición.* My dear people of the CNMI, I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt appreciation to you all. Thank you for believing in me, trusting me, and having confidence in me to be your voice and to represent your best interest. I am truly humbled and honored to hold this very prestigious seat for I know that this seat is a privilege and not a right. Thank you once again from the bottom of my heart. In yesterday's gospel at the Red Mass, Bishop Jimenez talked about two types of leaders, a transactional leader and a transformational leader. He also posed the question to us; which leader are you? While both leadership types are self-explanatory and

effective in its own merit, I decided to do a little more research on the topic when I got home, and I came across another type of leader, and that is a servant leader. A servant leader is one who puts the needs, growth and wellbeing of followers first. In other words, this type of leader adopts a serve first mindset and prioritizes his or her organization, employees and community above oneself. Well, the characteristics of a transformational leader checks all the boxes for me, a servant leader is not, is now what I aspire to be in my new role as your Senator. That said, I will do right by you, my people, and I promise to give my absolute best in all that I will do for you in the next four years. A huge thank you to all my families, friends, supporters, my staff, my mother-in-law Emy Rios, and everyone else who helped me on this journey. And a very special thank you to my precious daughter, Ayani and my wonderful husband Joe Rios. I wouldn't be the woman that I am today without your unconditional love and support. Throughout this journey, your patience, understanding, love, care, encouragement, constructive feedback and generosity of time and money, as these were all very pivotal in the success of our journey together. And for that, I am eternally grateful. To my families abroad, most especially my son Darius, my parents Sue and Al Pua, my siblings, Wayne, Quinn, Sam and Keo. I wish you were all here today to witness and share this very special and momentous occasion with me, but I understand that the circumstances that you're all in, I know that you are all here with me in spirit. And with that, congratulations again to all of all of you Senate members. I look forward to working with you all. And to the people of the Marianas hu guaiya ham todos. Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'âse*, *Ghilisou* and *Salamat Po'*. Thank you.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Magofna. That brings us to the last remarks for the day, and I shall recognize myself, Senator Edith DeLeon Guerrero to deliver my remarks to the people. These past two years of serving as Saipan Senator has been a humbling experience. Though it may have been rough and at times lonely, you the people, your encouragement and support kept my spirit alive and determined to continue to represent your interests, nothing less. Our Commonwealth has been tested and withstood many storms and came out recovered through the assistance of the U.S. Government and this we are grateful for. However, one storm that we as elected officials must collectively navigate ourselves through is a financial storm that our Commonwealth and its people are depending on us to provide them the assurances of stability and security. A \$300 million running deficit is a very serious matter that has and will affect every citizen within our community. We shall reflect on Promesa and work hard to save ourselves. As elected officials, we must be reminded of our purpose, why we are here and who we are here for. These guiding reflections, not as a second or afterthought, but as a daily reminder will help us stay focused on the issues ailing our Commonwealth and its people. Economic initiatives for revenue creation that are viable for our Commonwealth must be explored. Federal relations and discussions of mutual benefit must be pursued proactively and continuously. Some may say it is the responsibility of the Executive Branch. I say not, that it is our collective responsibilities as stewards of our Commonwealth and her people, and by what means we ask ourselves. It is through the creation of each respective Standing Committee of each Legislative House, where the work for the people needs to be proactive and not idle. It is working on a bipartisan legislations that will benefit the people across all levels. Today marks a new Legislature, a new beginning. We are entrusted by the people to be the stewards of their lives and their future. I ask our almighty father for his guidance and his blessings to help me and my fellow senators as we begin our journey in working collectively together for the common welfare of our people. In closing, I want to say thank

you to my children for your understanding, support, and for allowing me to serve the people, my relatives, and friends, for your encouragement to my fellow colleagues, for your support. And most especially to you, the people of the Commonwealth for your trust. Si Yu'us Ma'åse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: We now move on our agenda on Item (P). Are there any announcements to be made? If none, I would like to announce that a memo will be going around to each Senator's office assigning the Standing Committees of the Senate body for the 23rd Legislature. Moving right along. I want to thank you all for coming to witness our inaugural ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Floor Leader, may I hear a motion for adjournment?

Floor Leader Corina L. Magofna: Thank you Madam President. I now move to adjourn the Organizational Session of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The motion has been seconded.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: There has been a motion on the floor to adjourn the Organizational Session of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and it has been seconded. Is there any discussion? If none, all those in favor say "aye". Those opposed say "nay".

All members voiced, "aye".

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero: Motion carries. This Organizational Session of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature is hereby adjourned. I now recognize the Master of Ceremony, Mr. Devin C. Macaranas for the benediction and closing of the Inaugural Ceremony. Mr. Macaranas.

Master of Ceremony Devin Macaranas: Thank you Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero. I now call upon Reverend Father Michael Linden to lead us in the benediction. Please stand.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Michael Linden: Let us depart in peace and in love and charity with our neighbors. May we regard every resident and citizen of our commonwealth as a brother or sister. Let us depart with respect and care for those who oppose us. May we be joined together in a common goal of service to our conscience. To our humanity and to the people of this Commonwealth, let us drive safely and carefully to our homes. Let us find there the encouragement and companionship we deserve among our beloved family members. Let us always seek intelligence and light humanity

and sensitivity, strength coming from compassion, speech, coming from respect and care and courageous decisions filled with care for our people and with resolve to undertake that which is good. And may the blessing of the God of our understanding be with us all. Amen.

Master of Ceremony Devin Macaranas: Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our Inaugural Ceremony for the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the Senate of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, their families and staff, and the Legislative Bureau, Si Yu'us Ma'âse and thank you for your presence today to witness this historical and memorable event. The legislative members of the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and the Legislative Bureau invite you to join us for lunch on the Legislature's lawn adjacent to the entrance of the House of Representatives. Please continue to practice all safety measures to keep you, your family and our community safe. May you have a great day. Thank you.

The Senate Organizational Session adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chanele C. Borja
Senate Journal Clerk