

COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SENATE JOURNAL



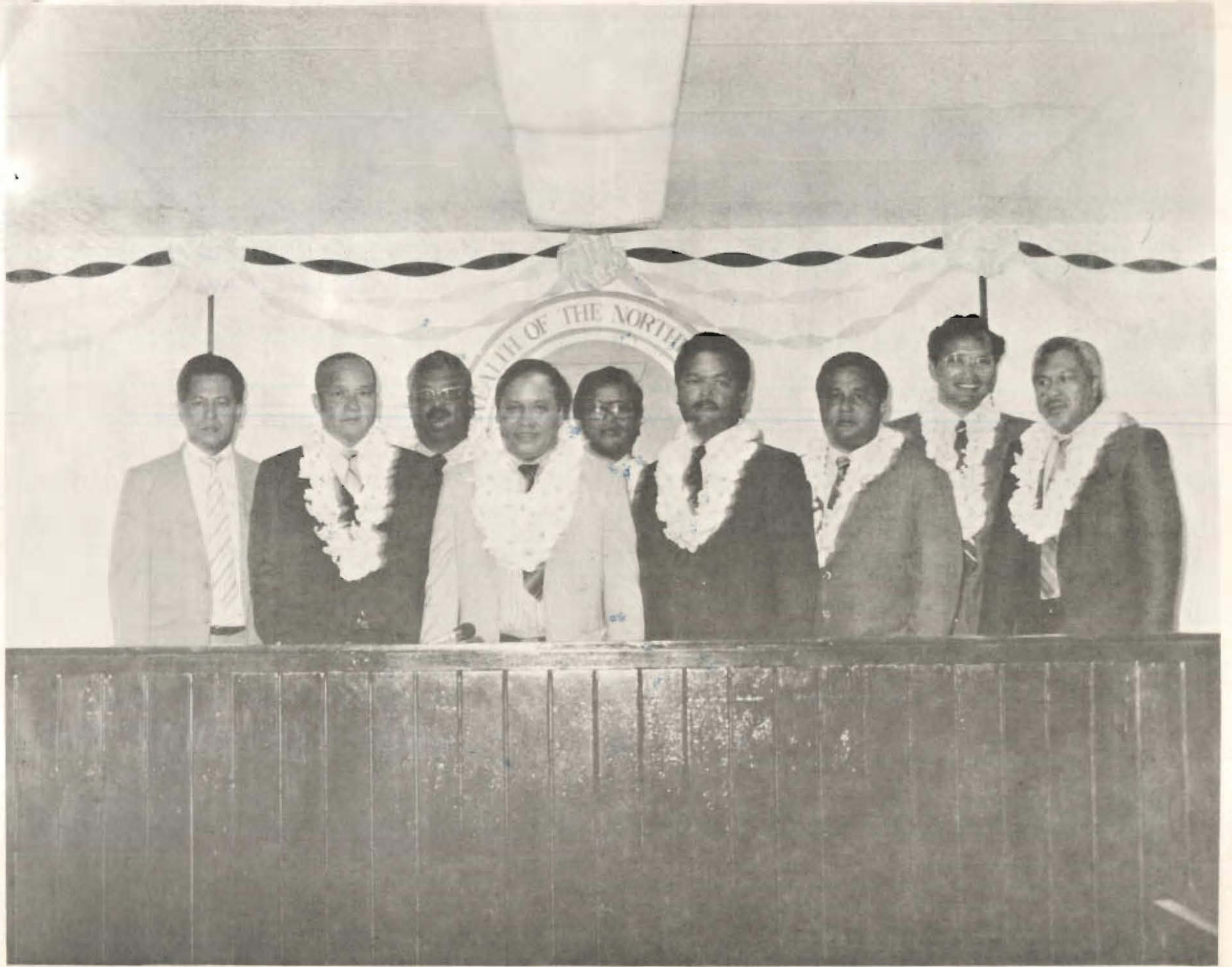
SIXTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 11 - MARCH 31, 1988

SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MP 96950





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE SENATE
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 129
Saipan, MP 96950

BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA
President of the Senate

Phone: 322-5647

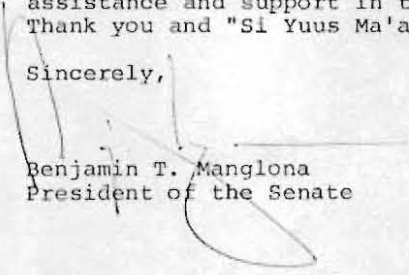
Dear Senators:

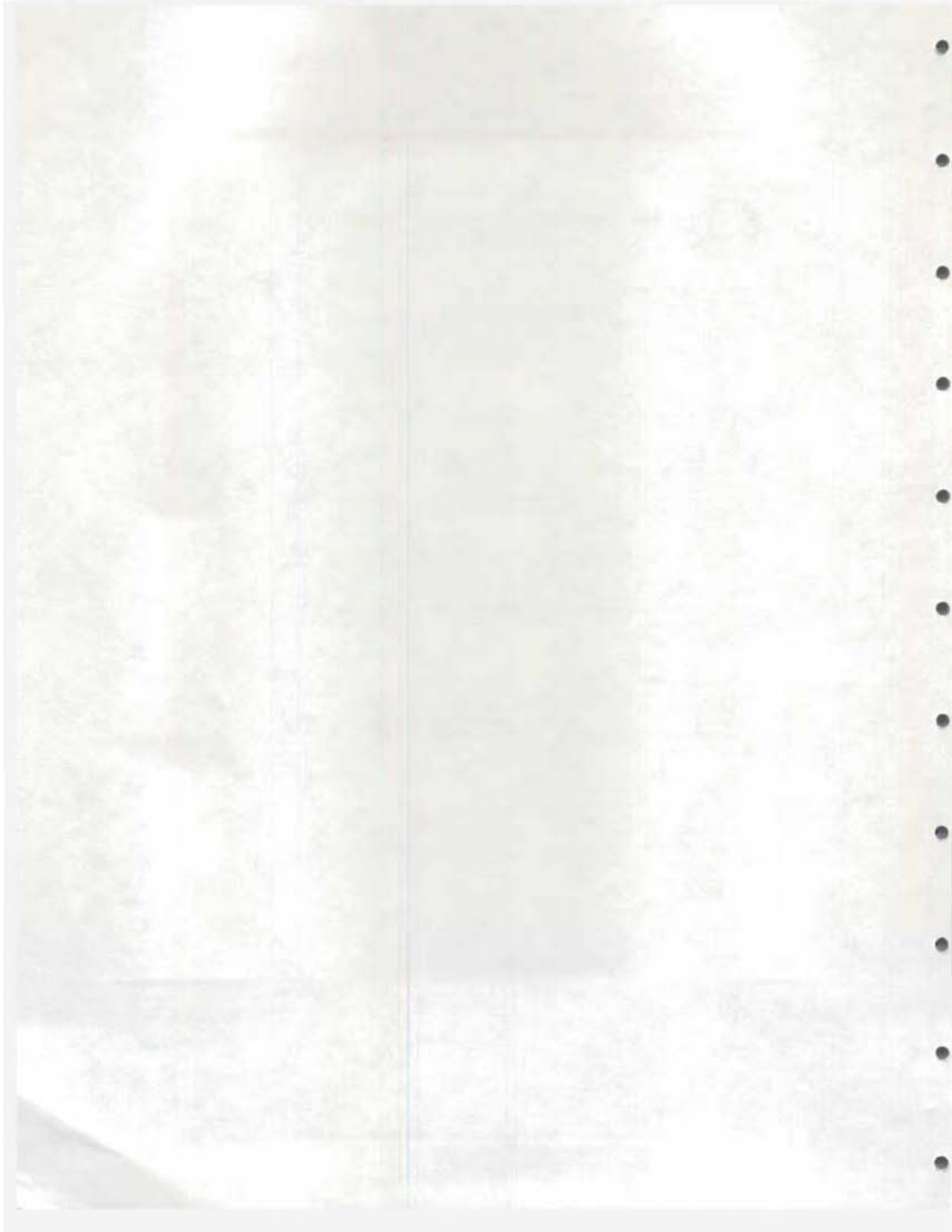
It has been my intention since the inauguration of the new Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature for the new Senate Leadership to put forth its best efforts to provide for the publication of the Journals of the Senate on a regular and timely basis.

Therefore, pursuant to the Official Rules of the Senate of the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and the Commonwealth Constitution, this letter is to formally present the printed Journals of the Senate for the First Regular Session, January 11 to March 31, 1988, to the members of the Senate and interested members of the general public.

I also wish to take this opportunity to offer my personal gratitude to the Office of the Governor, the Director of Finance, the Commissioner of Education, the Senate Journal Clerk, and other Senate employees for their assistance and support in the production of this document. Thank you and "Si Yuus Ma'ase."

Sincerely,

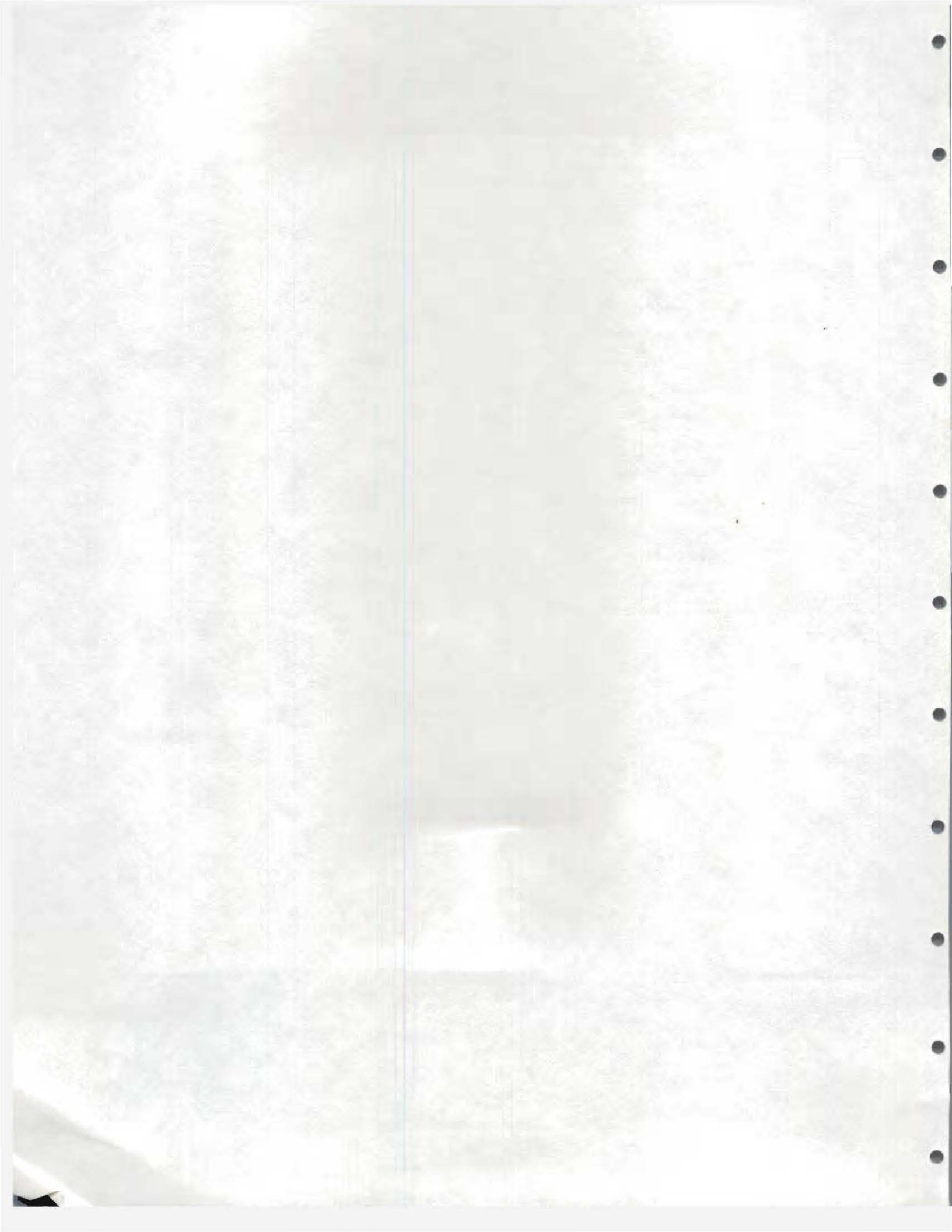

Benjamin T. Manglona
President of the Senate



I N D E X

SENATE JOURNAL
SIXTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1988

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE ADOPTED</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
1 Monday, January 11, 1988	1/27/88	1
2 Wednesday, January 20, 1988	1/27/88	12
3 Wednesday, January 27, 1988	2/3/88	22
4 Monday, February 1, 1988	2/3/88	30
5 Wednesday, February 3, 1988	2/10/88	43
6 Wednesday, February 10, 1988	2/22/88	61
7 Friday, February 12, 1988	2/22/88	72
8 Friday, February 19, 1988	2/24/88	76
9 Monday, February 22, 1988	2/24/88	77
10 Wednesday, February 24, 1988	3/8/88	96
11 Tuesday, March 8, 1988	3/29/88	103
12 Wednesday, March 23, 1988(Joint Session) . .	3/29/88	121
13 Tuesday, March 29, 1988	4/7/88	137



THE SENATE
SIXTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

OFFICERS

President Sen. Benjamin T. Manglona
Vice President Sen. Jose P. Mafnas
Floor Leader Sen. Joseph S. Inos
Legislative Secretary Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez

MEMBERSHIP

First Senatorial District - Rota

Sen. Joseph S. Inos
Sen. Benjamin T. Manglona
Sen. Paul A. Manglona

Second Senatorial District - Tinian and Aguiquan

Sen. Jose P. Mafnas
Sen. Herman M. Manglona
Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez

Third Senatorial District - Saipan and Islands North

Sen. Juan N. Babauta
Sen. Herman R. Guerrero
Sen. Juan T. Guerrero

STAFF

Legal Counsel Thomas R. Bruce
Senate Clerk Bernadita C. Sablan
Journal Clerk Antonia M. Apatang
Sergeant-at-Arms Nicanor S. Cabrera

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT : SENATOR BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA
VICE-PRESIDENT : SENATOR JOSE P. MAFNAS
FLOOR LEADER : SENATOR JOSEPH S. INOS
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY : SENATOR MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FISCAL AFFAIRS

Sen. Joseph S. Inos - Chairman
Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez - V. Chairman
Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Member
Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Member
Sen. Herman M. Manglona - Member
Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Member
Sen. Herman R. Guerrero - Member

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, GOV'T & LAW

Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez - Chairman
Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Vice Chairman
Sen. Juan T. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Herman R. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Member
Sen. Joseph S. Inos - Member
Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Member

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Chairman
Sen. Herman M. Manglona - Vice Chairman
Sen. Juan T. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Herman R. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez - Member
Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Member
Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Member

COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS & GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Sen. Herman M. Manglona - Chairman
Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Vice Chairman
Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Member
Sen. Joseph S. Inos - Member
Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez - Member
Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Member
Sen. Juan T. Guerrero - Member

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE

Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Chairman
Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Vice Chairman
Sen. Juan T. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Herman H. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Member
Sen. Joseph S. Inos - Member
Sen. Herman M. Manglona - Member

COMMITTEE ON RULES & PROCEDURES

Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Chairman
Sen. Herman M. Manglona - Vice Chairman
Sen. Herman R. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Member
Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Member
Sen. Joseph S. Inos - Member
Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez - Member

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS & INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Sen. Paul A. Manglona - Chairman
Sen. Joseph S. Inos - Vice Chairman
Sen. Manuel P. Villagomez - Member
Sen. Jose P. Mafnas - Member
Sen. Juan T. Guerrero - Member
Sen. Juan N. Babauta - Member

THE SENATE
SIXTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1988

FIRST DAY

Monday, January 11, 1988

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Senate of the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, First Regular Session, 1988, was called to order at 10:30 a.m., in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Julian S. Calvo, President Pro Tem, presided.

President Pro Tem Calvo: I shall now call upon Reverend Father Isaac M. Ayuyu to give the invocation.

Everybody rose, and Reverend Father Isaac M. Ayuyu administered the invocation.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Thank you, Reverend Father Ayuyu. Next item on our agenda for this morning is the adoption of the temporary Rules of the Senate. May I hear a motion for adoption of the Senate Rules?

Senator Inos: Mr. President, I move that we adopt the Rules of the Fifth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature as the temporary Rules of the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Senator Villagomez seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

President Pro Tem Calvo: The temporary Rules of the Senate is hereby adopted. Now I am happy at this time to appoint the temporary Senate Clerk and Sergeant-At-Arms. And may I appoint Bernie C. Sablan to be the temporary Senate Clerk and Nick Cabrera as temporary Sergeant-At-Arms. Any objections from the members? If none, so ordered. Now let's go down to appointment of Credentials Committee. The Chair is happy to appoint the following people to the Credentials Committee. And may I ask Senator Joseph S. Inos to be the Chairman of this committee, and Senator Babauta and Senator Manny Villagomez, members. I will now call for a short recess.

The Chair declared the Senate recessed at 10:35 a.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Let us continue with our Order of Business. May I ask the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to make his report? Senator Inos?

Chairman Inos: Mr. President, your Credentials Committee assigned to review and certify the elections of Senator-elect Paul A. Manglona from Senatorial District I, Senator-elect Jose P. Mafnas from Senatorial District II, and Senator-elect Herman R. Guerrero from Senatorial District III, hereby approved and sanctioned the elections of said senators for the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Signed: Senator Joseph S. Inos, Chairman; Senator Manuel P. Villagomez, Vice Chairman; and Senator Juan N. Babauta, Member. At this time, I will present this to the Senate Clerk.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Thank you, Senator Inos. Now may I ask all the Senators-elect to.... Yes, Senator Guerrero?

Senator-elect H. Guerrero: Mr. President, I would like to find out if the Credentials Committee take into consideration the case that was submitted by Hillbloom and whether a full report has been forwarded by the court. So we would like definitely to know whether we are in fact legally or we can legally be sworn-in this morning -- today.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Could the Chairman of the Credentials Committee respond to that inquiry?

Chairman Inos: Yes, Mr. President. Insofar as there has been questions regarding the integrity, reliability and honors of the Senators-elect, the Committee on Credentials zeroed in the qualifications of the Senators-elect. As such, we have communicated with the Board of Elections and they have sanctioned also the elections without questions of any credibility within Public Law No. 5-7, which is the Commonwealth Board of Elections law. With respect to any other issues, the Committee did not take into consideration as such.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Thank you, Senator Inos. Senator Guerrero?

Senator-elect H. Guerrero: Then we can say with certainty that we could be sworn-in this morning regardless of the outcome of the court case at a later date.

President Pro Tem Calvo: That's what the Chairman already revealed and found that your credibility and your elections are fully endorsed by the Board of Elections. So the Chair would like you to sit in here in the Chamber so that we could constitute our business for today. Now may I ask the Senate Clerk to please call the roll?

The Temporary Senate Clerk called the roll, as follows, and all nine members responded:

Senator Juan N. Babauta
Senator Herman R. Guerrero
Senator Juan T. Guerrero
Senator Joseph S. Inos
Senator Jose P. Mafnas
Senator Benjamin T. Manglona
Senator Herman M. Manglona
Senator Manuel P. Villagomez
Senator Julian S. Calvo

Temporary Senate Clerk: Mr. President, the record here shows that nine members are present.

President Pro Tem Calvo: It shows that we constitute a quorum for today's session. Adoption of the official Rules of the Senate? Floor Leader? I'm sorry. Now may I ask the Judge to swear-in the new members of the Senate?

At this point, the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted Chief Justice Hefner to the podium, and he administered the following Oath and all the Senators-elect repeated it after him:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the applicable provisions of the Constitution, laws and treaties of the United States of America, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties to the best of my ability, so help me God?"

Chief Justice Hefner: Congratulations. (Applause)

President Pro Tem Calvo: The Chair would like to congratulate the newly elected members of the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Adoption of the official Rules of the Senate? Senator Inos?

Senator Inos: Mr. President, I move that we adopt the temporary Rules of the 6th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature as still the temporary Rules of the 6th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Senator Babauta seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Election of officers? Senator Mafnas?

Senator Mafnas: Mr. President, I nominate Senator Benjamin T. Manglona as Senate President.

There were several seconds to the motion.

President Pro Tem Calvo: Any more nominations?

Senator Inos: I move that the nomination be closed.

There were several seconds and the motion carried by voice vote.

President Pro Tem Calvo: The Chair will declare that Senator Benjamin T. Manglona is the President of the Senate (sic) of the Sixth Northern Marianas Legislature.

The motion to elect Senator Benjamin T. Manglona as the new Senate President carried by voice vote. (Applause)

At this point, the Honorable Benjamin T. Manglona, President, took over the Chair.

President Manglona: First, let me express the 6th Legislature's appreciation to the outgoing President who has long years of service in the Legislative Branch of our government. For that, we sincerely thank him for all of his services rendered to our government. Second, I would like to officially welcome all of our visitors from Saipan, from Tinian, from Rota, and also from Guam. We certainly appreciate your presence here this morning to be with us on our inauguration of the 6th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Also, last but not the least, I'm quite impressed and quite touched with the unanimous support of my colleagues for nominating me to be the Senate's new President of the 6th Commonwealth Legislature. With that, I certainly appreciate your confidence and support. Now, let us proceed with the nomination for the office of Vice President. May I hear a nomination?

Senator Inos: Mr. President.

President Manglona: Senator Inos?

Senator Inos: I move for the unanimous consent of nominating the Honorable Jose P. Mafnas as Vice President of the Senate.

The motion was seconded.

President Manglona: There is a nomination for the position of Vice President. And the nominee is Senator Jose P. Mafnas. It has been seconded. Any more nominations? Since there is no further nomination, we will now proceed with the voting for the office of the Vice President. Are you ready?

The motion to elect Senator Jose P. Mafnas as the new Senate Vice President carried by voice vote. (Applause)

President Manglona: Senator Mafnas was voted unanimously to be the new Senate Vice President of the 6th Commonwealth Legislature. We will now proceed with the nomination for Floor Leader. Senator Villagomez?

Senator Villagomez: I'm officially nominating Senator Joseph S. Inos for Floor Leader.

Vice President Mafnas seconded.

Vice President Mafnas: I move to close the nomination.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The motion to elect Senator Joseph S. Inos as the new Senate Floor Leader carried by voice vote. (Applause)

President Manglona: Senator Inos is voted by the entire Senate to be the new Senate Floor Leader. We will now be voting on the last officer of the Senate which is the Legislative Secretary. Is there any nomination? Senator Babauta?

Senator Babauta: Mr. President, I wish to nominate Senator Manuel P. Villagomez to be our Senate Legislative Secretary.

The motion was seconded.

Floor Leader Inos: Ready for the question.

The motion carried by voice vote.

The motion to elect Senator Manuel P. Villagomez as the new Senate Legislative Secretary carried by voice vote. (Applause)

President Manglona: The Senate unanimously voted Senator Manuel P. Villagomez to be our Senate Legislative Secretary. At this time, I would like to make an appointment to notify the Governor and also to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate is fully organized and the Senate is ready to transact business. The Chair would like to appoint the following people to notify the Governor: Senator Babauta, Senator Manny Villagomez, and Senator H. R. Guerrero. Could you please notify the Governor that the Senate is fully organized and ready to transact business? And at the same time, also, I would like to make an appointment and I would like to appoint the following people to notify the House of Representatives and the appointees are as follows: This is to be chaired by the Vice President, Senator Mafnas, Senator John Guerrero, and also Senator Paul Manglona. The Chairman for the notification of the Governor will be headed by Senator Villagomez. So at this time, I would like to call for a short recess until we receive the reports from these committees.

The Chair declared a recess at 10:57 a.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

President Manglona: Let us resume our session. Prior to this session, I have appointed a committee of three to inform the Governor and also the House of Representatives that the Senate of the 6th Commonwealth Legislature is fully organized and ready to transact business. At this time I am happy to receive the report of the committees. First, let me call upon Senator Villagomez, Chairman of the Committee to Notify the Governor.

Senator Villagomez: Mr. President, the Committee has informed the Governor that the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature is fully organized and ready to transact business.

President Manglona: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. May I call upon the Vice President to make his report on the notification of the House of Representatives?

Vice President Mafnas: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Your Notification Committee has met with the House and notified the House that the Senate is fully organized and ready to transact business.

President Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I understand also that Senator Guerrero has a report to make?

Senator J. Guerrero: Mr. President, I am happy to report that the Minority members have selected Senator Herman Guerrero as the Minority Leader. (Applause)

President Manglona: At this time, I would like to ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort the Governor to the Chamber to make a short statement.

At this point, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio was escorted by the Sergeant-At-Arms in the Chamber to the podium. (Applause)

President Manglona: On behalf of the Senate, I am very happy to officially introduce our Governor, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio. And at this time, Governor, I would like to ask you if you wish to make a statement?

Governor P. Tenorio: Mr. President, members of the Senate, distinguished guests and friends. I am honored to be here today and to congratulate the newly elected and the re-elected members who will now join the incumbents to represent our people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Today marks another milestone in the brief ten-year history of our Commonwealth. However, the next few years will be just as important and equally challenging. We have witnessed tremendous growth on our islands. The private sector has contributed toward the development of our economy. This is good and welcome, as long as we do not allow the results to have an adverse impact. In this regard, I respectfully ask for your support and assistance in cooperating with the private sector so that our residents will continue to prosper and enjoy a higher standard of living, not only for now but also in the future. Let us then put whatever differences we might have aside and work together and assist each other in order to accomplish our ultimate goal, which is the betterment of our islands and our people.

During the past years, there have been times when the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch disagreed on issues that affected our people. However, we managed to put our differences aside and worked together in providing essential services to our community. With your understanding, I hope this spirit and cooperation continues, as we begin this Sixth Legislature, as it is very vital that we maintain a harmonious relationship if we are to achieve our goals and objectives.

In the past, my office has been "open" to everyone. Again, I assure you that it will continue to be open at any time, whenever you feel the need to discuss any matter with me. The Lieutenant Governor, my staff and I look forward to working closely with all of you.

Again, congratulations and best wishes to all of you.

(Applause)

President Manglona: I would like to assure the Governor that the 6th Commonwealth Legislature will work in partnership with his administration in order to assist our citizens in the fulfillments of many of our dreams and hopes for better future for our people. And for that matter, Governor Tenorio, please rest assure that we will cooperate with you in every way possible. At this time, I would like to call for a short recess.

The Chair declared a short recess at 11:42 a.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:43 a.m.

President Manglona: Let us continue on with our session. I would like to call upon Senator Inos at this time to make a motion. Senator Inos?

Floor Leader Inos: Mr. President, under line Item "M" on today's agenda, I move that the order of the roll call be by alphabetical order.

Senator Babauta seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

President Manglona: I shall now call upon the Senate Clerk to please call the roll.

The Temporary Senate Clerk called the roll, as follows, and all nine members responded:

Senator Juan N. Babauta
 Senator Herman R. Guerrero
 Senator Juan T. Guerrero
 Senator Joseph S. Inos
 Senator Jose P. Mafnas
 Senator Herman M. Manglona
 Senator Paul A. Manglona
 Senator Manuel P. Villagomez
 President Benjamin T. Manglona

Temporary Senate Clerk: Mr. President, the record here shows that nine members are present.

President Manglona: We are now down to Miscellaneous Business. At this time,.... Go ahead, Senator Guerrero.

Senator H. Guerrero: Mr. President, I just want to raise some points at this time. This has something to do with the official Rules of the Senate. In the 5th Legislature in the Senate, we adopted the 4th's Senate official Rules of Procedures as our temporary Rules of Procedures. And during the entire 5th's Senate, the Rules of the Senate remained temporary. We are again adopting the same thing -- the Senate Rules of Procedures. And I would like to point out, Mr. President, that this Rules of Procedures is very important. It guides the proceedings of the Senate and each member of the Senate is obligated to abide by the Rules. So I would like to see, Mr. President, that either today or sometime soon that we adopt the official Rules of the Senate which we can call it the Permanent Rules of the Senate for the Sixth Legislature -- the Sixth Senate.

President Manglona: Thank you very much, Senator Guerrero, for your concern. That's one of the first options of the Chair to appoint a Committee to review the Rules so that we can establish our permanent Rules of Procedures of the Senate. For that matter, I will soon be announcing the Chairmen to the various standing committees and I would like to ask the Vice President, perhaps, to Chair this Committee on the Rules so that we can adopt the permanent Rules of Procedures at the earliest time possible. Thank you. Yes, Senator Guerrero?

Senator J. Guerrero: Mr. President and fellow members, I would like to say a few remarks while we are under miscellaneous.

President Manglona: You may proceed.

Senator J. Guerrero: Mr. President and fellow Senators. Kindly allow me to welcome back Senator Jose Mafnas and Senator Herman Guerrero, our esteemed colleagues from our Fifth Legislature. I wish to also welcome Senator Paul Manglona to the membership of this Senate. Gentlemen, my congratulations.

Congratulations are also in order to the newly elected leadership of the Senate of the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. May our good Lord grant you the wisdom, the inspiration and the ability to perform your added task most fairly.

Our relationship will not be complete if I do not continue to be the Senate's backbencher, the one-man loyal opposition. You see, dear colleagues, we have this strange thing here in the Senate where we like to blame the House of Representatives, the Executive Branch, the Federal Government, the Courts, or any other for the fact that we're not doing our jobs most completely. The Senate has always blamed the House of Representatives whenever disagreements over the budget are unresolved. We blame the Federal Government when disagreements of interpretations over the Covenant are unresolved or are resolved in someone else's favor. We blame the Executive Branch whenever the power goes off. The Senate has consistently and unfailingly passed the blame to someone else for many of those matters that appropriately should be addressed here on this floor. And this, dear colleagues, makes no sense to me.

The agenda of this Senate by all means should be established by the newly installed leadership. The agenda should be nothing less than a cornucopia of the issues and the problems affecting the daily lives and livelihood of the citizens and residents of the Northern Mariana Islands.

To mention a few items that I feel require our concentrated efforts and focus in the coming months, I feel that we should begin to address and establish policy on how much foreign investment is needed to develop our islands; how many non-resident workers do we really need to subsidize the labor needs of our growing economy; I feel that we must strike a balance, a focal point, as to how much outside influence is good for our people and our islands.

Thanks to foreign influence, murder, robbery and other violent crimes are common occurrences in our communities today. Our people, now more than ever, stand a greater chance of dying a violent death. We must coordinate our efforts and resources with the Board of Education, the Department of Public Safety and the Courts to resolve these dangers. After all, we have no desire to be known as "America's Wild, Wild West".

The leadership would be most wise to seek a common denominator of the political relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States. Just last week, many of us were witnesses to the testing by a private citizen of the most fundamental agreements reached between the United States and our people as incorporated in the Covenant. As we are beginning to see, some of the disputes between our Commonwealth and the United States are Covenant Section 903 and not Section 902 issues.

This Senate organization will shortly address issues and matters relating to the financial position of our government. We must come to terms with the fact that our government, acting through its duly appointed representatives, agreed to certain conditions in exchange for a multi-year financial assistance from the United States. We must realize that one of those conditions was our promise to reduce the size of our government over a seven-year period. We have made further promise that we will build new schools, replace aging roads, upgrade the water and power systems, and build new public facilities based upon a detailed and Comprehensive Development Plan that is now about three years overdue.

As I said earlier, the leadership of this Senate must establish an agenda addressing common problems and unique issues of our communities. The leadership may be assured of my full support of an agenda that fairly represents and properly reflects the better interest of the Commonwealth. The leadership may also be assured that until hell freezes over, I will oppose any effort that is ambivalent of the ordinary man or woman's best interest.

With the blessing of our good Lord and a little dose of common sense, it shouldn't be difficult for even this body to make a most productive two years. Thank you all.

President Manglona: Thank you very much, Senator Guerrero, for your statement. Any other member who wish to be recognized under Miscellaneous Business? Senator Paul Manglona?

Senator P. Manglona: Mr. President, (*I did not prepare a speech this morning, but I would like to share some concerns with the members of this Legislature. When I was campaigning to represent the people of the Commonwealth as their public servant, very often I stood up in front of them and mentioned the need to satisfy the demands of our youths and senior citizens in such areas as education, employment, recreation, and old-age programs. Very often I stood up in front of them and mentioned the need to promote and advance conservation programs to protect and conserve the natural resources of our Commonwealth. Very often I stood up and mentioned the need for our tourism industry to grow hand in hand with the infrastructure developments such as power, electricity and water. Very often I stood up and mentioned the need for a balanced economic development through the joint partnership of business and government. We must pay careful attention to all these problems and concerns, Mr. President and fellow colleagues. I am asking that we all join hands and work together, keeping in mind that we must place our people's confidence and interest above personal interest. Let us ask the members of the House of Representatives for their cooperation and support and help each other out. Let us all play a part in helping to improve the lives of all our people and the development of all our islands in the Marianas. We often read in the paper that the federal government meddles with our local government affairs. If the public's interest and service is placed above one's personal interest, there is nothing to fear. In this new year of 1988, let us now, as members of this Sixth Legislature, work together. Now, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the other elected officers. Also my congratulations to all new members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Finally, let us give thanks to all our friends who made this inauguration preparation possible. Thank you very much.)

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Inos.

Floor Leader Inos: Mr. President, we have distinguished guests here today. We have visitors from everywhere. Among the distinguished guests are the Guam legislators. We are especially happy to have Senators Rivera, Bamba, Quan, and Miles. With the indulgence of these members, Mr. President, I move that the Senate dissolve itself into the Committee of the Whole to accommodate these distinguished members of the Guam Legislature.

Senator Babauta seconded and the motion carried by voice vote. The Senate resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 11:54 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Senate reconvened its plenary session at 12:05 p.m.

President Manglona: Any other member who wish to speak? If none, the Chair would like to make a short statement. Reverend Father Isaac Ayuyu, Reverend Chapman, Governor Tenorio, Lt. Governor Tenorio, Chief Justice Hefner, honored Mayors, honored Senators, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inauguration of the 6th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. We are greatly honored by your presence. To our outgoing Senate President, Senator Julian S. Calvo, we extend to you special recognition for many years of dedicated services to the people of the Northern Marianas, especially the people of Rota whom you ably represent. Your many years in politics is attributed to our people's continuous support and admiration for your distinguished public services. We in the Senate wish you every success in your future endeavor.

To my distinguished colleagues, I am most grateful and honored for bestowing on me your trust and confidence to be your Senate President for the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Our people,

(The asterisk (*) denotes translation from Chamorro to English.)

our islands and our future provide great challenges and opportunities ahead of all of us. I seek of you to work with me in partnership to fulfill our people's dreams and the challenge lies before us. Together, we can make this Sixth Legislature successful and productive. Together, we hope to pass significant and major legislations. Together, we hope to confirm the best people to hold public offices; together, we hope to pass sound budgets that will contribute to the fiscal health of our Commonwealth Government; and together, we hope that our work here will make a real and visible contribution to our people.

Today marks the opening of our 6th Legislature, and represents to us the continuation of the fulfillment of the great dream that our people have shared for so many years. This is the dream that is contained in our Commonwealth Covenant which joined our islands in political union with the United States of America. The basic principles which are embodied in the Commonwealth Covenant are unique and must be fully respected and preserved. Together, with our Commonwealth Constitution, we are accorded full internal self-government, and all the necessary means to achieve it, in a balance manner, for all the islands of our Commonwealth. This was the fulfillment of the goal and objectives of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. And now through our Covenant and our Constitution, that goal has been fulfilled and it should not be tampered with by anyone. I pledge to you as your new Senate President, and as a former negotiator of the Covenant agreement, and a former framer of our Constitution, to see to it that our Covenant and Constitution are fully protected and preserved, and our dreams fulfilled, both now and in future years.

I have had the privilege, and have served in many of our former legislatures. In doing so, even seasoned veterans, like many of us begin a new Legislature with a fresh sense of hope and renewed optimism.

Many of the challenges that will face us in the next two years will be difficult to achieve. But we must always remember that by working together in partnership in the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Administration -- we can plan our future, set our priorities, and achieve our goals.

First and foremost in my mind, is the formulation and implementation of our Seven-year Capital Improvement Development Plan. This plan is directly related to our \$140 million bond for Capital Improvements to improve and construct our needed roads, and harbors, provide adequate classrooms for our children, provide adequate supply of power and water for our people in our villages and homestead areas, and in short, give us the means to develop and grow. At present, part of these funds are being held hostage by the Office of the Territorial and Insular Affairs of the Department of the Interior for technical reasons. These problems must be addressed immediately beginning today.

We must address it vigorously without any further undue delay. I am calling and appealing to the Department of the Interior through its Office of the Territorial and Insular Affairs to immediately release our first draw down of the bonding amounting to over \$30 million, mostly earmarked for power and water improvement projects. We can no longer continue to be silent on this important issue. We can no longer allow the Department of the Interior to continue to treat us like a territory instead of a self-governing Commonwealth. They are telling us: Here, my child, you have over \$30 million in your pocket but don't spend it until I tell you how to spend it. Our people can no longer afford to continue to go on a water and power rationing and shortages because of Interior's refusal to release our available money. We must send a special joint delegation of the Governor's office and the Legislature to Washington, D.C. to discuss and tangle these important issues. We must inform the Secretary of the Interior that in order to avert the power and water crisis, we need our money now. If this approach fails, then we must appeal to the U.S. Congress to modify the law pertaining to our annual multi-year funding. Let me be the first one to admit that the whole theory and concept of leveraging and front-loading Capital Improvement Development Projects is no longer workable. Almost three years is now gone, and not even a penny is spent on our multi-year annual funding for Capital Development Projects. In addition, further

economic opportunities must also be sought. Economic advancement is not yet a reality for all our people, and to this end we must strive together. At the same time, perhaps some of our islands can be utilized for commercial projects and scientific research for peaceful purposes.

Next, we intend to implement significant and major legislations in many important areas, such as foreign investment, the regulation of alien labor, health insurance, and other areas. In this effort, it is our intention to broaden public participation as much as possible, and to seek, through public hearings, the true will of our people in this regard. We hope to soon approve a sound budget, and we hope to confirm the best people to public offices. Overall, it is our intention to work together in an atmosphere of cooperation and harmony with the hope that our work here in the Legislature will make a real and positive contribution to the public good of all our people of the Commonwealth.

With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate each and every member of the Senate of the Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Let us now begin our work. Thank you very much and Si Yuus Maase. (Applause)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Manglona: At this time, the Chair would like to announce the following Chairmen of the Senate Standing Committees. The Chairman for the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is Senator Joseph Inos; the Chairman for the Senate Judiciary, Government and Law is Senator Manuel P. Villagomez; the Chairman for the Senate Health, Education and Welfare Committee is Senator Juan Babauta; the Chairman for the Senate Resources and Development Committee is the Vice President, Senator Mafnas; the Chairman for the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee is Senator Herman Guerrero (sic); and the Chairman for the Senate Rules Committee is Senator Juan Babauta. The newly created Standing Committee of the Senate, the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies will be chaired by Senator Paul A. Manglona.

Floor Leader Inos: Point of information. I didn't quite hear who the Chairman for EAGI, Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, is.

President Manglona: The Chairman for the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is Senator Herman M. Manglona from Tinian.

Senator J. Guerrero: Is that a correction, Mr. President?

President Manglona: That's a correction. The members of the various standing committees will be announced at a later date. Any more announcements?

Vice President Mafnas: Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the presence of all the people in the Chamber, in the gallery and the people out there in the Senate hallways. Thank you. (Applause)

President Manglona: Any other announcements?

Senator J. Guerrero: The members of the House are down at the door -- are they here to report?

President Manglona: We will now call upon the Chairman of the House Notification Committee to please step forward and make his report.

Chairman V. M. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. President and honorable Senators. On behalf of the House, I am pleased to officially notify the Senate that the House is fully organized and ready to transact business. Thank you. (Applause)

President Mangiona: Thank you very much. Any other announcements?
Senator Babauta?

Senator Babauta: Mr. President, before we adjourn, I, also, would like to recognize the presence of a very distinguished guest also with us today and that is the former President of the Senate, 4th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Mr. and Mrs. Ponciano Raza. (Applause)
Also, Mr. President, I would like to extend appreciation to the Senate staff, personnel who made the arrangement for this occasion today and their hard work in polishing up the Senate Chamber and the hallways. As you know, the Senate is normally not this shiny and I'm very glad to see that the floors are shiny and that we are ready to do business in this Sixth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

President Mangiona: Thank you, Senator. Any other announcements? If none, I would like to ask Reverend Chapman to please give us the benediction. Can the Sergeant-At-Arms please escort Reverend Chapman to the podium?

Everybody rose, and Reverend Chapman administered the benediction.


President Mangiona: Thank you very much. Before we adjourn, I would like to once again take this opportunity to welcome all of our honored and distinguished visitors from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan and at the same time recognize the officials of our government, Governor Tenorio and his cabinet and also the representatives from the Guam Legislature. I would like to cordially invite you immediately after adjournment to please join with us in our simple celebration for this Sixth Commonwealth Legislature. We have refreshments outside our Chamber and we ask all of you to please come and join with us. Any motion for adjournment?
Senator Inos?

Floor Leader Inos: I move that the Senate stand recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 12:22 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,


Bernadita C. Sablan
Temporary Clerk of the Senate