

**NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

10TH REGULAR Session, 2024

Y.C.B. No. 19-06

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To establish “Prinimeti” and “Akkapal”, as the official pledge to the CNMI flag, honoring both the official languages and cultures of our Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:**

1           **Section 1. Finding and Purpose.** The Youth Congress finds that the CNMI  
2 Official Seal, Flag and Languages were established by Article XXII of the  
3 Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Subsequently,  
4 CNMI laws established a CNMI Official Tree, Flower, Bird, and  
5 Anthem. However, within the Commonwealth Code, there does not exist an  
6 official pledge of allegiance to the Commonwealth flag.

7           The Youth Congress finds that as is customary within the United States, as  
8 well as in its territories, the pledge of allegiance is recited at the beginning of certain  
9 ceremonies and at the beginning of each school day. Here in the Commonwealth,  
10 at some schools both public and private, the students recite a pledge to the Flag of  
11 the Commonwealth, the “Prinimeti” in Chamorro, and the “Akkapal” in  
12 Refaluwasch at the beginning of the school day, as well as during flag raising

1 ceremonies at schools. Despite over a generation of our islands' school children  
2 reciting this declaration of allegiance, the pledge is not officially established by  
3 law. The Youth Congress finds that it is necessary to officially establish a pledge  
4 of allegiance to the flag of the CNMI for the government, the schools and people  
5 to recite accordingly. Through this legislation, the Youth Congress intends to  
6 establish an official pledge to the CNMI flag, honoring both the official languages  
7 and cultures of our Commonwealth.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 1, Chapter 2, Article 3 of the Commonwealth  
9 Code is hereby amended by adding a new subsection 235 to read as follows:

10 **“§ 235. Commonwealth Pledge of Allegiance.**

11 The “Prinimeti” and the “Akkapal” are hereby declared to be the official  
12 pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
13 Islands. The Pledge shall be recited, either by a designated individual, or as a whole  
14 at the beginning of all official government ceremonies in the Commonwealth by  
15 voice or recording immediately following the singing of the Commonwealth  
16 anthem, the raising of the flags, and prior to the posting of colors or the exit of the  
17 flags following the presentation of colors where the American “Pledge of  
18 Allegiance” might also be recited. The words of each respective pledge are as  
19 follows:

20 A. PRINIMETI

21 *Manhula yu' fiet,*

- 1            *gi papa i banderâ-hu Notte Marianas;*  
2            *na bai hu cho'gue*  
3            *todu i nina 'siñâ-hu*  
4            *para bai hu prutehi yan difende*  
5            *i Hinengge, i Kottura,*  
6            *i Lengguâhi, i Aire, i Hanom yan i Tano;*  
7            *ni irensiâ-ku direcho*  
8            *ginen as Yu'us Tâta*  
9            *para todû hinirasion Chamorro;*  
10           *pâ'go, yan para todo i tiempo.*  
11           **B. AKKAPAL**  
12           *Li akkapal lô faal*  
13           *Ghaleraal Marianas*  
14           *Bwe ibwe fěéru*  
15           *Angaang Illól bwángiiy*  
16           *Reel ibwe tepengi me*  
17           *Lugheey,*  
18           *Yaasch lúghúlúgh,*  
19           *Kkosch, kkapas, yááng*  
20           *Schaal me faluw*  
21           *Bweigha Ikkaal amweliy*

1 *Ighila me mweteló mwaal.*

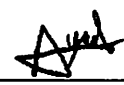
2 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of  
3 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
4 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
5 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
6 shall not be affected thereby.

7 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall  
8 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired  
9 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the  
10 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted  
11 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect  
12 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall  
13 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

14 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
15 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

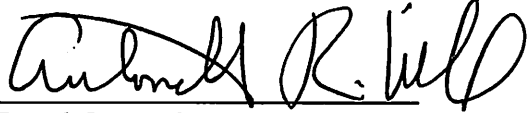
Prefiled: 10/4/2024

Date: 10/10/2024

Introduced by:   
Senator Ayden Sean C. Yumul

Senator Maili Ilareyo'l B. Peter

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



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