



# Senate Journal

## ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

SJ 19-01

Organizational Session

Monday

January 12, 2015

*(Unable to transcribe anything before the Invocation due to faulty recording.)*

**Master of Ceremony (Joel Camacho):** Thank you Mr. Davis and Saipan Southern High School JROTC Collar Guards. I ask everyone to please remain standing as I call upon Reverend **Father Isaac M. Ayuyu** for the invocation.

### INVOCATION

Reverend Father Isaac Ayuyu delivered the invocation.

**MC Camacho:** Thank you Father Isaac, please be seated.

To witness this historic occasion with us, ladies and gentlemen, please recognize and welcome the presence of our honorable and distinguished guest – The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; The Honorable Perry B. Inos, Associate Justice of the Commonwealth Supreme Court; The Honorable Roberto C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court; The Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court; The Honorable Marylou S. Ada, Member of the CNMI State Board of Education; The Honorable Denise R. King, Member of the CNMI State Board of Education; The Honorable Hitoshi Kikuchi, Consul of Japan and Reverend Father Isaac M. Ayuyu, from the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa; also Representative Stanley M. Torres- former, sorry correction. Representing the Local Governments, the Honorable Efraim M. Atalig, Mayor of Rota; the Honorable Joey P. San Nicolas, Mayor of the Islands of Tinian and Aguiguan; Municipal Council members from the Municipality of Rota, The Honorable George O. Hocog and the Honorable Roman M. Calvo; Municipal Council Members from the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, the Honorable Renaldo M. Cing, the Honorable Diana H. Borja and the Honorable Edwin M. Hofschneider. I am also pleased to welcome and recognize our off-island dignitaries, His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, The Honorable Chi-Pin Hu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office. I would also like to recognize Councilman Ivan Mereb from the Rota Municipal Council. From the island of Guam, *representing I Mina Trenta Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*, The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Speaker; The Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Vice Speaker, The Honorable Tina Rose M. Barnes, Senator; The Honorable James Espaldon, Senator, and the Honorable Frank P. Aguon, Senator, as well as welcoming and recognizing families, friends, and supporters of our member and members-elect. To each and everyone, welcome to the Commonwealth Legislature.

## CALL TO ORDER

**MC Camacho:** Ladies and gentlemen, I now call upon President Pro-Tem, the Honorable Francisco Manglona Borja to officially call the Senate's Organizational Session of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Mr. President Pro-Tem, please.

## CALL OF ROLL BY ELECTION DISTRICT

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** The Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature hereby convenes its First Day, Organizational Session. Good Morning everyone. Pursuant to an appointment by the members of this body, I shall preside as your President Pro-Tem for this organizational session. Before proceeding, and without any objection from the members, I hereby appoint Senator-elect Jude U. Hofschneider from the Second Senatorial District to serve as the Floor Leader Pro-Tem. Is there any objection? Thank you, members. At this time, I would also like to recognize our LB staff, Mrs. Doris Bermudes, our Senate Clerk, Mr. Juan Santos, Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Simeon Lisua, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Mrs. Antonette Villagomez, Senate Legal Counsel and Mrs. Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel, Legislative Assistant. We are now on the next item of our Order of Business which is the – okay, thank you, clerk. Roll call, Senate Clerk. Please roll call.

From the First Senatorial District, the island of Rota:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Senator Victor B. Hocog    | present |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon   | present |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos | present |

From the Second Senatorial District, the island of Tinian:

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja   | present |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | present |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | present |

From the Third Senatorial District, the island of Saipan:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar  | present |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios | present |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua  | present |

**Senate Clerk (Doris Bermudes):** Mr. President Pro-Tem, all nine (9) members are present this morning.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

### APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you, Clerk. With nine (9) members present, we do have the necessary quorum to conduct our business. First, on our Order of Business, the Public Comments, anybody from the gallery or the general public that wish to make any comments? Anybody? If none, Clerk, let the record reflect that there is no comment from the public. On our first order of business is to appoint a Special Committee which is the Credential Committee to review the credentials of Senators-elect Steve K. Mesngon, Teresita A. Santos, Francisco Q. Cruz, Jude U. Hofschneider, Arnold I. Palacios, and Justo Quitugua. I hereby appoint Senators Victor B. Hocog, Sixto K. Igisomar, and myself to the committee due to the necessity because there are only three returning incumbent senators of the Senate. Senator Hocog, you shall serve as the Chairman of the Committee and at this time, the Senate shall recess until the Credential Committee is ready to report its finding to the full Senate. Short recess.

**The Senate recessed at 10:35 a.m.**

**and**

**The Senate reconvened at 10:45 a.m.**

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you. We are back in session. At this time, I would like to ask the Chair of the Credential Committee, Senator Hocog, to please report to the body the findings regarding the elected senators. Senator Hocog.

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Mr. Senate President Pro-Tem. Your Senate Credential Committee to which was given the task of reviewing the credential of Senator-elect of the 19<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate begs leaves to report as follows:

Under the recommendation, your Credential Committee recommends that the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature accept the credential of Senators-elect Francisco Q. Cruz, Senator-elect Jude U. Hofschneider, Senator-elect Steve K. Mesngon, Senator-elect Arnold I. Palacios, Senator-elect Justo S. Quitugua and Senator-elect Teresita A. Santos and on the finding, Mr. President Pro-Tem, rather than to highlight every single members of our findings of their credential, I would just like to go straight down and provide you with the conclusion of its findings and in conclusion Mr. President Pro-Tem, based on the foregoing, your Credential Committee recommends that the credentials of Senator-elect Francisco Q. Cruz, Jude U. Hofschneider, Steve K. Mesngon, Teresita A. Santos, Arnold I. Palacios and Justo S. Quitugua be accepted by the full Senate and that they will be seated as members of the Senate and granted all the rights, privilege, immunity and responsibility pertinent thereto respectfully submitted by your

credential Chairman, Senator Victor B. Hocog, Senator Sixto K. Igisomar and you Mr. President Pro-Tem. Thank you.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you Chairman Hocog. Do all members have copies of the Credential Committee Report? Thank you, Senator Hocog. I ask that the report of the Credential Committee be made part of our record. May I hear a motion to adopt the Special Committee Report No. 19-01?

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** So move.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** There is a motion to adopt Special Committee Report No. 19-01 and it has been seconded. Any discussion? No discussion?

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** Ready.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Senate Clerk, please roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt **Special Committee Report No. 19-01.**

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar    | yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon     | yes |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios   | yes |
| Senator Victor B. Hocog      | yes |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua    | yes |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos   | yes |

**Senate Clerk:** Mr. President Pro-Tem, all nine (9) members voting yes.

### **SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS**

The Honorable Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja administered the Oath of Office.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you Clerk. With all nine (9) members voting yes, Special Committee Report No. 19-01 is hereby adopted. We are now ready to take our Oath of Office. We are honored and privileged with the presence of Honorable Roberto C. Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court, who will administer the Oath of Office. At this time, I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort Presiding Judge Naraja to administer the Oath of Office and I ask all the members to please stand.

**Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja:** Thank you President Pro-tem. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

(The following was repeated by all the Senators-elect.)

“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” Congratulations.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you Judge Naraja. This time, I ask for a short recess for the signing of the Oath of Office.

**The Senate recessed at 10:48 a.m.**

**and**

**The Senate reconvened at 10:50 a.m.**

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** We are back in session. Thank you Presiding Judge Naraja. I now congratulate all my colleagues on their swearing in. Congratulations. Moving down to the next item on our Order of Business, the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-01, proposing to adopt the Interim Rules that would govern the proceeding of the Nineteenth Senate Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Senator Jude our Floor Leader, Senator Jude Hofschneider, Floor Leader Pro-Tem.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE SENATE (INTERIM) RULES**

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you Mr. President Pro-Tem. I move to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-01, the Interim Rules or Interim Senate Rules for the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

**Senator Victor B. Hocog:** Second.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** There is a motion on the floor for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-01 and it has been seconded. Any discussion?

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider:** Ready.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Those in favor of the motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-01 of the Senate Rules of Procedure, say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

### **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Motion carries. The next item on our Order of Business is the election of the President, Senate President. I recognize Senator Arnold Palacios.

**Senator Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you Mr. Senate President Pro-Tem. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Victor B. Hocog from the First Senatorial District to serve as the President of the Senate for the Nineteenth CNMI Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider:** Second.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** There is a motion on the floor nominating Senator Victor B. Hocog from the First Senatorial District for the President of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Legislature and it has been seconded. Any other nomination? I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem.

**Floor Leader Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider:** Mr. President Pro-Tem, I move to close nomination for the presidency.

The motion was seconded by several members.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** There is a motion to close nomination of the presidency and it has been seconded. All in favor in closing the motion say, “aye” or closing the nomination say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Motion carries. There being no other nomination for the Senate Presidency, I call on the Senate Clerk for roll call. We are now voting on the nomination of Senator Victor B. Hocog from the First Senatorial District to be the Senate President. Clerk, please roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to vote on the nomination for the President of the Senate.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar    | yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon     | yes |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios   | yes |
| Senator Victor B. Hocog      | yes |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua    | yes |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos   | yes |

**President Pro-Tem Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you Clerk. With nine (9) votes for Senator Victor B. Hocog, Senator Hocog, you are hereby elected President of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort our President to preside over this Organizational Session. Thank you.

### ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you everyone. Just before I proceed with the continuation of the organization of the Nineteenth Senate, first, I would like to extend my sincere and humble appreciation to my colleagues for having the trust and confidence to support me or vote me to be their President of the Nineteenth Senate and with that confident, I will like to assure that you as members of the Nineteenth Senate, that we will harmoniously work together to ensure that we address the needs of the people, our people, through all the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and our counterpart, our neighboring islands. With this, I understand that each one of us will have the opportunity to give out their message to our people and I would like to hold furthermore speech of my own and wait for that time and I would like now to move forward to complete the organizational structure of the Nineteenth Senate. At this time, I would like to recognize Senator Justo S. Quitugua.

**Senator Justo S. Quitugua:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Mr. President. Mr. President, I am honored and privileged and hereby nominate Senator Francisco M. Borja from the Second Senatorial District to serve as Vice President of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Legislature.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** There is a motion nominating Senator Francisco M. Borja to the Vice President seat of the Senate. Do I hear a close or any other nomination? Senator Santos?

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, I would like to move the nomination. Thank you.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** You want to close the nomination?

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** That is correct Mr. President. I would like to move to close the nomination. Thank you, Mr. President for that clarification.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Senator Santos. I want to make sure that I address you this time correctly. There is a motion on the floor to close nomination. Those in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Motion carried. Clerk, please.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to vote on the nomination of Vice President of the Senate.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar    | yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon     | yes |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios   | yes |
| Senator Victor B. Hocog      | yes |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua    | yes |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos   | yes |

**President Victor B. Hocog:** With a vote of nine (9) members voting yes to elect Senator Francisco Borja as our Senate Vice President of the Nineteenth Legislature, I would like to say that Senator Borja you are duly elected and confirmed by your members to be the Senate Vice President for the Nineteenth Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations.

### **ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER**

**President Victor B. Hocog:** May I now recognize Senator, Vice President Francisco Borja for the nomination of the Floor Leader.

**Vice President Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you Mr. President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Arnold I. Palacios from the Third Senatorial District to serve as Floor Leader of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Thank you.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** There is a motion to nominate Senator Arnold I. Palacios to the Senate Floor Leader. Is there any other nomination? Senator Sixto Igisomar?

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** Mr. President, I hereby second it and at the same time, move to close nomination.



**President Victor B. Hocog:** There is a motion also to close nomination for the Floor Leader position. Those in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Motion carried. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to vote on the nomination of Floor Leader of the Senate.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar    | yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon     | yes |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios   | yes |
| Senator Victor B. Hocog      | yes |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua    | yes |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos   | yes |

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible]* Congratulations. At this time, I would like to recognize Senator Sixto K. Igisomar to make the nomination for the Senate Legislative Secretary.

### **ELECTION OF SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** Thank you very much, Senate President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Teresita A. Santos from the First Senatorial District to serve as Legislative Secretary of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

**Vice President Francisco M. Borja:** Second.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** There is a motion on the floor nominating Senator Teresita A. Santos from the First Senatorial District to serve as our Legislative Secretary of the Senate of the Nineteenth Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Senator Cruz.

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

**President Victor B. Hocog:** There is an additional motion to move and close nomination. Those in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: All opposed say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Victor B. Hocog**: Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to vote on the nomination of Legislative Secretary of the Senate.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja   | yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz    | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar    | yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon     | yes |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios   | yes |
| Senator Victor B. Hocog      | yes |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua    | yes |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos   | yes |

**President Victor B. Hocog**: By a vote of nine (9) members, Senator Santos, you are hereby elected to serve as the Senate Legislative Secretary of the Nineteenth Commonwealth Legislature of the Senate. Congratulations.

#### **NOTIFICATION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GOVERNOR**

**President Victor B. Hocog**: At this time, I have made an appointment of members to notify the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor about the Senate’s official organization and that we would like the – I would like to appoint- at this time, I would like to appoint Senator Igisomar and Senator Mesngon to notify the Governor and the Lt. Governor and additionally, I would like to appoint Senator Santos and Senator Cruz to inform and notify the Speaker of the House of the Nineteenth Commonwealth Legislature that the Nineteenth Senate of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature is duly organized and ready to conduct business. At this time, I would like to take a short recess to provide the members with the notification to the respective offices. Short recess.

**The Senate recessed at 11:05 a.m.**

**and**

**The Senate reconvened at 11:25 a.m.**

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible]* organizational recess. Now, I would like to recognize Senator Sixto and Senator Santos.

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** Thank you Mr. President. Senator Mesngon and I, officially notified the Governor that we are duly organized and ready to conduct business. No message at this moment.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you. I would like to ask Senator Santos, I mean – yes, Senator Santos and Senator Cruz for their report.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Thank you Mr. President. Senator Cruz and I, officially notified the Speaker of the House that is the Honorable Joseph Deleon Guerrero that the Senate is duly organized and that we are prepared and ready to conduct business. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Senator Santos and Senator Cruz for your due diligence and we are glad that we found out that we do have a Speaker at this time. Again, thank you.

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, there are no communications.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Okay, if I may, before we go down our agenda, I would like to recognize the members of the House to report also their organization assembly at this time.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible]* everyone knows what the communication from the House. I would like to convey to the members and to the general public that I just received the communication from the House that they are duly organized and ready to conduct business starting today and we thank them for coming up with that notification at this point in time. Thank you. Floor Leader, you may proceed with the next Order of Business.

## STATEMENT OF MEMBERS

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Now Mr. President, I believe the next Order of Business will be the Statements of our Members and you will *[inaudible]*.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Floor Leader. At this time, I would like to first start to my left to recognize Senate Vice President Francisco M. Borja to begin his message to the family, public and your constituents. You may proceed, Senator Borja.

**Vice President Francisco M. Borja:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Mr. President. Bai na kádada ha este. Finéne'na para i man ga'chonghu i Nineteenth Senate, Si Yu'us Ma'ase nai botun konfiansa ni para gahu gi mina disi nuebi na Senate i Senate Vice President, dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase nai enao i*

*konfiansa. Siguru hamyo lakkue na bai chagi todū i siña i ninasinao yan i ko'operasi3n hu ni para ta adilanta mas mona not only i programan i Senate lao i enterumenti i Commonwealth. Gi mismo tiempo ya-hu nai bai rikonisa lakkue i Mayor ginen Tinian, i Honorabli Joey Patrick San Nicolas yan i Tinian Council members, si Ray Cing, si Dianne Borja yan si Edwin Hofschneider, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni man gaige hamyo guini. Lakkue para todū hamyo ni man gaige, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni finatton miyu. En sen agradesi lakkue enao i supottasion ni man gaige hamyo ni para ta fa hita. Pagu gi este swearing in yan i Organizational Session i Senate, para iyo-ku colleagues ta'lo parehu ha yan i mapos, il3k'l3ku na i mas problemata i Commonwealth i ekonomia yan ayu gue na il3k'l3ku na ta'lo bai na'i i atensi3n hu yan i animu hu mas bi concentrate guatu guini gi bandan chalan i ekonomia ya man hongge yu na yanggen ta arekla i ekonomiata, ta satba todū i problemata siha komu este siha guaguan i utility, i guaguan fektos siha yan lakkue i programa siha [inaudible] i espit3t, Medical Referral, yan i Scholarship siguru yu yanggen ta satba este i ekonomiata siempre este siha ta address este siha na problema ya bai faisen i man ga'chonghu na ta na'i animu ya ta gasta i tiempota mas guenao na banda gi para ta numa'lo tatte i hafa hagas ta mire'resi yan hagas ta go'gosa na ekonomia. Il3ku enao gue mas prisi3su gi Nineteenth Senate para ta address. Lakkue hu fa'faisen ko'operasi3n kada miembro komu guaha issue na afe'fekta kada Senatorial District nu ta na guaha en akomprende yan respetu. Ya kada Senatorial District Representative ta respetu i hafa i dinisidin niha para i tano niha ya ginen enao siempre mas man agu'ot hit mona yanggen guaha taiguenao na klasin en atungo' yan respetu gi kada ta respetu kada representative i delegation kada Senatorial District gi hafa malaguña para i tano niha yan i taotao niha. Lakkue para i taotao Tinian Si Yu'us Ma'ase ta'lo ni i todū konfiansa. Parehu ha mapos yan este ta'lo monhayan na eleksi3n maseha ti sumaonao yu malago lao sumaonao yu lakkue mamaisen ayudu ta'lo para hayi para ta ganye para Tinian ya Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni todū i supottasion para i taotao Tinian ni ayu i todū tiempo lakkue ma konsidera enao yanggen hu faisen siha. Lakkue para bai na tungo ha na esta i eleksi3n makpo hu fa'faisen todū i taotao Tinian na maila ya ta fan afuyot kannai ya ta fan sigi mona ta adilanta i tano-ta, lina'la'ta, yan i minaolek para i taotaota yan i tano-ta. i uttimo Mr. President i ya-hu para bai rikonisa lakkue i familia, todū familia. i asaguahu as Bernie, yan i famagu'on, Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Este ha Mr. President. Thank you.*

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *[inaudible] Si Yu'us Ma'ase. [inaudible] yan hafa mas para ta adilanta mona gi hinaota guini gi mina disi nuebi. Gos gi pagu malago yu nai bai rikonisa lakkue i sigundo ni para hu kuentosi hit si Steve Mesngon ginen i fin3ne'na na Senatorial District. Senator.*

**Senator Steve K. Mesngon:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Mr. President. Ta'lo ha, kulang pagu ta hu'hungok si Senator Cruz, nu Borja, nu hafa a ga'gagao ni para ta fan hita guini mona gi mina disi nuebi na leyeslatura. Para hagu Pale', Judge, yan Lt. Governor, Si Yu'us Ma'ase nai gumaiguenmu guini na ogga'an. Para todudu ni man gaige guini lakkue na ma ate'tendi i pagu na [inaudible] este gue na session yan i organization, para i Mayorn-mami lakkue giya Luta i pagu man monha'hayan mana fan man hula as Honorable Efraim Atalig, i council members lakkue as Councilman George Hocog, Councilman Roman Calvo, yan Councilman Ivan Mereb, thank you ni man gaige hamyo lakkue na un dinaña'i. Gi mismo tiempo ya-hu na bai hu pacha d3dide lakkue nu sentimenton ginagao gi para ta fan hita man ma cho'cho ya guahu bai na sigu'guru na bai na'i ni i ko'operasi3n hu todudu. Mr. President hamyo yan i pumalu na members guini gi mina disi nuebi na leyeslatura na gaige yu guini para ta adilanta i lina'la i taotao-ta enterumenti Marianas. Unu ha chumu'chu'ot yu i bai gagao hamyo kao siña lakkue un ayuda ham Luta parehu ha Tinian yan Saipan. Ya ta li'li'e ha na bula man malago buente lakkue giya hita gi miso tiempo man hanao maseha manu na lug3t para magi*

*guini pat papa Guam lao dánkolo difekton mami lokkue Luta pot bandan este i bandan i batkonaire. Ya buente ta li'e li'e ha ya enao gue' unu na iyo-ku slogan gi campaign hu lokkue i man gagao para bai atan esta gue' i problemata i bandan batkonaire. i otro i bandan batko nai atman tiempo sen makkat man halom giya hami lokkue enao siha na klasin asistementu, yan gi bandan lancherias lokkue, ya-hu na bai hu atan enao. Lao i mas tákkilo 'lo' ya ya-hu i finoña si Senator Borja nu i chalan i ekonomia. Ya todudu hit ha mohon man agree ni enaogue'. Na maila ya ta taka' enao hafa en na siña ta pegayi halom guini ni para i chalan i ekonomia gi enterumentu Marianas. Enaogue' ya man ágo'te hit, ti hu li'e hafa na para ta na taya enao na klasin sinenti komu man ágo'te hit ya para ta chonnek mona estague'. Parehu ha ginen i san hilo na atministración yan hita papa yan i san papa na guma komu man a'danche hit gi hinasson este ekonomia yan i ekonomia enaogue' dumidikta hit mona. Enaogue' siña hit mu na'i chalaña i hinagong para i taotaota. Pues nu guahu, hu asigu'guráo este na mina disis nuebi na miembros na gaige yu gi tatten miyu yan para i Presidente bai hu supotta i hafa maolek na ekonomia para i tano-ta. Yanggen para hu fan eninbraseha todudu i lina'la i taotao guini gi enterumentu Marianas. Gi antes na bai huchom, ya-hu ha nai bai rikonisa lokkue todudu i familiaku ni man gaige nai ti todudu mu ga'chungi yu magi pot i pagu hu sa'sagan i problemata pot probleman batkonaire lao i hayi eyi fumatinas hu ga'gagao hamyo Si Yu'us Ma'ase para ayu siha lokkue na supottadot mami or supottadot hu nai mona pu pega yu guini na konfiansa, hu ga'gagao hamyo Si Yu'us Ma'ase ya ready yu ya hu repo'port yu pagu gi taotao-hu taotao Luta na ready yu para bai facho'cho yan este na organization na bai hu chagi todudu tumaka taimanu ni siña ta na guaha hinagong yan felis yan nuebu na klasin sinenti para i taotao-ta komunidadá yan lokkue enterumentu i Marianas pattikulátmenti lokkue todudu ayu siha i sumuse'sedi i chaflek yan man na'ma'se' na klasin taotaogue. Gaige yu, ya ready yu para bai fatinas enao disisión para i Presidente yan este na miembron otganisasion. Ta'lo ha, Si Yu'us Ma'ase na un na'i hit ni este na opottunidát Mr. President ya gi hilo enao, I am ready to work. Si Yu'us Ma'ase ta'lo.*

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Senator Steve Mesngon nai mensahi nai un na fan manugo' i man ga'chong yan i man presente pattikulátmenti para ayu siha na taotao-ta i man é'ékungok pagu gi fina rikasion television. Ya enao na mensahi hu open halom Marianas para en braseha lokkue patte papa gi bisinu-ta gi san tatte Guam. Malago yu pagu na bai rikonisa si Senator Francisco Q. Cruz para iyon-mu mensahi para i taotao-ta Tinian.*

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President and members of the Senate as well as the community, as a Senator for the Second Senatorial District, I will honor the trust of my family and the people of Tinian through stringent legislative policies and quality services to our people. I am a firm believer in the rights and values of our people and will always base the decision I make on what is best and what is right for them. I thank the citizens of Tinian and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas 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 some policies, bring about common sense to law and regulation, and promote decision making with what is best for our islands in mind. Mr. President *yan miembron este i Nineteenth yan i komunidadá siha gi todudu i islas siha espesiatmente Tinian, hu eskte'tende un dánkolo yan sinseru na apprisiasion pot todudu i supottasion en na'i yu gi alacha na eleksión. Esta annok na buente enaogue' malago miyu ni para bai kontinua ta'lo i maolek na bidan ma'mami guini magi gi Senate. Ya ti bai maleffa lokkue na bai sigi ha mu ekstende i maolek siha yan i fair na decision ni para todudu i abra'brasia todudu siha i taotao Marianas espesiatmente Tinian. Esta makpo i polítika*

*iléku na komu man a'go'te hit unu yan otro, yan man áfa'maolek hit mona parehu ha yan i san papa na guma ya ta atan este siha i man problema guini gi isla-ta tat komu i espitát, i hinemlo', yan lökkue i CUC, ni hu tungo' ha na mampos tákkilo i kandet yan i hanom. Ya yanggen man a'go'te ham kannai i nuebi na Senadót gi este mina Nineteen na Senate yan lökkue i san papa siha, iléku na taya ti siña ma cho'gue yanggen guaha enao na ko'operasión. Pues ginen este hu fa'faisen todudu hamyo ni man ga'chonghu taimanu ha esta man ma sangan gi man mo'fo'na na espektadót na yanggen man a'go'te hit kannai yan otro taya enemigu iléku na siña ta cho'gue hafa ya ta check taimanu unpeñu ni para ta ayuda i taotao-ta guini gi isla-ta enterumentu Marianas. Malago yu pagu para bai hu na i lökkue un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para i Mayor-elect as JP San Nicolas ni finattomu magi ni pon testiguyi ham lökkue. Hami i taotao Tinian ni este i Nineteenth iyon-mami inaugural ceremony, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni finattomu. Yan i tres na konsilio ginen Tinian as Dianne Hocog, as Ray Cing, yan si Eddie Hofschneider, un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase pot i finatton-miyu para hu fan saonao ni patisipao guini na Inaugural Ceremony, yan todudu siha i familia guenao ni man matto gi san hiyong hu ekste'tende un sinseru yan dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Unu otro malago yu lökkue bai ekstende un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase to my wife Jade behind me thank you for your support yan lökkue to my sister Lilian Cepeda, yan i primo hu si Mathew, Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your support and I will not forget. Again, un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todus hamyo taotao Marianas pot i pinasensian-miyu yan todú i kinonprendi. Este ha, Mr. President. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Senator Cruz nai bonito na mensahi para i mina taotao-ta yan i pupblikun Marianas ta'lo. Ya i finaisen mu ni para ta fan á'ayuda hu gaige gi éntalo este na kuetpo anai para ta se'se' mas i amesta gi san papa yan hulu gi atministrasión anai siña ta rialisa i ta sa'sagan pagu na ha'ani na klasin man fafacho'cho man ma cho'cho para i enterumentu i pupblikun Marianas. Pues gi pagu ya-hu na bai rikonisa i nuebu, metgot, yan puetsudu na Senadót as Senator Sixto Igisomar para iyon-mu comment. Thank you.*

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Mr. President, Lt. Governor, Honorable Judge Naraja, and Reverend Father Isaac, Honorable Senators, distinguish guests, most especially our family members and good friends, to my wife, Katherine, my two sons, my mother, brothers, sisters, Consolation Igisomar, Coco, and to my mother-in-law, Isabel Tenorio, Re-llimwar me Re-Saumwar, Mañelu hu yan Mañaina hu, Hafa Adai, Tirow, Faischo, Good morning and good afternoon. Our CNMI forefathers and citizens made a decision over two decades ago to establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America. Through our relationship with Untied States, our people have enjoyed prosperity, freedom, and liberty guided by the United States Constitution and our CNMI Covenant and Constitution. Our Republican form of government is for the people and by the people. We are here today because of you, the people of the Commonwealth. Our job as senators is to work together to enact laws in order to improve your lives. Improving your lives means finding ways to improve our healthcare, provide affordable utilities, enhance our education so our children can compete in the modern world and also equip our law enforcement to provide law and order in our community. As an American Citizen and as your Senator, I pledge to be your voice as we pass laws to protect what is rightfully yours- yours, pursuant to the CNMI and U.S. Constitution. As former Secretary of Commerce, the Governor, Eloy Inos, encouraged me and my team to be creative when working with limited resources in order to make the most impact as we regulate the business industry. Our limited resources are due to our sluggish, struggling economy. However, there is hope. Hope in the air. Hope that our economy will*

improve and hope that the improvement will translate into better lives for all. Even as our economy shows improvement, the work we will take, we will undertake, will be challenging. That is why I pledge to work with the respective agencies, both in government and in the private industry to find solutions along with our fellow legislators and the Executive Branch on issues such as healthcare, education, Medical Referral, unemployment, utility, transportation, economy, amongst many, many others. Immediately my focus will be on two areas in working with our colleagues in the leadership, current laws and revenue generation. During the last freshmen legislative program conducted by the Judiciary, we were advised of the many and outdated laws that must be updated. How surprising. Many outdated laws. We have been around for quite a while, but there are laws that need to be taken care of. As for the revenue generation, we must start planning and finding ways to improve our revenue generation so our government can begin to meet its obligation. Meet the obligation for improving the lives of our people. Our fiscal ratios, meaning our ability to have money, to hold money, to know what to pay, they are dangerously low. You may look back in five years and you will notice that there is a marginal increase, slight increase. It's improving, but improving way below the barometer. The way I see our economy, we are fifty feet below the water and every year we increase by a foot and we all smile and cheer. We are improving from fifty feet, to forty-nine feet, to forty-eight, but we are underwater, way under water and I hope that we can all work together to at least come up to snorkeling level where we can actually snorkel our way out and eventually above the water so we can all sail, sail together for our people. The ratios are so low. Capital asset condition, our property, our infrastructure, they are depreciating and aging way off. Our debt per capita, our debt burden per citizen is approximately six thousand dollars now that each citizen has to be burdened by to try and pay the debts of the CNMI. Our debt to assets, our ability to pay, we don't have the ability to pay. As I have mentioned earlier, we have these priorities. There is a lot of problems and we don't have the ability to pay. We keep borrowing money from another agency and another department to try and pay another department and another agency and our quick ratio, our cash flow, dangerously low amongst others. This will require a State Development Plan. This will require all of us to come together from the Legislature with the Governor to come together with a plan, one vision, a vision for our people, betterment in their health to move forward. Lastly, Mr. President, I am humbled by all the people who gave me their vote of confidence to serve them and to be their voice within this august body. Rest assured, I do not take their responsibility lightly or this responsibility lightly. As a Senator for the people of Saipan, I will have an open door policy for my constituents. I will listen to your problems and as your voice in the Senate, I will strive to help you find solutions to the problems afflicting you today and to lay a foundation so that all our future generations will not suffer the same plight. I will invite key stakeholders from our government, private sectors, in order to identify the problems and find the solutions that will help our private sector flourish which would translate to revenue generation for our government. This will require hard work, dedication, and perseverance and I am confident that when we establish a sound working relation based on trust, neutral respect, and selflessness, we can accomplish great things. *Ghilisow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, thank you, Tirow, Faischo.*

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Senator Igisomar. Those are a strong emphasis on what you and other members of this Nineteenth Senate that we would like to undertake and I am very happy to have you with this leadership so that we can ensure and assure those concerns that each one of us has aired to doing during our next two year term in office. Again, thank you for that bright idea. Now, I would like to go on to our next one and only, one and only Senator, woman Senator, lady Senator, Senator Teresita A. Santos, you may begin. Thank you.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will like to....

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Correction, we are not at the House of Representative.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** That is correct Mr. President. I am sorry. I am used to the House. I am very sorry Mr. President. Once again, Mr. President, thank you and I am sorry. May I proceed? President?

**President Victor B. Hocog:** You may proceed, Senator Santos.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Thank you Mr. President. I would like to first thank and acknowledge the presence of our Honorable Lt. Governor, he just stepped out I am sure, Ralph Torres, the Honorable Perry B. Inos, the Honorable Robert Naraja, the Honorable Marylou Ada, the Honorable Denise Tanya King, the Honorable Hitoshi Kikuchi, the Honorable Mayor of Rota, Efraim Atalig, the Honorable George Hocog, the Honorable Roman Calvo, the Honorable Mayor of Tinian, Joey P. San Nicolas, the Honorable Ray Cing, the Honorable Dianna Borja, the Honorable Edwin Hofschneider, the Honorable Mayor of Saipan, Dave Apatang, the Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Speaker of *Mina Trenta Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*, the Honorable Senators also from Guam, the Honorable Senator Benjamin Cruz, the Honorable Senator James Espaldon, the Honorable Senator Frank Aguon, the Honorable Senator Tina Barnes, the Honorable Chi-Pin Hu, his Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau and of course Father Isaac, there is no way that I will forget you. Thank you for coming. Thank you also to all our distinguish guest *yan todus hamyo guini ni man gaige yan todus lokkue ayu siha ni mañeluta yan mañainata i man e'ékungok gi gima ginen este na television*. I would like to begin my presentation by thanking and welcoming all of you especially family members, relatives, and friends who traveled from Guam, Rota, Tinian and those residing in Saipan to join us here for this momentous occasion. It was indeed a long journey that started in the early part of last year. It was then when I set a plan of course, but it was our Lord who directs every step of it. As a result, I am deeply humbled by the grace of our Lord for he has given me the privilege to serve again the Commonwealth and most especially our people of Rota during the Nineteenth CNMI Legislature. I would also like to thank our people of Rota, our party officers, advisors, Chairperson, Committee Chairpersons, on island and off island, and all our supporters, family, relatives, and friends for their unwavering support in many ways and those who are directly and indirectly involved which contributed to where I am today. We are blessed to live in a democracy that provides a means for our people to choose their leaders and to hold their leaders accountable for their policies and their conduct in office. Government is based on the consent of the govern and power flows from the people to the elected leaders of government. As public servants, we must listen to our people and respond to their needs, ideas, and issues. Thus, the survival of our democratic system of government depends exclusively on an informed electorate. As indicated in my mission statement, our economy is gradually building strength, yet it continues to be one of the greatest challenges we faced for the reason that our economy dictates public services, programs, projects which are essential to our community, the loss of which will definitely impact the lives of our families and most especially our children. With this challenge in mind, we must demonstrate that we are the custodians of our people's trust, that we are committed every day to the fiduciary responsibility given to us to bring about public good. With this challenge in mind, we must remain focused, truthful to our mission and our priorities, and find innovative solutions as we are given a job to do so by our people. With this challenge in mind, we may think differently and deliberate on issues differently but it should not be a



reason for procrastinating progress yet we must maintain our democratic privilege in the way we think and reason on issues. With this challenge in mind, there will be times to make hard decisions. There will be times to negotiate and times to compromise. There will also be times to hold on firm on issues and not deviate from our convictions. However, when making decisions and in keeping democracy alive within our system, our people should be accorded the opportunity to partake in the decision-making process for the greatest good, for the greatest number. With this challenge in mind, it is equally important to collaborate and work in unison with our House Leadership and members, our administration, U.S. Delegate and our local municipalities. In doing so, we will not be weary in doing good and at the appropriate time, we will reap what we sow. In light of this, I would like to conclude by reciting Hebrews Verse 6:10 which says, “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help his people.” God bless us and God bless our Commonwealth. Thank you, *sen dánkolo na Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Olomway and Maraming Salamat Po*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, again Mr. President for the second time. Mr. President, I am sorry. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** The next time I will have to impose a penalty, so that you will learn to know that you are in another chamber. With that, Senator – I almost said Senator Taimanao, Senator Santos, thank you for the great speech and today marks the day where the members have someone that can always offer our prayers prior to the session. Thank you for being with us on the Nineteenth and I am pretty sure that we would do great with you and the other members. Now, I would like to recognize our former Congressman and now our Senator, Senator Justo Quitugua to give his message.

**Senator Justo S. Quitugua:** *Si Yu’us Ma’ase* Mr. President. Good afternoon distinguished guests and people of the CNMI. I greet you with a humble *dánkolo na Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ghilisow*, Thank you, *yan Maraming Salamat Po*. You believed in me, to represent you and be a strong voice for you in the role and responsibility I hold seriously and responsibly. As I reflect on the past, lessons learned, people’s concerns and needs, I am more adept to respond on what the greater needs are. I will be cautious and cognizant of making sure people come first. What matters most is what I will focus and take action, with all of us working together, for the greater good. Celebrate our successes, our new beginnings as we are reminded with our “oath” that we do our work ethically, morally, and legally. Let us call on each other to stand for what is the right thing to do, be a thought partner and true to be collegial and professional. Learn from our failures and commit to be humble and admit mistakes made. Resilient leaders are about bouncing back, moving forward, being a better person and leave our best character to the utmost. Renew our HOPES and know that nothing is impossible if we all work together, focus on what we all agree to honor our diverse community, our beliefs that will drive us to do our work well, recognize that there are rich experiences, deep knowledge and commitment in making a difference. Embrace our BELIEFS that move us to the guiding principles we all live by. Our character is a true test of who we really are, and our beliefs form our decisions. Our decisions should answer “what is in the best interest of our people” and not personal interests. May we be open to talk, share what will work, and engage our stakeholders in what is to come. Let us work collaboratively, rise above all issues and be a catalyst for improvement. Energize our Commitments, our Dreams for our CNMI entirely. As we journeyed through our campaign trails, I am certain we all made a commitment to work hard, protect the interest of our people, and be a voice for the voiceless. May we all remain true and hold ourselves accountable, transparent to one another and our people. Empower our Intentions and Purpose for our PEOPLE. As we work together, trust

and communication is key. We will encounter challenges and opportunities to grow. Today, we are here for a purpose, purpose that requires us to hold our responsibilities at the highest level of accountability. We are grounded, founded, with who we are and our purpose and I hold this sacred. Lastly, to all the people, thank you for your continued support, your trust and believing in me. To my wife Jackie, and my children, families and friends, thank you for your support and unconditional love. You supported me to serve the community at this capacity, I am humbled. Thank you.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Senator JQ. We will work together accordingly to what you wish your members of the Nineteenth Senate to work collaboratively and cooperatively to ensure that we work together. I am pretty sure that if we do that, together we can achieve a lot. May I now ask Senator Jude to present your message to the family and the general public? Thank you.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase nu* Mr. President. Good afternoon, I would like to extend a warm thanks and appreciation for all that are here today and to our distinguished guests, a good friend, Lt. Governor Ralph Torres, welcome back to the Senate, Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja, Reverend Isaac Ayuyu, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, Joey Patrick San Nicolas; Mayor of Rota, Mr. Efraim Atalig; the Chairman and members of the fifteenth Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Council, Council members Ray Cing, Dianna Borja and Edwin Hofschneider; Chairman and members of the Fifteenth Rota Municipal Council, Councilman George Hocog, Councilman Mereb and Councilman Maratita; good friends from the Guam Legislature, welcome back to the CNMI. Welcome back to Saipan. Thank you for joining us today, Madam Speaker, Senators BJ Cruz and Tina Barnes and also Senator Espaldon, thank you for joining us today; Associate Justice Perry Inos and Mrs. Inos. I also saw Chairman and members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Gaming Commission, welcome to the Senate. Mr. President, I would like to thank my love ones and family for their presence today. My children, who unfortunately is watching this on the stream today, my brothers and sisters and my relatives, my being here today is made more honorable knowing that I always had your love, knowing that you have always believed in me, knowing that I have your continuous support. I am honored to be here today to serve as a senator once more. For the people of the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan, I am proud of this opportunity to continue to make an impact on the livelihood of our people. I am humbled by your vote of confidence. There is so much work to do, so many challenges that lie ahead. I ask my constituents for their continued guidance and patience as I continue to promote and foster policies that bring Tinian a step closer to realizing a local economy that we have long envisioned. Mayor San Nicolas and Council members, *gaige yu ya ta fan hita mona*. So as the members of the Delegation and I have every confidence, sir and madam, in our capability to work as a team. The CNMI has been through a lot in the last five years. We have witnessed the government's revenue declined by nearly fifty percent, our Retirement Fund on near collapse. We watch as consumers struggle to pay for fuel and utilities. These are just a few of the challenges that we had to deal with and have successfully overcome. There is still so much work to be done. I would like to particularly point out the provisions of the federal mandate Public Law 110229. This is having a tremendous impact on our service industry. Our challenge here is to be able to secure a sufficient and well-trained workforce so that they can continue to support our economy. Tourism and hospitality have been our staple industry for over thirty years now. Just recently, I see the folks from Best Sunshine, we approved a license here on Saipan, a casino license, and one of the conditions is to have two thousand rooms. Will we be able to meet this demand? How well do we work with the public and private schools so that we can prepare our students to become our future targeted workforce? More than ever, we need to be able to make use of and not continue to overload

the talent that we have right here in the CNMI, right here at home. More than ever, we need to not just consider but encourage our citizens to be part of the management of our resources. More than ever, we should hold ourselves accountable for our own prosperity. In our successes, our success to challenges like these, will be dependent on how willing we all are to roll up ourselves and actually do the work that needs to be done. Our success is dependent upon whether or not we are able to put aside partisan differences and do what is intended for us to do and that is to serve the better interest of the people that put us here. Mr. President, *un ratu'tuha ya bai fino Chamorro ha. Finéne'na malago yu na bai na'i apprisiasion yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todú man gaige guini man distenggiyun na bisita siha parehu ha ginen i tano-ta siha gi islas Marianas, i bisita siha ginen i islan Guahan yan otro siha na patte giya pacifiku. Para todú siha i business associates or business operators ni man ma witness pagu este iyo-ta session pagu na oggan Si Yu'us Ma'ase todú ni finatton-miyu. Malago yu nai bai na'i un sen dánkolo na apprisiasion para i pupblikun Tinian ni ma na'i yu ta'lo opottunidát ni para bai setbe siha gi siyan senadót. Malago yu lokkue na bai rikonisa todú i man – i taotao Tinian ni man ñasaga giya Saipan, Guam, yan los kuantos siha na patte giya sintadus siniyus, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni hinenggen miyu yan i supottasion miyu. Bai kontinua fumaisen hamyo ni pinansensian miyu ya hun guatdia ham lokkue yon giha ham mona ni para taimanu para ta na maolek mona i lina'la'ta giya Marianas. Mayor San Nicolas yan miembron i konislio Chairman Ray Cing, Councilman Ray Cing, Councilwoman Dianne Borja, yan Councilman Hofschneider, listo yu ni para bai facho'cho yan hamyo ni para ta kontinua guaha siha patte na cho'cho ni trabiha nisisario ni ta sigi ha gu'meha mona. Listo yu ni para ta fan hita mona chomogue i cho'cho-ta ni para i minaolek i pupbliku giya Tinian yan Marianas. i dipattementun i eskuela, hu tungo ha na bula lokkue che'cho miyu ni para un pripara i taotao-ta ni para hu ma hatme i sagan cho'cho siha gi private sector ya mas pagu ta nisisita sa bandan i federát i debi ha ni ta pripara hit ya ta sigi mona ni ta na maolek i ekonomiata giya Marianas. Para i familiaku, famagu'onhu, Si Yu'us Ma'ase pot i guinaiyan-miyu yan todú i tiempo un na'na'i yu nu fuetsa yan giha ni para bai cho'gue maolek para i taotao-ta gi che'cho. Sin hafa mas, Si Yu'us Ma'ase ya ta fan sigi mona Mr. President. Thank you.*

**President Victor B. Hocog:** *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Senator Hofschneider. i mensahi meggai na korienten ni para un pacha huyong i familia, i man ga'chong mu, yan i pupbliku ya megahit na nisisario ni ta atan mona taimanu ni ta ayuda siha nai un lista huyong na sinienti komu unu hit na kuetpo para ta fan á'ayuda yan i atministrasióon yan i san papa na guma anai para ta ekstende i libianu gi sinidanon i taotao-ta Marianas nai siña ma li'e na guaha megahit integridat yan ta komiti i sietbesionta para i taotao parehu ha manu na senatorial district. Lao mas gaige buente i tákkilo na hinassota i ta na la'la i tronkon i tano i Marianas anai ta na rialisa siha enao ta sa'sagan mona para ta cho'gue. Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni enao na iyon-mu lokkue na hinatan ni para ta cho'gue mona. Pagu sen magof yu para bai agang lokkue iyo-ta Floor Leader si Arnold Palacios ya hu fan na'i mensahi para i familia yan i pupblikun Marianas. Senator Palacios, you may begin.*

**Senator Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would also like to recognize the presence of our Lt. Governor Ralph Torres, Father Isaac, Judge Naraja, Justice Inos, distinguished members and guest from off island, family, and friends, thank you for joining us this morning – this afternoon. I am privileged and humbled to address this body and all our guests that are here today to join us in celebration of our inaugural event. I first wish to acknowledge the presence of my daughters, Nicole and Tiana and son-in-law Billy and Tia's significant other Jayvan who are here with us today, thank you for returning home to be with me on this special day. My wife, Wella, to whom I owe a debt of

gratitude, thank you. Thank you for your endless support and sacrifices. You have always been supportive of our partnership in my entire career, including my political career and it has been truly a blessing and I could not ask for anything more but for your continued support. I would like to recognize and thank my family, relatives, their encouragement and enduring support in all endeavors I have embarked on. I sincerely appreciate all of you and to my mother *un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*. To the people of Saipan and the Northern Islands, thank you. I am humbled by your support and for your confidence in electing me to represent you. I pledge to advance public policies that are in your best interest. I ask for your continued interest and participation because it is through your active involvement on issue's that we ensure responsive and accountable government. I will continue to listen to your concerns and perspectives. I will give thoughtful consideration to various views and ideas and position that I ultimately take will be in the best interest of our community as a whole and to those folks that have served as my Committee to elect, close family, friends, relatives, thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment to our campaign. Your hard work and dedication throughout our journey are manifested by me being here this morning- this afternoon. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* and also acknowledge and thank the Legislative Bureau staff for organizing today's event. As the institution backbone of the Legislative branch, you all play an integral part in our success and the delivery of our services to our people. Mr. President, fellow Senators, today is not about a victory of our election into office, but the recognition of the need to advance the foundation of governance that our forefathers laid for us many years ago and that is a higher quality of life. That has always been our aspiration. To achieve that aspiration, our forefathers in their wisdom and through hard work, forged a lasting political relationship with the United States. Indeed, our lives have improved. We are now enjoying the benefit of that relationship. Our public safety and infrastructure has improved, our healthcare and educational system have advanced, our awareness of the importance of preserving our environment has enriched our commitments to stewardship of our resources and the realization of many other benefits that we take advantage of today that we did not have thirty years ago. All these are the fruits of the hard work of our forefathers that our forefathers started for us. Since the inception of our commonwealth, our leaders diligently worked to continue on that work, but as in any other nation, territories of government, we are also not immune to the challenges that develop anew as time progresses. To be clear, our Commonwealth has gone through some of the toughest times these past few years. Our heavy reliance on external influences for our economy has placed us in a very fragile state of affairs. The recession of our economy has tremendously burdened our progression and, as a result, our community has suffered significantly. The substantial reduction of our revenue resources forced public agencies to do more with less and this has greatly impacted the quality of service to our people, particularly in the area of healthcare, education, public safety, and utilities. Today we are beginning to see and feel some evidence of economic recovery. We must nurture this trend in every possible way so we can reinvigorate and sustain a vibrant economy. Only then can we truly address our challenges to at least soften, if not eliminate the challenges facing the families in our community today. We must assist the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to transition smoothly into independence. Let's be brutally honest about this today. Our hospital is in a man's mid-crisis. When we changed the organizational infrastructure of our healthcare system, our intent then was to continue to provide funding to subsidize for at least five years. We need to revisit that commitment and work in partnership with the corporation to ensure that the hospital continues to provide services to the indigent people of our community as mandated by our Constitution. We will require, however, we will require and demand innovation in seeking out means to improve our healthcare system and its services to a much greater standard. Investing in our educational system is fundamental. We cannot expect to have a robust,

sustainable economy without building an educated community. We must provide the necessary funding, but we must also hold those in our educational system accountable for the planning and implementation of policies and programs to address the changing demographics and needs of our population. We need to make certain that our educational system continues to improve in its policies and academic structure to ensure that our children get the best education. We must prioritize to pay our government's obligation to CUC, to lessen the burden of the high cost of utilities in our families and our communities. We must also actively engage in those regards with our congressional office, Office of Insular Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Energy to provide them with the information needed to support our cause in providing affordable and sustainable utility infrastructure. We will ask that MVA revisit its promotional tools and evaluate the selection on only one company attained by the agency to promote the Commonwealth in our target markets. We must try our very best to reverse the trend of the declining Japanese arrival in Saipan, I mean into the Commonwealth. As stated by our colleague, Senator Mesngon from Rota, fixing and expanding our air transportation system is something that we need to do. This is something very serious. Another area of importance, that we must work on collectively with our delegate is to properly address our labor capacity. The labor capacity needed for a new industry that is soon to evolve. We have five years to do this. If we expand our economy, we need to access additional professionals. Our lack of population makes it difficult to meet the growing demand. We must truly begin to do everything in our power to set up programs that will build our local capacity. We need to provide incentives to our people to motivate, to maximize their pride so that they can begin competing, taking ownership of our labor needs. All these challenges can be addressed with the rebounding of the economy. It is about our economy. We must rebuild a robust and sustainable economic base necessary to provide for a higher quality education for children, improve public safety for our community, sustainable and affordable utility infrastructure, advanced and affordable healthcare and meaningful employment and entrepreneur opportunities for our people. This means that we must innovate and be creative in our means of handling our affairs. Only then can we truly achieve our aspirations for a better quality of life. We must never forget the desires of our parents many years ago are the same desires that we seek out today and that is to build a viable future for our children. My colleagues, we are the heirs of the responsibility that our forefathers initiated on our behalf. Our children deserve our undivided commitment and diligence as we prepare to pass on the torch to the next generation. Mr. President, fellow Senators, we are indeed faced with unprecedented challenges. The question is, are we as members of the body, this body up to these challenges? Do we indeed have the political will to do what is important to meet the challenges for the commonwealth community? I answer this question with a resounding yes. I certainly believe that we have the collective ability to take on these enormous tasks ahead to make a difference in addressing the many challenges our community faces. Challenges are to be conquered and problems are to be solved. I believe that each member in this chamber has the ability, ambition and the leadership it will take to provide the promising future that our people want and have the right to expect. If there was a moment for us to meet the challenge, my colleagues, now is the time. Now is the time for us to work collaboratively. Not just in this chamber, but across the hallways of the House of Representative and across the street to the Governor and the Lt. Governor's Office to seek solutions to the problems we face and to do the work expected of us. Now is the side – the time to set aside political differences and personal agendas so that we can focus on our people's agenda. Now is the time to stand up and show that we deserve the confidence of the people of our great Commonwealth. My fellow Senators, we have it in our power and in our hearts to face the enormous task and challenges ahead. Mr. President, I am excited. I am excited to work with you and every member of the Senate as we advance our people's agenda to

achieve the aspiration of every member of our commonwealth community. Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwai*, and God bless.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Floor Leader Palacios. We take your message deeply into each one of us and we will assure you that we will join hand in hand to achieve what you have just enumerated now. I am very proud to have you in this Nineteenth Legislature to work along with the task that you have enumerated now that our people have been waiting to see that kind of accomplishment and just to assure you that we are ready to work with that harmoniously. Now ladies and gentlemen, before I make my statement, I wish to recognize the outgoing President and now our Lt. Governor and today is the same day when he was sitting up there – up here and giving us the opportunity to say our peace to our family, to our community, and to our counterparts. Today is the day where he won't be sitting anymore as the Senate President, but we will be working with him as a Lt. Governor to achieve what everyone has just stated what we visualize, what we need to work hard on so that our people can reap the benefits of the Nineteenth Legislature. Without further adieu, I would like and I am happy to recognize our Lt. Governor to say his last remarks in this chamber before he begins serving his post as an Executive. Lt. Governor, please.

**Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres:** Mr. President, it is my great honor to call you that. Today is a celebration for the senators and I just want to be here and congratulate each one of you as well as your spouse and your family. The administration is ready to work and we have a lot of work ahead of us and I vouch, the Governor and I vouch, to work with the Senate, as well as the Legislature, the House of Congress. We have a lot ahead of us and I have said that before, but I know that working together collaboratively and addressing our issues before it gets any worse, I think that is one of the big problems that we have. If we can resolve our issue before it gets bigger we are a lot better off. So if there is anything the Administration can do to work with the Senate, we are ready to work. For every solution that we come up with, it will only be better for the whole entire CNMI. So again, on behalf of the Governor and I, it is our privilege to work with the Nineteenth Legislature and the august body of the Senate. Congratulations to those that got newly elected and even those that are re-elected. We have our own duty ahead of us, so let's work together and I look forward to your leadership as well. Congratulations, Mr. President.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Lt. Governor. We sincerely are going to miss your presence in this chamber, but we assure you that the team in this Eighteenth Senate will work hand and hand with your administration and now as the saying goes, always the last speaker will have the least to say, but I liked to reverse that and the last speaker of the day, has many to say but I will try to cut it down and make it short. Perhaps everyone is getting hungry and have other commitments after this ceremony. Let me begin by first addressing my fellow people in vernacular. *Buenas dias para todus i man distengguiyon na bisita ni man gaige pagu na ora gi halom este na kuetpon guma, pattikulátmenti para i man honorabbli siha na dignitario, ya-hu na ginen hami todus en rikoni'nisa hamyo. Buente esta todus ta tungo' hayi man gaige guini ya munga nai bai gasta mas tiempo para bai sigi sumangan kada unu i na'an niha. Ya hu rikonisa i finatton-miyu i enterumentu ni hami ni miembro. Bai ekstende i dánkolo na saludu na komparasióon para i todus i isla Marianas komu unu ha este na kuetpon miembro senadót man man hongge gi unu na kuetpo anai para kabales ta li'e i hinanao i adilanto gi halom todudu giya Marianas. Ya-hu finéne'na na bai na'i un sen dánkolo na apprisiasion yan rikonision, Si Yu'us Ma'ase para i na'an mami as Fermina Sasakura Mendiola nai todus i tiempo lökkue ha kondudusi yu mona gi chalan i menhalom na kareran hinasso para ta*

*cho'gue maolek para i komunidadá. Para i asagua hu as Villia hu na'na'i hao sen dánkolo na agradesimiento nai i kat kuet manera kao napu, manglo', pot pakyó, gaige ha na un to'tohne yu gi guinifi hu para bai fanuetbi pupbliku yanggen i bendisión gaige giya guahu. Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni tiempo mu yan i kinonprende mu nai un chonnek yu gi hilo este na baranka mona. Para hagu Viola Jean yan i asaguamu as Ton, i haga hu este mas amko, todú i tiempo guaha hinassoku guahu patgon lao hu na'na'i gue dánkolo na apprisiasion sa todú i tiempo lokkue ha cho'chonnek yu mona gi chalan yanggen guaha ti hu li'e. Guaha ni giya yu muna tu'tunas mona gi karera hinanao para este na klasin ofisio ni para ta fan nuetbi pupblikun Marianas. Si Yu'us Ma'ase haga hu yan i asagua mu yan para ayu siha i otro na famagu'on nai ma na'na'i yu ni murat na supottasion-niha guini na guinifi ni para bai fanuetbi i setbentin i pupbliku, hu ekste'tendi dánkolo na apprisiasion para hamyo todus. Para i taotao Luta, Si Yu'us Ma'ase nu i tiempo gi duranten i kareran este i páhinan nuebu na polítika ni para ta tulaika or para ta go'te i parehu na taotao petsona para hu guatdia i chalanta mona gi kareran i fottunan i tano, Si Yu'us Ma'ase todus hamyo taotao Luta nai i botadot nai en ayuda yu nai finaisenhu para un na'i yu nu este siha na petsonas tat komu i Governor yan Lt. Governor, para i kade as Efraim para Senator Steve Mesngon si Senator Terry Santos yan i konsilio na hu fafaisen hamyo para un na'i yu enao na ayudu para bai ayuda hamyo mu lakse mona i chalan i espektasion i libianu na lina'la gi komunidadá yan espesiatmente para i familian-miyu. Si Yu'us Ma'ase ta'lo para hamyo todudus. Para hamyo siha ni man gaige siha gi chago na lugát nai ti man hi'hita, Si Yu'us Ma'ase lokkue pot i hinanaoku nai un ayuda yu hu ma ayuda mona halom is Senator Steve Mesngon, si Terry, si Efraim and i konsilion i munisipalidadát yan i botun konfiansa para i gobietnu yan i sigundo gobietnu. Hu ekste'tende enao lokkue un dánkolo na saludu yan apprisiasion ginen guaha yan hamyo todus. Afeñe'los taotao Marianas gi mapos dos sakkan maloffan, mata'ta'chong yu guini konon nuebu sa setbentin miyu gi hilo san hilo na pisu. Guenao na tiempo ti hu tungo' manu magahet na direksion para bai hu kumple. Lao i mensahi anai hu sangan dos años ta tiempo gi taiguini na tiempo, na ora, yan taiguini na okasion, hu na takfiena i sinentin komparasión. Ya enao na sinenti ilék'léku pattikulátmenti para hami ginen Tinian yan Luta na hu fa'faisen guenao ta tiempo i man ga'chonghu para ta po'lo nanya i un banda i sinenti dos isla ya ta atende i unu na chalan direksion sinenti gi kapitát na Marianas. Ya este i kapitát Marianas hu kumpa'para ta'lo tatte komu giya i tronkon, i tronkon i satbasióan anai para hu ayuda i ramas muna la'la i hagon ya hu na'i hit maolek na tinekcha'. Dos años na tiempo enao hu fatinas na mensahi para i taotao Marianas yan i man ga'chonghu. Pagu na dia gi parehu na okasion hu ekste'tende dánkolo na saludu yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase para as Senator Frank Vice President, Frank Borja, Senator Cruz, former Senator Jack Borja, Senator Pete Reyes and Senator now Lt. Governor Ralph Torres. Pot ayu na sinenti i ilék'léku na ta fan dañá' komu unu sa ayu na siña ta li'e i opottuna para todú i isla. Ya meggai na ha laisen hit este afeñe'los i ta alok i mas libianu na idehu ilék'lékta na chaddek na ta sodda'hi mensahi ni para ta satba. Guahu otro hinasso'ssoku na este ilék'lékta libianu na sinangan programa ilék'léku na giya mas komplikáo para hu ma satba. Ya bai sangan gi taiguini anai dumokko', anai ma tanom haya na simiya gi san papa na guma i para hu ma introdusi este i exclusive na casino para islan Saipan, guaha man inestotba, man yinengyong ni sinenti ti man maolek fino ni'niha para ayu siha i kumonside'dera or ayu siha sumapotta este na hinasson chalan i ekonomia, i casino. Loa anai dokko' i simiya ya sigi mona, sigi ha ta'lo, meggai siha na motmotrias kuentos ti bonito para i man mata'ta'chong siha na ofisiat setbentin miyu ni pupbliku anai ma ke'kebalansa i guinifi kao magahet na maolek este na guinifi para ta establesi i fondisión i ekonomia para i Marianas. Ya gi hilo enao na karera, en tungo' ha na esta gi todú tiempo ni taiguini na guaha Luta casino-niha lao taya operasióan. Guaha Tinian casinon-niha ya mamati'tinas sa ma ope'pera ya kuma ha guaha operasióan yan sineda nu frinkas para i islas Tinian. Lao guenao na*

biahi nai ilék'lékta na i tronkon ha nisisita atensión anai para hu mas hu na guaha maolek na tinekcha para todú i tano na ha gua'guatdia. Ya enao na tiempo mahetok i disisión nai para ta supotta este na lina'la ya hu komprende ha si Senator Cruz, si Senator Borja, yan si Senator Jack Borja lokkue na meggai na baranka ma tope gi duranten este na páhina anai ma ke'ke supotta ma supo'potta mona i intension este. Ya dinanche si Vice President, na ti ha hongge yanggen sakasu guaha otro na chalan lina'la para i kapitát nai i kapitát para hu puno' i ramaña gi halom Marianas. Pues este na mensahi en choguiyi hamyo gi mina disi ocho makkat nu afeñe'los taotao Marianas na disisión, lao en fatinas ayu na disisión gi hilo i nili'e mami na este ilék'lékña i vision, i visionary este i rinemu huyong gi nobentasion ayu sina un li'e i manu ni tina'nanpe i uttimo na mapagahes ni sina un atan. Lao i che'cho mami gini gi disi ocho en ke'taka' mas hafa guenaña ayu i ti a'annok gi nobentasion. Ya énaque' mu na'i dídide libianu ya reskata i pinadesi i minaotaota. Bineskata i probleman i ritiráo anai para hu kontinua mu risibi ayu na suetdo i ni na'i gue' gi papa direchon niha gi papa i Constitution iyo-ta Northern Marianas. Man ni na'i ayu siha na empleáo lokkue nai ma gagagao yan man nananga na direchon-niha sin mas na mina sa'pet gi lina'la-niha. Ya gi hilo este todudu nai ta na fan dañá gumaha dídide kandet gi halom islas Marianas parehu ha Luta, Tinian yan Saipan anai ta li'e i taotaota man karera mona gi hilo i chalan fottuna anai guaha siha man ma risibi ni hagas man nangga para hu ma risibi. Si Senator Vice President, kumuenkuentos ham guenao na tiempo na guahu i disisión mu yan i Delegation Tinian yan guahu yan giya Saipan, ni ngai'an na tiempo na un inpeta i lina'la adilanton islan Tinian. Adeset guahu hu sangan'gani gue na tiempo Chairman hu asigu'gura hao na guaha siempre mas lina'la gi tano Tinian yan i taotao Tinian. Ya yanggen para ta atan este, guahu hosguan yu sa unu ha siña mu ayuda hu. Tinian gi hilo este na lai ni ta pasáo dos kannaiña pagu hu ma ayu'yuda. Lao ti siña na para bai na pisonat este na hinesguan sa guaha benefisiu lokkue para i tano Luta, guaha benefisiu para Saipan, yan mas man benefisiu i taotao Tinian. Muna i rasón na man mimimilak pagu guatu i man malago na kometsiante para hu ma na bonito ya hu mana gatbo mas i islan Tinian gi hilo este na guinifi i industrial i casino. Pues ya-hu na ta chule taotao Marianas ya bai gagao hamyo ta'lo' ni pinasensia, kinonprende, sa ti man trunkitron este siha na miembro man ma cho'cho. Guaha lokkue sientin-niha gi pinadesi man parehu ha. Ta si'siente i pinadesi parehu ha ta si'siente gi chalan i minagof yan trankiludat. Ya meggai giya hamyo ti kinonprende or sumesienti este na katgo i ta o'ombo' gi halom este na kuetpo anai para un fatinas, kao goftao, ti goftao na disisión para i pupbliku. Lao hami guini en a'atan manu nai sina benefisiu i kantidá ni man gaige i atensión mami para bin ayuda i pupblikon Marianas. Ya gi quando quando siempre hu ma rialisa i benefisiu nai ayu na tiempo nai mampos komplikáo i opinion i taotao, komplikáo i disisión ni man ga'chong, lao sininbatgo kumarera ya matto enao na gracia ya hu gagagao pagu i mangga'chong-hu na para ta toktok este mona na adilanto ya ta fan hita man ma cho'cho yan i eksakatibu guini mas gi bandan permitting agency na munga na ta fan muñeru hit hu ma ayuda siha i investor. Yanggen guaha problema, maila ya ta sangani na estague' i problema yanggen nisisario na siha hu ma apasi enao na problema, estaguiya siha lao munga hit ba ta na fan muñeru anai para ta indika na ti yata siha, ti yata i develomentu, ti yata na para hu na'i hit lina'la para i man ma'maila na tiempo anai para hu na'i hit asuguridát para i famagu'onta yan i tano ta Marianas enterumentu. Pagu na dia banidosu yu nai kompasasion este i man gaige pagu na miembron senadót. Dánkolo'lo i hinangokko hu gi abilidad i kapasidát niha na gi kada komittiha ni para bai anunsia gi ti chago'go' hu angokko siha na guaha magahet kabales na hinasso gi kada unu nai gaige na ha go'gotte na komittiha para ta chaddeki sumatba siha i mas man prisisu nai gumogodde mona i chalan lina'la i taotao-ta i programa siha gi tano-ta Marianas. Ya enaogue malago hu para bai na asiguráo hamyo na i pupblikon Marianas nai i mina disi nuebi na kuetpon guma senadót man da'dañá ham komu unu na



*sinenti, unu na direksion, yan unu na gunifi i para ta na malak tatte i tano-ta Commonwealth. Para hamyo ni man ga'chong hu senators maila ya bai - ta sangan taiguini na munga na ta chule i kuetpo yan i pusisiónta komu Senadót ya ta maleffa nai kabales na obligasiónta nai para ta cho'gue adilanto para i taotao-ta sa enaogue na ti parehu i gaddon i pupbliku yan hita. Lao hita kumatkatga todudu i hafa i taotao-ta malago-niha. Ti todú siña ta akudi gi un biahi lao iléku na yanggen sigi ta pacha adumídide na siempre hu fan enbrasa para hu sinatba i problema adumídide mona anai siña i taotaota ma me rialisa ni na [inaudible]. Pues nu enao ha. Mas malago hu para bai sangan ya hu chule lokkue so Father Isaac ayu i tinaitaiña para hita nai ha gagagao i Saina para hu na'i hit ni talangata para ta fan man hungok maolek. Hu gagagao i Saina na para hu na'i bendisión, para hu na'i hit ni matata, i atadokta tatte para ta li'e mona pinekkata, ya hu gagagao i Saina para ta fan hita man ma cho'cho anai para hu na'i hit ni bendisión para ta ayuda i pupplikuta taotao Marianas. Para i munisipalidad Tinian, Mayor yan Councilwoman, yan Councilman, i Senate yahu nai en tungo man listo ham para ta fan ma cho'cho yan i islan Tinian gi hafa na akto ha nisisita yan hafa na ayudu, man listo i kuetpon este na guma para hu ma ekstende ya mu marendi enao na responsabilidát ya komplimentu para i islan Tinian yan parehu ha lokkue yan i humanao para i islan Luta para i afgadi lokkue ni man listo i delegation lokkue para un ma ayuda yan i miembron guini gi Nineteenth Senate na bin ayuda hamyo mona. Parehu lokkue Mayorn Tinian iyon-mu delegation, I guess na man listo lokkue para fan ma cho'cho hand in hand. i Northern Island Mayor, hu tungo' ha na guaha guini fi'finan ginagaogaoña ya yahu Mayor na bai siguru hao lokkue na man gaige ham nai para bin asiste mona i programa mu yanggen guaha nisidatmu gi kuetpon i leyeslatura man listo ham guini gi mina disi nuebi para bin ayuda hamyo. Parehu ha lokkue yan i Mayor guini giya Saipan, Mayor Apatang, yahu na un tungo' na i miembros gi Senate man listo lokkue para hu ma ekstende ayudu para i ofisina mu gi hilo i finaisen mu nai sina ta atan mas i chalan ayudu para un setbe i minataota guini gi islan Saipan. Pues, pot uttimo afeñe'los ta'lo bai ekstende dánkolo na sinentin appriasion para i taotao este i Bureau nai si Doris, si Counsel, Si Joel yan i todú i staff, i direktót nai ha ekstende este siha na ayudu para hu na posible i aktibidat pagu na ha'ani en ekste'tende ginen hami todú, un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan appriasion ya maila ya ta fan ma cho'cho mona parehu yan i senadót siha ni para ta fan hita man ma cho'cho ni para hu chaddek i minsahi huyong gi taotaota ya hu ekste'tende ta'lo unu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ta'lo yan buenas dias, buenas tatdes para hamyo todus. Pues enao ha ginen hami todus na mensahi. Ta'lo un dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan appriasion afeñe'los pupplikun Marianas pot i finatton-miyu ya munga man masa para en bisita kada unu giya hami yanggen guaha mas nisidát atensiún para bin ayudayi hamyo. Man listo este na miembro i disi nuebi gi san hilo na guma para bin fan chinogiyi ni enao. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President we are on agenda item P, Announcements. There is no announcement today.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Floor Leader, if I may. Yeah at this time, I would like to take this opportunity to make an official announcement to all the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Senate and for the Committee on Rules and Procedure, I appoint Senator Jude U. Hofschneider to be

the Chairman of the Rules, Committee on Rules and Procedure as well as to Chair the Committee on Fiscal Affairs of the Senate. On the Committee on Resources, Economic and Development and Programs, I appoint Senator Vice President Francisco M. Borja to be the Chairman of this specific committee. To the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, I appoint Steve K. Mesngon, Senator Steve K. Mesngon to be the Chair. To the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation, I appoint Senator Frank Cruz to be the Chairman of this committee. To the Committee on Health and Welfare, I appoint Senator Teresita Santos to be the Chairman of this Committee and to the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agency, I appoint Floor Leader, Senator Arnold I. Palacios to be the Chair and on the Committee, on Public Utility and Transportation and Communication, I appoint Sixto Igisomar to be the Chairman of this Committee and lastly, to the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, I appoint Senator Justo S. Quitugua to be the Chairman of this respective committee. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Floor Leader Arnold I. Palacios:** Thank you. At this time Mr. President, I move for the adjournment. I move to adjourn our Inaugural and Organizational Session subject to the call of the Chair.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Thank you Floor Leader. Those in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Victor B. Hocog:** Motion carried. We hereby adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. Now I may call on Joel to close our ceremony for today.

### BENEDICTION

**MC Camacho:** Thank you Senate President Victor B. Hocog. At this time, I call upon Father Isaac to lead us with the Benediction prayer. Please stand.

**Father Isaac Ayuyu:** Just quickly, on the lighter note sitting up there for three hours, I feel like it was duly organized and sworn to so with that, let us praise God in singing *Atan Jesukristo*.

[Father Isaac led the congregation in the singing of “*Atan Jesukristo*”]

**MC Camacho:** Thank you Father Isaac. This concludes our Inaugural Ceremony for the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the members of the Nineteenth CNMI Legislature, and the Legislative Bureau, *Si Yu’us Ma’ase, ghilisow*, and thank you for your presence with us this morning to witness this historical and memorable event. We invite you all for lunch up in the front of the Legislature’s Lawn located adjacent to the entrance of the House of Representatives. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Geraldine T. Cruz  
Senate Journal Clerk

### APPEARANCE OF SENATE LOCAL BILLS

| LEG. NO. | TITLE |
|----------|-------|
|          | NONE  |

**The Senate may consider, debate, and/or act upon any item contained in this Order of Business at the time and place described herein.**

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