

ADOPTED
JULY 28, 2026



HOUSE JOURNAL FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2026

1st Day, First Special Session

Saturday, April 18, 2026

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, First Special Session on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 12:21 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Upon a two-thirds vote of the members present, the session was declared an emergency session in accordance with Rule III, Section 7 of the House Rules.

The Honorable Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll for attendance with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Present
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Present
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (Excused)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Absent (Excused)
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Present
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcom Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Absent (Excused)
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, we have 15 members present and 5 members absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villgomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Roman Benavente, Angelo Camacho, Thomas Manglona, Patrick San Nicolas, and Denita Yangetmai are excused for today's

session. We now proceed to Item No. 2, Public Comments. The podium is now open to receive comments. Please state your name and the entity you represent, you have five minutes. If you have prepared statements, please submit them to the Sergeant-at-Arms for forwarding to the Clerk's office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There being no public comments presented and no item under Item No. 3, Adoption of Journals, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao, under House Local Bills.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

None

House Local Bills:

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 12:26 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 12:28 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under House Local Bills. I now recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao formally introduced the following bill and, with no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the whole House.

There being no objection on the floor, the bill was accordingly introduced by the Committee of the whole House.

H. L. B. NO. 24-55: To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to the Public Law 20-59. **Introduced by: REP. BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" TENORIO ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself, Representatives Roy C. A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm*

J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J. M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita K. Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

There being no further introduction of House Local Bills and no items under House Legislative Initiatives through Item No. 16, Bill Calendar, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

House Resolutions:

None

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

None

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to thank the author of the House local bill that was just introduced in this emergency House session, which is House Local Bill No. 24-55. These local funds will provide half a million dollars to support our disaster recovery efforts. As you know, Super Typhoon *Sinlaku* has hit all our islands, including the northern islands. The urgent need for local funds to assist our people is critical. And I am hoping that we are all ready to take a vote. As the Chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation, I am calling for an emergency session for the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation to address this local appropriation at 1:00 p.m. I ask the members that we stand together, as togetherness is what is needed during these trying times of recovery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Representative Attao, you, Mr. Speaker, and our officers for getting this emergency session put together. But I know there are a lot of struggling families out there who have lost everything. And I want to take this opportunity to thank our agencies: the Department of

Fire and Emergency Medical Services; Homeland Security, the Saipan Mayor's Office; the Department of Public Works, Park and Recreation, and all the volunteers out there that are putting their lives on the line. Some of them have not returned to their homes. And from what I am seeing on social media, they are still out there, and I want to thank them all. Without you all—I know you all are the front-liners and first responders that are helping our community. This is not much, \$500,000, to help with our recovery efforts. It is something. And I am glad you all made this call immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling an emergency session for 1:00 p.m. I stand ready to vote during the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation session.

The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Representative Attao, you, Mr. Speaker, and our officers for getting this emergency session put together. But I know there are a lot of struggling families out there who have lost everything. And I want to take this opportunity to thank our agencies: the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security, the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Works, Park and Recreation, and all the volunteers out there that are putting their lives on the line. Some of them have not returned to their homes. I see on social media that they are still out there, and I want to thank them all. Without you all—I know you all are the front-liners and first responders that are helping our community. This amount is not much, \$500,000, to help with our recovery efforts. It is something. And I am glad you all made this call immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling an emergency session for 1:00 p.m. I stand ready to vote during the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation session.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the author of this bill and all the members that put their signatures to this important legislation. I also want to thank all the first responders who sacrificed their time away from their families. And at a certain point throughout the storm, they risked their lives for that. I want to thank them all. I agree, too, and I want to echo the same sentiments as Representative Yumul. I was involved in the debris recovery during Typhoon Yutu, or Super Typhoon Yutu. And this typhoon was very different from Super Typhoon Yutu because it traveled slow, 3 to 5 miles per hour. And let me tell you, it scared me because of the length of time when it took to actually pass. And even when it passed, it was still very windy. So, I noticed that the debris is much more spread out because of the time frame it took to pass the island. So, I agree with what Representative Yumul said. We should—I hope the governor, I mean, I mentioned this to him briefly—attach ourselves to the debris recovery because we also have been answering to our constituents in our precincts. There are only certain people that know it, and the people that know our villages throughout the island are the people that are sitting here. If there is one thing I can say, it is that I just beg. I know the Mayor is doing hard work. He is working hard. His staff is working hard, and I commend them. But please, when you are going to pick up debris, you have to follow the rules. You cannot alter or create things without approval from FEMA. Because every piece of debris that you pick up is going to be reimbursed. And if you do it wrong, we do not get that money back. And that is why it is important to put people that were from the previous typhoon to work in these operations. I sincerely hope that the governor speaks to the FEMA officials. Because the line today is going up to the Legislature for

fuel, as Chairman John Paul Sablan can attest to, that is already a sin. And then the water shortages that we are having prior to the typhoon. They said that throughout the typhoon, they are just going to let the generators run out of fuel and that once the storm passes, they can charge it up. I have not seen that yet, and I am not pointing fingers at anybody, but if the fuel ran out during the typhoon, I understand. We cannot afford to risk anyone's lives. But the typhoon is gone already. Why did they not try putting fuel back in the generators to pump up? Because, at least, if we can get the basic necessities of water in place, then maybe people can be less stressed and start—I mean, I visited some families yesterday, and let me tell you, the level of intensity that they have is high. Frustration with the communication and everything. I do, myself, too. There is no radio, there is nothing, there is no information being disseminated, and sometimes the information is wrong. And we are here, Governor. We want to help. We want to help our people also in our districts. And with that, I yield. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the author of this bill. It will definitely help our people get the relief efforts that they are seeking, the basic needs. I know that some of this money is going to go to *Karidat* and the Salvation Army, which are—they are very resourceful as to how they are going to get these resources out. But I also like to thank the administration for activating federal agencies and FEMA for coming in and fast-tracking their efforts to bring in all the generators; the Guam Power Authorities; everybody for coming in; and the United States Department of Agriculture. To the governor of Guam, thank you for standing ready to assist. The CNMI sincerely appreciates it. To our US delegate, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, thank you so much for keeping everybody abreast as to the efforts being made there. To the families and community members abroad who are living stateside trying to put together some donations and relief efforts and sending them our way, thank you. There are so many of you guys out there, and I just cannot thank you enough. And there are so many that I cannot mention. But more importantly, to the community, thank you so much for helping each other out. There are a lot of people in need that are suffering more than most. Thank you so much for sharing the information as to where to get to the assistance you need. Whether it would be for laundry or it would be for the store or fuel. Also, to the business community, thank you so much for making fast efforts to open up your establishments so people can get their basic needs. One of the stores that opened up quickly was Joeten. Thank you so much, Joeten, for making all those efforts. To the press, Thomas Manglona of Marianas Press, and Brad Razala for keeping us all posted with what is going on before, during, and after the storm. I really appreciate all your efforts and what you do. And to everybody else out there that has opened the shelter or is attending to the people that are in the shelter. Thank you so much to the Public School System, the commissioner, and everybody. To the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, for doing what you do. And I hope I am not forgetting anybody, but thank you so much to everybody for all the help that they are putting in. Whether it be going in to work or not. And to the hospital. I know that the hospital had sustained severe damage and everything, and they continued to work throughout the storm. It is a high-stress environment at the very moment. But thank you so much for your efforts. We will continue to pray for you all, and we will continue to help each other out. So, stay strong, everybody. I yield, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, all, for actually making it up here as best we can with everything that is going on, not only in our family but also in the community. The best way, as a veteran, to survive and to go through situations like this is to always keep calm. I know it is hard, but you have to. Because it is not going to help you or anybody else when we start acting selfish and have no sympathy for others. Everybody has to be mindful and respectful. We are all trying. I know that the federal government teams are on their way already. Some of them are already here, and they are moving. I also do see the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation trying their very best to get, especially, water. I am pretty sure everybody understands power; yes, you can live without it. But water is a totally different story. I am pretty sure all of us have not showered for about two to three days. That feeling alone is putting somebody, some of us, on edge. But be that as it may, it will not help you, health-wise and mentally, if we start going out there and start causing issues because we do not want to stand in line. Well, guess what? Everybody has to stand in line. I hope, and let me just put this straight out: This is another calamity that we have been experiencing before; this is nothing new. And what is also nothing new is when people, businesses, and the government, especially the government, abuse the system. When federal money comes in here, it is supposed to go to helping the community. Yet it turns around, and we find people that are profiteering from the situation. I really do hope and pray that we now do not follow those same footsteps because it is not helping anybody, it is not helping the community as a whole. Yet, if I am not, I do not want to generalize this thing, but many people are going to be talking about it. There is corruption here, and there is stolen money; there are missing funds. You know what I mean? That it only benefits the few. The majority of the people are saying that, if not all, but let us not be two-faced about this. If you are not helping the community as a whole, you are part of the problem, and if you do not speak out, you are part of the problem. So, here is another chance that I am pretty sure Uncle Sam is going to help us. So, with our leadership and the executive department and all their staff, I just hope and pray that nobody is scratching somebody else's back trying to syphon money to a certain business or to whoever. This is an opportunity. I personally do not see this as a problem but an opportunity to succeed and to have a stronger community for everyone to climb up, for every boat to rise. So, if you see something wrong, say something. Take videos and take pictures. Whatever it is, we cannot keep affording mismanagement of funds or missing money that we cannot account for. It is ridiculous. And I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but I have been alive long enough to see the self-interest. I want to say the f-word, but I know it is improper. I am pretty sure everyone else gets my point. I hope that all government officials deal honestly, with honor, and with integrity to actually serve the people that we were placed in this position to serve. We do not have a whole lot of local funds. And for that to be abused, that means we deserved getting punished. We deserve nothing nice. We deserve nothing better. Technically, we do not even deserve anything from the taxpayers when we keep abusing the system. And I thank the Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation for calling this and giving out what little we have. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the sentiment of the House is one that speaks volumes in terms of empathy, calmness, healing, helping each other, faith, strength. That is who we are as a people and that is who we have always been. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the frontline responders. Those at the Department of Public Safety;

the Department of Fire and Emergency Medic Services; the utility crew in the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Wastewater, Water, and the line crew who have been working selfishly at the dark of nights trying to get power going to at least help augment and ease being uncomfortable during the storm. We know we still do not have power in a lot of the areas. This was a complete devastation, but not a devastation that we have not experienced. Much greater in magnitude but nonetheless, this is not our first time to build once again and figure out our way to survive so that we can thrive. I would like to also thank the healthcare workers. I got injured and they were very helpful. I would like to thank the emergency triage team, who stand ready. Some of them have been working for 24 hours, 36 hours. They take turns sleeping in their lounge resting for 30 to 45 minutes and then up on the ground. We had *man'amko* – a lot of high level emergency triage going on. There was a lot of *man'amko* that slipped and had accidents trying to clean during typhoon condition 1. Because we did not know whether or not the storm had passed. Communication was so important. It is still so important to us, and we ask the executive branch work very hard on improving that system. Because without communication, it will cause a havoc. There was looting in Precinct 3. One business suffered mass loss because of a looting incident. I cannot stress enough how embarrassing, how unfortunate. But really for our people to go around – I do not know who did it – best believe that anyone that loots, steals, cause any type of havoc like committing a crime during this time, you will be upheld in justice and you will be served with the Department of Public Safety to come and see, and you will be in court. This is not the time for us to cast blame on anyone. This is the time for us to come together, which means systems must be improved in terms of communication from the executive branch to the mayor's office to the legislature to the senate. Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds has done very well in keeping us informed, and rightfully so, because she is our first person of contact when we are dealing with federal government funds, such as FEMA. And she has done so. I would like to also thank the executive branch for placing the urgency that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be experiencing some sort of devastation. To the public assistance office, Patrick Guerrero and his team, thank you so much for also getting your team together, formalizing a plan at the federal level to get needed materials, supplies, and assistance to rebuild, so we can have some sense of normalcy. We also ask that at this time, I have seen a lot of 501(c)3 pop up, coming around all over social media and WhatsApp. Anyone that is now acting as a fraudulent 501(c)3, there are people in the government that can find your IP address. So, if you want to continue to defraud your people for your own self-interest, rest assured there are people in this community that can find your IP address and that is a federal crime. You will deal with federal courts. And that is a totally different ballgame. So, I warn you and this House of Representatives warns you, do not act in a manner that is malice and deceitful. Because that is a crime and a criminal behavior. To all the businesses out there, we also have *man'amko* that are struggling right now. Some have no families to help them. If you are a business, please consider an additional line for the *man'amko*. Because they will need it, including those of special needs. Those are the ones that are vulnerable at this time, right now. To the Speaker, Representative BJ Attao, and Chairman John Paul Sablan, thank you all so much for putting out this piece of legislation. Because as we know, there are processes in the federal government to support post recovery and mitigation for us to take this step for post remedy and mitigation, for those we serve is highly commendable. I do not know if it has been done before, but I am very blessed and grateful that this body is going to do this for this time, the time of need. To the families who continue to bring in their neighbors, their loved ones into their houses, *si yu'us ma'asi*. Because as you can see, there are a lot of devastation out there and they need your help. We all are trying to do our best to pitch in and this is the time that we will demonstrate Marianas strong. And

we are Marianas strong. We have done this before. We will do it, again. Mr. Speaker, thank you so much for calling this emergency session. I know that we are laps of time. I do not want to keep on talking because we know the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation is calling a session right after this and we need to be out in the field. To the residents of Precinct 3, my office stands ready with the assistance of my colleagues here how we can help each other bring our precincts at least to some sense of normalcy. We are all here working together. Be safe, help each other. Please reach out to any one of us, because we will be more than happy to relay to the mayor or to anyone, we have contact with. *Si yu'us ma'asi*, Stay safe, Marianas. We love you very much.

The Chair recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From past experience, I hope that the people understand that when it comes to FEMA, remember that – during Typhoon Soudelor or Typhoon Yutu – whenever you are going to try to claim something, document it. They are always going to be asking to document, document, document. Where is your land lease agreement? Is the property that you are on under your name? I have worked with some of those people before and when there are going to assess your home and you want to avail the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds to build you a home, they cannot. Why? Because the property issue was never solved or was never taken cared of. So there was no probate done, or the probate was delayed. There was no proper transfer of name or any of that. And next thing you know they got disqualified from the program. If anybody wants to ensure that you are not going to be left behind, make sure that you document, document, document, document. If you want to claim your white goods, such as your computer, refrigerator, and whatever it may be. Take pictures and videos. During Yutu, I have literally seen it myself where people that did not even belong to them, but they carried a damaged piece of goods and placed it in front of their yard and claimed it as theirs just so that they can get a reimbursement. I am hoping that the community, you all get your documents together. Get your photos and videos together, and start writing down your list of damaged goods to claim, if the program is still there. If the program is there. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you. Really quick as we are talking about systems. This is important in terms of getting the relief from the federal government. We know that there is going to be housing, food, reimbursements for loss of items in their house, etc. Please remember that Micronesian Legal Services also would be applying, and should be in the process of applying, for legal aid disaster services. That would be the one area for anyone that will need any type of documentation. Their services will be there, including notary public. But as soon as I get that information out to be dispersed, best believe, I will let you all know and formulate a plan with Micronesian Legal Services, so that all your things are ready to go to be presented for any type of FEMA assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield my time.

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for calling this emergency session. I would like to take this opportunity, first, to thank Representative Attao for introducing such legislation. It is a start. It is not much, but it is a start. Yes, I am glad

that you are all safe, and we are all here. And our staff – the legislative bureau staff are here, too. Our legislative staff are here as well. And we thank you for being here today. I know there is still a lot of work to be done at home. I would like to thank the first responders for, of course, responding immediately; Saipan Mayor's Office, Mayor, thank you; the Department of Public Works; gas pump attendants; and water companies. Thank you stores and hardware stores for being open. We are all in this together, team. I know a lot of people may be stressed and rightfully so, but we are here. It is a start and let us work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to thank Chairman John Paul Sablan and his staff, as well as my staff, for making their presence here – Kenneth Kaneshi, Wenny Haruo, and Dereck Aichi, thank you so much. To everyone, colleagues, your staff for being here to sweep out the tsunami that was left in the minority side. Thank you so much for everything. The legal counsel and the House Clerk, thank you. I yield.

The Chair recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is no objection, can we go back to public comments to allow the Mayor and the Senator to make comments? They are in the gallery if they want to make comments, or wait until the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation. The Mayor has to get back to his operation. If not, then we will wait until the Saipan and Northern Mariana Islands Delegation.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: That is a delegation matter. There is nothing happening here.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: It is already on the agenda, and he just made it here. He could make comments. We have done it before. I do not know why we cannot accommodate the Mayor.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: It is not that we are not going to accommodate the Mayor.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Colleagues, this is a miscellaneous. Representative Ada, you still have the floor.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With everybody's consensus, we will wait until the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation session for the Mayor to make his comments. So, I rescind my request. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, thank you for answering to the call, even with bad connection during the storm, requesting that we call for an emergency session to act on some sort of an appropriation whether is it the House level or the Delegation level. But we need to get this legislation presented to the House before it gets to our respective, delegation in this case. I know there are a lot of sad news and bad news, and a lot

of appreciations to extend to our people. But for some good news, I want to extend a congratulations to our counsel, Ms. Karrie Cornstock, for passing the CNMI Bar Exam. So, please everyone give her a round of applause. And along with passing the exam, our very own Jessica Tomokane's daughter, Rika, also passed the exam. We would like to extend our appreciation to the administration for stepping up really quick and calling out the conditions of the storm so that people can start preparing for their safety. We would like to thank President Trump for lifting the Stafford Act so that they can mobilize emergency assistance over here to the CNMI. We appreciate our Delegate our in Washington for being a voice out there for us and pushing the ask of our Governor Apatang. To the first responders – from Homeland Security all the way down to the various departments and agencies, our respective mayors of all the islands, here in the CNMI. This typhoon did not just hit Saipan. It was large, and it was slow. It really took its time making sure that it bush cut the areas we missed to bush cut over the years. With that, we would like to thank them for their efforts – their staff, the community in general. We like to give them all the credit because they came out. They started helping each other. Neighbors and friends came out to help everybody. Those with the least emergency needs went to those with more emergency needs. They actually started pushing and clearing even with the storm above us. So with that, we thank our people for their continued resilience. If there is one thing that we are as a people here in the Commonwealth – this dates way back before any of us were even thought of, before the rulers of the world of those days came into visiting the CNMI, our people stood strong and lived through many, many storms before what we face now as a community. But we cannot forget that this appropriation, although it is a Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation appropriation, we cannot forget our brothers and sisters on the islands of Tinian and Rota. We will work with the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation once we get to that level to make sure that those some of these monies will be able to address some of the needs through your respective municipalities. We do understand that funding source is a very big challenge to you all on Rota and Tinian. But we have also never shied away from helping Rota and Tinian in any of their challenges, whether is was on the House level or on the Saipan and Northern Mariana Islands Delegation level. We have a very experienced Chairman in the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation. He served multiple terms as a chairman with his leadership along with the Vice Chairman, the Floor Leader, and the committee members. We have done a lot of work that has assisted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is never just about Saipan and the Northern Islands. Although we treat them a lot better, it is because we owe it to them. But we are never in a position to leave anyone out of it. Please rest assure, to our brothers and sisters on First and Second Senatorial District, we will do our part, as well, to help you all out there. I know it is difficult times but, like I had said earlier, we prayed for you all and are happy that nobody is hurt. We have no casualties from this storm, and we will continue to pray for our recovery. We stay strong. We commit to one another. And we continue to continue to move forward, so that our home becomes a stronger and a better place that we can promote as a new destination after we recover from this storm. This will be a new Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. And the new Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will provide services to its people, and will provide accommodations for its visitors. With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I thank you, again, for calling this emergency session. I thank all the colleagues, here, for signing off on the legislation and agreeing to introduce this as a committee of the whole. I just apologize to our counterparts, our brothers and sisters up in the Senate, Senator Celina Babauta, Senator Corina Magofna, and Senator Manny Castro for not being able to sign off on this legislation. If you all could, and it was not against the constitution or any of our rules, we would appreciate your signature on it. Because we know that your heart is

here for the people and we stand ready to work with you throughout these difficult times. To our community, stay strong and we care for you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield my time.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Attao. I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleagues, as well. Thank you to everyone. To our first responders; to the administration; all the way down to the citizens of this great Commonwealth that has contributed their time and efforts to help everyone in the community. We are all struggling, but when we all come together, the struggle is less. We continue to be better because of it. I continue to ask the community for their patience. Yes, there are a lot of things that need to be done. But we need to be patient. The help is coming. We called this emergency session so that we could all be a part of that help. Every request that was made, I echo that, too, with my colleagues. And I will see to it that we are included in the decision making in terms of safety protocols and being a part of this recovery. I would like to remind – they brought up the businesses for making the efforts to open as soon as possible to serve the public, like Representative Aldan said, let us do it with a good heart and integrity. There is an order out there on a price freeze and there has been businesses – that have been named and have been complained about – raising prices. We are very serious about this. We are all struggling, but let us continue to help each other the right way. To my colleagues, like the first responders, we need to make time for our families. We are making a lot of sacrifices. The people are very grateful for your sacrifice. This is a little bit of what we can do. Like what Representative Attao, we are going to continue to work together and figure out how we can help more to work together with our federal partners that are here to assess and to assist the CNMI. To our family members and friends living abroad, thank you for coming together, for making the efforts to help with a relief drive to send our way. And to everyone, once again, I pray you are all okay. I pray that we all get through this together unharmed and that we all get back better than we were before. Once again, thank you. We now move down to Item No. 18, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There being no announcements presented on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Adjournment and recognized the Floor Leader.

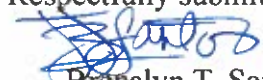
ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker I hereby move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. So move.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adjourn was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The House adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on March 18, 2026:

H. B. NO. 24-102: To amend the Fire Safety Code to apply the International Fire Code as the guiding standard in the Commonwealth. REP. ELIAS J.M. RANGAMAR of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself). Introduced on March 18, 2026. Action: Moved and placed on the Bill Calendar; and passed First and Final Reading without amendments.

H. B. NO. 24-103: To deposit the fiber optic telecommunications cable rights-of-way annual use fee into a Submerged Lands Revolving Fund Account for the management and maintenance of submerged lands. REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (for himself) Introduced on March 18, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Ways and Means and to the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 18, 2026.

[ADDED-3/18/2026] H. B. NO. 24-104: To earmark the Phyto Sanitary Certificate and the Certificate of Origin fees collected by the Customs and Bio-Security, and for other purposes. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself). Introduced on March 18, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Ways and Means on March 18, 2026.

H. L. B. NO. 24-52: To appropriate \$125,000.00 allotted under Saipan Local Law 20-26 (2)(r)(1); and for other purposes. REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself). Introduced on March 18, 2026.

H. L. B. NO. 24-53: To appropriate \$220,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes. REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DLC. Manglona, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez). Introduced on March 18, 2026.

C. RES. NO. 24-6: To recognize and commend the late Melvin Wayne Camacho Sakisat, for his exemplary service and selfless dedication to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend the heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives to his bereaved family. REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DLC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) Introduced on March 18, 2026. Action: Placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted without amendments on 3/18/2026.

[ADDED-3/18/2026] C. RES. NO. 24-7: To recognize and commend the Pioneer Contestants and Titleholders of the Miss Northern Marianas Descent Beauty Pageant for their dedication to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of the Chamorro and Carolinian culture, heritage, and history in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself, Representatives Marissa R. Flores, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai). Introduced on March 18, 2026. Action: Placed on the Resolution Calendar; no action taken.

LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE TRACKER (Informational)

Veto Override / Reconsideration Deadlines

(Article II, Section 7(c), NMI Constitution)

GOV. COMM. 24-121: (3/11/2026) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. NO. 24-33, entitled, (To statutorily define the scope of the Commonwealth's annual General Revenues within the meaning of Article XV, Section 1(e) of the NMI Constitution.).

Deadline: 5/10/2026.

Executive Appointments Requiring Legislative Confirmation

None pending.

Judicial Rule Review Period

None pending.