
THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



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ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

SJ 24-01

1st Day

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PRESENTATION OF THE MEMBERS

Master of Ceremony Devin C. Macaranas: *Buenas dias, Leesor Mwaamwaay* and good morning. Welcome to the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building to witness the Inaugural Ceremony and Organizational session for the Senate of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you the Senate members of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature by Senatorial Districts representing the First Senatorial District from the island of Rota. Senator-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo, escorted by his wife, Mrs. Laura Mendiola Calvo. Senator Donald Manalang Manglona, escorted by his mother, Mrs. Lorna Manglona. Senator Dennis James Camacho Mendiola, escorted by his wife, Mrs. Ana Maria Salas Mendiola. Representing the Second Senatorial District from the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan. Senator Francisco Quichuchu Cruz, escorted by his wife, Mrs. Jessa Jade Cruz. Senator Jude Untalan Hofschneider, escorted by his wife, Mrs. Cheryl Sizemore. Senator-Elect Karl Rosario King-Nabors, escorted by his mother, Mrs. Serafina King-Nabors. Representing the Third Senatorial District from the islands of Saipan and the Northern Islands. Senator Celina Roberto Babauta, escorted by her husband, Mr. Franklin Babauta. Senator-Elect Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro, escorted by his daughter, Ms. Mackenzie Rose Jones Castro. Senator Corina Lorraine Magofna, escorted by her daughter, Ms. Aiyani Rios. To facilitate today's Organizational session, it is my privilege to recognize President Pro-Tem Senator Jude U. Hofschneider. I now call upon the CNMI Color Guards for the posting of colors and the voices of the Marianas to lead us in the singing of the U.S. National Anthem and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Anthem. I ask everyone to please stand.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

DPS Color Guards

SINGING OF THE UNITED STATES AND COMMONWEALTH ANTHEMS

Voices of the Marianas

Master of Ceremony Devin C. Macaranas: Thank you, color guards and the voices of the Marianas. Please remain standing for the invocation as I call upon Reverend Father Ray D. Rosal.

INVOCATION

Father Ray Rosal: Let us invoke Triune God in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The first letter of Saint Paul to Timothy chapter two verses one to four says, I urge then first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God, our savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Heavenly father, we thank you for these men and women who serve our commonwealth. In leadership roles, bless all of them, provide our leaders with reminders each day of why they decided to dedicate their lives to public service and use that commitment to encourage them, help them to embrace the challenge and responsibility as leaders. Guide them to lead with integrity, give them the wisdom to make intelligent decisions, the courage to make tough decisions, the character to make right decisions. And to always be welcoming, inclusive, and open to all the constituents, regardless of color, race, and belief. We pray that they will not lead selfishly for personal ambition or vain conceit. We pray that you help our leaders to realize That leading is really a task that requires them to serve. So father, raise up servant leaders in our midst for the good of our Commonwealth. Help them to work in humility, remove any selfish desires, give our leaders strength so they do not grow weary in their leadership role. Thank you. For they are assigned to do your will, we are grateful father to be living in a democracy where many plays a part in making sure the needs And desires of our peoples are heard and met as our leaders work together to find solutions to difficult problems. We ask that you guide them to speak respectfully and with humility to one another. Help them to show Christ like love to those they interact and be an advocate for all the people they are called to serve. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Master of Ceremony Devin C. Macaranas: Thank you, Reverend Father Ray D. Rosal. Please be seated to witness this historic occasion, it is an honor to recognize the presence of our distinguished guests. Recognizing our off-island dignitaries, Honorable Vicente Anthony Borja Ada, Vice Speaker of the 38th Guam Legislature, accompanied by his wife. Honorable Sabrina Salas Matanane, Legislative Secretary of the 38th Guam Legislature. Honorable Vincent Borja, Senator of the 38th Guam Legislature. Honorable Diego T. Benevente, Honorary Consul of the Federated States of Micronesia to the CNMI. Lieutenant General Laura L. Lenderman. Deputy Commander of the Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Shirlene Ostrov, ACE Integrator of the Headquarters Pacific Air Forces. Glenna Sakisat Palacios, ACE SME II of the Headquarters Pacific Air Forces. Representing the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Honorable David Mundo Apatang, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Representing the Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Honorable John A. Manglona, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Honorable Roberto Camacho Naraja, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Associate Judge of the Superior Court. Representing the Local Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Honorable Aubrey Manglona Hocog, Mayor of the Municipality of Rota. Honorable Edwin Palacios Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, accompanied by his wife. Honorable Ramon Jose Blas Camacho, Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan. And Honorable Valentino N. Taisacan Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands. Council elects from the 20th Rota Municipal Council, Honorable Sandra Mesngon Masga, and Honorable Tilly Castro Taimanao. Council elects from the 20th Tinian Municipal Council, Honorable Estevan Pangelinan Cabrera, Honorable Ana Marie Cruz San

Nicolas, and Honorable Joseph Romaldo Evangelista Santos. Council elects from the 18th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, Honorable Carmen Cabrera Pangelinan, Honorable Antonia Manibusan Tudela, and Honorable Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela. Representing the Office of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Delegate, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Oliver Manglona, Constituent Service Director. Participating in today's Inaugural Ceremony from the religious community, Father Ray D. Rosal from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and Pastor Eric Abragan from the Life in the Sun Christian Fellowship. Recognizing the distinguished presence of extended members of the Legislative Branch, Honorable Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan, Speaker of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress. From the First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Serafina Rosario King-Nabors, First Female Representative from the Island of Tinian. From the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Franklin R. Babauta of Election District 1, and Honorable Luis John DLG. Castro, Election District 1. We take this time to recognize the presence of family members, friends, and staff of the Senators and Senators elect, as well as the members of our business community. Also joining us this morning via live broadcast, we recognize the people who call the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands home. Thank you for tuning in. If I may have unintentionally overlooked any distinguished guests or former legislative members of the Senate or the House of Representatives, please accept my sincere apologies. It is with great honor and privilege that I recognize President Pro-Tem, Senator Jude U. Hofschneider to officially call the Senate's Organizational Session of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to order. Mr. President Pro-Tem, please.

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

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you Mr. Macaranas. *Hafa Adai, Faischo*, and good morning to our distinguished guest, family, friends, and viewing public on Channel 23 and on the Legislature media platform. I welcome you all to your Senate Chamber. I wish to also recognize some of the members of the bar association, as well as the Assistant Attorney General joining us this morning and to all the ones not necessarily from the CNMI, but have the access to watch these proceedings this morning. I welcome you all to the Inauguration of the 24th Senate. I now call this Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Organizational Session of the Senate to order. Pursuant to an appointment by the members of this body. I shall preside as your President Pro-Tem for this Organizational Session. At this time, I would like to recognize our Legislative Bureau Support Staff assisting the Senate.

- Senate Clerk Dolores S. Bermudes
- Senate Journal Clerk Chanele C. Borja
- Senate Legal Counsels Antonette R. Villagomez and Jose A. Bermudes
- Fiscal Analyst David Demapan
- Legislative Assistants Jolyn B. Duenas-Tagabuel and Devin C. Macaranas
- Sergeant-at-Arms Benjamin S. Terlaje
- Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Deleon Guerrero

- IT Manager Jonathan Diaz
- IT Assistant Delbert Camacho

CALL OF THE ROLL BY SENATORIAL DISTRICTS

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: And next on our order of business, Item D, Call the roll by the Senatorial Districts. At this time, the Chair recognizes Clerk. Please call the roll.

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

1. Senator-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo
2. Senator Dennis James Camacho Mendiola
3. Senator Donald Manalang Manglona
4. Senator Francisco Quichuchu Cruz
5. Senator-Elect Karl Rosario King-Nabors
6. Senator Jude Untalan Hofschneider
7. Senator Celina Roberto Babauta
8. Senator-Elect Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro
9. Senator Corina Lorraine Magofna

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Madam Clerk. With nine members present, we do have the necessary quorum to proceed with today's order of business. Before proceeding and without any objection from the members, I hereby appoint Senator Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District to serve as our Floor Leader Pro-Tem.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: No objection. Thank you, members. Item E, public comments. We now move on to Item E on the order of business. The floor is now open for any member of the public to offer comments on today's agenda. Please limit your statements to five minutes. And as a reminder, anything stated within your testimony not relating to today's agenda will be struck from the record. And the floor is now open for comment for public comments. Hearing none, public comments hereby close.

APPOINTMENT TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Item F, Appointment to the Special Committee on Credentials. Special Committee Report No. 24-01. Under Item F of our order of business, the Appointment of Special Committee on Credentials to review the credentials of the following:

1. Senator-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo
2. Senator-Elect Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro
3. Senator-Elect Karl Rosario King-Nabors

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: And I hereby appoint Senators Corina L. Magofna, Francisco Q. Cruz, and Dennis C. Mendiola to the Special Committee on Credentials. Senator Corina L. Magofna serves as the Chairperson of the Committee. And at this time, I call for a recess until the Credential Committee is ready to report its findings to the full Senate. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:22 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: We rise back to our Organizational Session. And at this time, I would like to recognize the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Senator Corina L. Magofna to report to this body on their findings regarding the elected senators. Recognize, Senator Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem copies of the Special Committee Report have been distributed to the members to as follows. Your Senate Special Committee on Credentials to which was referred to the task of reviewing the credentials of the Senators-Elect to the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature begs me to report as follows: Your Credentials Committee recommends that the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature accept the credentials of Senators-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo, Karl Rosario King-Nabors, and Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro. Your Credentials Committee finds that Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands requires that Senators be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth at least 25 years of age, a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least 5 years, immediately preceding the date on which the Senator takes office. And registered to vote in the Senatorial District, where he or she is a candidate. Your Credentials Committee further finds that Senator-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo from the First Senatorial District, Senator-Elect Karl Rosario King-Nabors from the Second Senatorial District, and Senator-Elect Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro from the Third Senatorial District are qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, were born prior to January 12, 2000, have been a resident and domiciliary of the CNMI since at least January 12, 2020, and are registered to vote in their respective Senatorial District. Your credentials committee finds that Senators-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo, Karl Rosario King-Nabors, and Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro meet all the requirements of the NMI Constitution and the Commonwealth Code such that there's no provision with which compliance would prohibit the acceptance of their credentials. Your Credentials Committee further finds that it is unaware of any defect in, in morals or character that would militate against senators elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo, Karl Rosario King-Nabors and Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro from being seated as members of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature for the Senate. Based on the foregoing Credentials Committee recommends that the credentials of Senator-Elect Ronnie Mendiola Calvo from the First Senatorial District, Senator-Elect Karl King-Nabors from the Second Senatorial District, and Senator-Elect Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro from the Third Senatorial District, be accepted by the full Senate and that they be seated as members of the Senate and granted all rights, privileges, immunities, and responsibilities appurtenant thereto. As Chairperson of the Special Committee on

Credentials, I respectfully ask the full members of this legislative body to support the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 24-01. Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Senator Magofna. Do I hear a motion for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 24-01? And I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem Senator Donald M. Manglona.

Floor Leader Pro-Tem Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President Pro-Tem. I move for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 24-01.

Senator Dennis C. Mendiola: Second.

The motion was seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: The motion offered by the Floor Leader Pro-Tem for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 24-01 has been seconded. The motion was made in discussion. Ready? Madam Clerk, please call the roll for the adoption of Special Committee Report No. 24-01.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny G.T. Castro	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Yes
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Yes

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

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: With nine members voting yes, Special Committee Report No. 24-01 is hereby adopted. Moving on to Item G of the order of business, Swearing in of Members, my fellow colleagues. We now proceed with our next order of business, Item G.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

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

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a political union with the United States of America, the applicable provisions of the Constitution, laws and treaties of the United States of America, and that I will faithfully Discharge my duties to the best of my abilities, so help me God."

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

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Members, please take your seat. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Presiding Judge Naraja. I would like to call for a short recess for the signing of our oath of office. Short recess, please.

The Senate recessed at 11:35 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: We rise back to the organizational session. On behalf of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, we extend our deep appreciation to Presiding Judge Naraja for your presence and commitment to swearing in the members of the Senate to the newly sworn in members. Congratulations and welcome to the Senate.

ADOPTION OF SENATE RULES

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Next in our order of business, Item H, is the Adoption of the Rules of the Senate. And I recognize Floor Leader Pro-Tem Senator Donald M. Manglona.

Floor Leader Pro-Tem Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President Pro-Tem. At this time, I move for the adoption of the Senate Resolution 24-01, the Interim Rules of the Senate for the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of the Interim Rules for the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. And do we hear a second to that motion?

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: Seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion to adopt the Senate Resolution No. 24-01, the Interim Rules of the Senate, please say, aye. All those opposed say, nay.

All members voiced, "aye".

Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 24-01 is hereby adopted. Thank you, members. Moving on to Item I, Election of President. The next item on the agenda is the Election of the Senate President of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and the Chair recognizes Senator Francisco Cruz to officiate the motion.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Dennis James Camacho Mendiola from the First Senatorial District to serve as the President of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So move, Mr. President Pro-Tem.

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: There is a motion offered by Senator Francisco Cruz to nominate Senator Dennis James Camacho Mendiola from the First Senatorial District to serve as President of the Senate, and seconded by Senator Karl King-Nabors. And at this time, I recognize Senator Ronnie M. Calvo.

Senator Ronnie M. Calvo: Thank you, Mr. President, Pro-Tem. I move to close the nomination.

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: There's been a motion offered by Senator Ronnie M. Calvo to close the nomination. It has been seconded. All those in favor of the motion, please say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

All members voiced, "aye".

Motion carries. And I would like to apologize. I would like to refer back to the initial motion of the Senator Cruz that made for Senator Mendiola to be the Senate President. And the standing question before all of us is the nomination of Senator Mendiola to be the Senate President offered by Senator Cruz for clarification. All those in favor for correction. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny G.T. Castro	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Yes
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Yes

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

President Pro-Tem Jude U. Hofschneider: With nine members voting yes. Senator Dennis James Camacho Mendiola, you are now the President of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Congratulations. And I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort Senator Dennis James Camacho Mendiola up to the dais.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you for the vote of confidence. I can say that this nomination, it's going to be a team collaboration and we will move forward and try and move the agenda of the Commonwealth. As we discussed during our caucus we will work to try and address. A lot of these issues that are coming forth to our chamber. So, thank you again for the vote of confidence. We're now moving on to the next order of our business. The next order of our business is Item J, the election of Senate Vice President to the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Senator Donald Manalang Manglona.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Karl Rosario King-Nabors from the Second Senatorial District to serve as the Vice President of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So move, Mr. President.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: There's a motion on the floor nominating Senator Karl Rosario King-Nabors from the Second Senatorial District to serve as Vice President of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and it has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? Recognize Senator Jude Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Mr. President, I move to close nomination.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: A motion has been made to close nomination, and it has been seconded. All in favor of that motion, say aye. Those opposed, say nay.

All members voiced, "aye".

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Motion carries. There's a motion on the floor, and it was seconded for the nomination for Vice President of the Senate, nominating Senator Karl Rosario King-Nabors. Madam Clerk call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny G.T. Castro	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Yes
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Yes

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

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you Clerk. With nine members voting yes. Motion carries. Congratulations, Senator Karl King-Nabors. Moving on our agenda, the election of Floor Leader of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. I recognize Senator Karl King-Nabors.

ELECTION OF FLOOR LEADER

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District to serve as Floor Leader for the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So moved, Mr. President.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: There's a motion on the floor nominating Senator Donald Manalang Manglona from the First Senatorial District to serve as Floor Leader of the First Senatorial District for the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. It has been seconded. Is there any another is there any other nomination? Recognize Senator Cruz.

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

Senator Ronnie M. Calvo: Second.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: the motion. Thank you, Senator Cruz. A motion has been made to close nomination and it has been seconded. All in favor of that motion say aye. Those opposed say nay.

All members voiced, "aye".

Motion carries. There's a motion on the floor and it has been seconded for the nomination of for Floor Leader of the Senate nominating Senator Donald Manalang Manglona. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny G.T. Castro	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Yes
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Yes

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

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you Madam Clerk. With nine members voting yes, the motion carries. Next on our order of business Item L, the election of the Legislative Secretary of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Senator Donald Manglona, I recognize you.

ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored and privileged to nominate Senator Francisco Quichuchu Cruz from the Second Senatorial District to serve as the Legislative Secretary of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So moved, Mr. President.

Senator Ronnie M. Calvo: Second the motion.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Manglona. There is a motion on the floor nominating Senator Francisco Q. Cruz as the Legislative Secretary, and it has been seconded. Is there any other nomination? I recognize Senator Corina Magofna.

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

Senator Donald M. Manglona: I second the motion.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Corina. A motion has been made to close nomination. It has been seconded. All in favor of that motion say aye. Those opposed say nay.

All members voiced, "aye".

Motion carries. There's a motion on the floor and it was seconded to nominate Senator Francisco Q. Cruz as the Legislative Secretary for the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Madam Clerk, call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny G.T. Castro	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Yes
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Yes

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

President Dennis C. Mendiola: With nine members voting yes, motion carries. Congratulations, Senator Cruz. You are now the Senate Legislative Secretary for the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

NOTIFICATION OF GOVERNOR AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

President Dennis C. Mendiola: At this time, I would like to appoint Senator Karl King-Nabors and Senator Donald Manalang Manglona to notify the governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:50 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:06 p.m.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: We are back in session. May I please request Senator Karl King-Nabors and Senator Donald Manalang Manglona to report to the full body.

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President Mendiola. Senator Donald Manglona and myself have officially notified the Governor and the Speaker of the House that we are duly organized and ready to conduct business.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Karl Nabors. Next on our order of business Item N, Communications. I recognize the Floor Leader.

COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. The Vice President has already reported on notifying the House Speaker and the Governor. Thank you.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you Floor Leader. Moving on with our order of business Item O, Statement of the Members.

STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS

President Dennis C. Mendiola: I recognize Senator Manny Castro.

Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro: Thank you, Senate President. I just wanted to thank first of all this past Inaugural mass. We had a really good sermon and homily provided by Pali James. And you know, I thought of that a few days and I just wanted to give thanks to my kids for their patience and understanding in balancing, you know, the commitment to the public and the commitment as a father. And I also would like to thank all those, despite the challenges that we face, despite the challenges during the campaign. God provided a way he provided people to assist in terms of finances. People stepped up to the plate. But most of all he provided a path. And I believe everyone in here is on that same path to serve our community. So, a big thank you to our constituents out there and every public servant. In the private sector as well. You know, for your continued faith and also looking forward and focusing on the positive things. But again, thank you all to just mostly Senate president.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Castro. And now recognize Senator Celina Roberto Babauta.

Senator Celina R. Babauta: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase Siñot Presidente. Afañetlos gi as Jesukristo. Afuttunão yu', ni motmut na tinayuyut yan sappotasion ginen hamyo todos ni umentrga yu' ni este na siya i hu okukupã pã'go. Tat kilo' na honru yan ancho na prebehehu en nã'e yu na pudet yan responsabildat para bai hu representa i islan Sa'ipan yan i sankattan siha na islas. Nunca beses ni en na' fatta yu karidat na konseho yan asistimiento. Hu ekstetende humitde yan sinseru na agradesimento para todos hamyo. I kâyon ni ta fãfãna' baranka yan ti yãno. (The road we face is not without of challenges. I extend my humble gratitude to all of you.) Hu embrasia este na opputunidat para bai hu usa i bos hu achuka' makat yan ti libiano para bai hu na' oppan i asunto siha ni en keke sãtba kosa ke i famagu'onta yan i man mamaila' na henerasion siha hu ma akusecha*

i guinifen niha ni direchu sigun i lai yan i constitution i Notte Marianas. Para i man gofli'e hu na bisita ginen i gatbo na islan Guahan, i senadot siha, tat komu i Vice Speaker Tony Ada, i asaguana as, Annette, senadora Sabrina Salas yan Senadot Vince Borja, buenas yan benbinido. Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni finatton miyu para en testiguye i seremonias i mina' bente kuarto na legislaturan i Sankattan na islas. Listo yu' para ta fan a pipet sumâtba i asunto siha ni inafefekta hit todos kosa ke sina ta hâtsa yan ta atbânsa i lina'la i uniko na taotaota, guine giya marianas. Lökkue' espisiâtmente na apresiasion para si senot Troy Torres ginen Guahan. Para i mane'lu yan man atungo'hu gi setbisio, ginen i sacrafisiomiyu yan i setbision miyu, hâmyo i modelu yan hemplo para guahu. Ohalara mohon na ginen i fina'chu'cho'hu, hu meresi i sacrafision miyu gi militât. Pot los uttimos, i gumogotte i korason hu, i asaguahu as Franklin. Taya palabra siña hu ofrese hao pot i tadung na guinaya, yan pinasensia ni un nânâ'e yu' yan i famagu'onta gi todo manera. Tâya' fâtta-ku yu yan i famagu-on ta siha. Para i famagu'onta, ni man gaige gi châgu' na lugât, mâs ke seha manague hamyo guine gi fi'on hu, todo i tiempo gagaige ha' hamyo gi hinassoko, i tinayuyot-hu yan i korason hu. I hagan miyu, i che'lon miyu, Si Celina Roberto Babauta. Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Buenas tatdes.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Babauta. I now recognize Senator Corina Lorraine Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, *Hafa Adai, Faischo* and warm greetings to those in attendance and to the viewing public online. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my constituents in the third senatorial district for your continued support and most valued feedback on all the proposed bills and initiatives that I worked on during the Twenty-Third Legislature, your trust and positive engagements have been very instrumental in guiding my efforts as your respective representative. I would also like to sincerely thank my husband, Joseph Rios and our daughter, Ayani, for their unconditional love, support, and patience, and for allowing me to share my precious time with the people that I work with and collaborate with. As we embark on the journey of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, I am reaffirming my unwavering commitment and oath to serve you to the best of my ability. I will further continue my collaboration with all elected leaders from both houses, as well as the executive branch, to ensure meaningful progress is made towards improving and elevating the livelihood of our people. From the bottom of my heart *un dankolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow* and *Salamat Po*. Let us begin this new chapter with mutual respect and a shared dedication to creating a brighter future for all. I look forward to the passion and determination of all the members to work together for the betterment of our community. Thank you once again for your trust and support, and together we will build a stronger and more prosperous Marianas. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Magofna. I now recognize Senator Jude Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Siñot Presidente* Senator Dennis Mendiola. *Hafa Adai, Faischo yan Buenas tatdes talo un biahi para hamyo todos.* Once again, I wish to extend my congratulations and respect to Senate President Mendiola, the officers and our newly elected colleagues of the Twenty-Fourth Senate. As we embark into the new legislature, the contract, the commitment, and the promise to our people should remain our priority. Each of us have that commitment. While feeling that and the path taken may be different, but the objective is

the same. As evident these past couple of years, our ability to collaborate and support policies that will help our people have been made despite political divide, that is a demonstration of maturity and invoking the art of compromise to reference that is the recent public laws or legislations that have been passed primarily the line of credit for MPLT to facilitate some projects here in the CNMI, primarily here in Saipan and the recent construction tax that we went through the motion here on the Twenty-Third Senate. And to include the executive appointments that the executive branch of transmitted for our disposal. The CNMI is at a crossroad as we continue to navigate our way back to rebuilding our tourism industry. We've supported resolutions and requests to the Federal Government. To revisit and reevaluate policies such as the Annex 6 and EVS-CAP to help support in this effort, we must continue working with HANMI, Chamber of Commerce, small local businesses, and listen to their concerns as they are the guide for us when delivering a direction with regards to tourism, hospitality, and the economy. We must continue the strong partnership with Department of Defense, as they continue building on their footprints on projects on Tinian and the rest of the CNMI. Let's pay close attention on ways to maximize the opportunities for our people in businesses and, just as important, the workforce it can avail for our residents. We need to work closely with the Office of Congresswoman Kimberlyn King-Hinds. To assist us in many of these ongoing efforts, we are addressing here with the Republican majority in D.C. and her membership to the projects and infrastructure committee. It is critical for us to capitalize on this opportunity. In addition, we have our esteemed, who were here earlier, colleagues from the *Trenta Ocho na Legislatura in Guahan*, led by our, my good friend, Vice Speaker Tony Ada, who shared similar views in the Marianas, working as one to address regional issues facing us here. Evident to some of the success stories of recent past, we must continue this working relationship. By way of the Marianas Islands Legislative Association, also known as MILA, and other means to promote commerce between the islands. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Vice Speaker Ada and Senators Salas Mantanona and Vince Taitano for joining us today. The pandemic experience and the closure of our border compelled me to reassess focus on offering policies on updating current statute to support, to work closely with our farmers and ranchers in the CNMI. My office supported organizations and endorse to improve food security initiative. My office worked closely with Tinian Cattlemen Association, partnering with Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, to acquire grant to produce a beef industry feasibility study on the island of Tinian. This study is ongoing. And although it focuses on Tinian Cattle Ranching, it will benefit the entire CNMI. This will eventually be an alternative means to produce and be self-sustaining for years to come. In this respect the joint effort with NMC CREES, Tinian Mayor's Office and the Kaman Association, we acquired a certification from USDA for the slaughterhouse and Tinian, and I'm happy to share with everyone that our permanent certification was granted in June, 2024. In addition, I will reintroduce legislation to provide and mandate special water rates for farmers and livestock operators throughout the CNMI, and this is critical in order for our residents engaged in such operation to be able to remain in operation, and that's in addition to the generous tax incentive, and this initiative is key. Putting it all together, I offer myself to continue dialogue among us here in the Legislature and the Palacios Apatang Administration to work collaboratively, the next few months. I also ask the agencies in the government to continue cooperation with the Legislature and to also work with our municipalities across the CNMI, especially Tinian and Rota, as they deliver services to our people. Always keep in mind that the way to deliver government service separated by waters is a bit more challenging than the ones based here on Saipan. I wish to stress that note. In closing, I wish to commend the hardworking staff of the respective members offices, the management, the staff of Legislative Bureau for their support, and last but not the least, my wife Cheryl, my daughter Alexis,

and to my siblings and their families for always supporting me. And the people of the CNMI, most especially the people of Tinian, for their continued blessing and support throughout the years. And I remain your humble servant and not may God bless us all. Thank you. I yield back, Mr. President.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. I recognize Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Mr. President. *Finenena malagu yo' biahi* congratulate *todo i* officers *nai man bota pago na oga'an*. Congratulations Mr. President, Floor Leader Manglona, Vice President Nabors. *Un sinseru na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para taotao Marianas ni pasiencia mas'ke siha fafana todo klase siha na chanda'siga. Un fafaisen hamyo mas pasiencia yan kinenpriende yan bai siña biahi na man maolek mona i linala publiku Marianas. Un tungo a ma ginacha hit ira i Typhoon Yutu, Typhoon Yutu yan i pandemic lao sigiha nahi animu para bien chagi manu siña sumudahe nu Remedio para un guaha mas maolek na nagong gi taotao'ta yan fafaisen na kintuna na pasiencia ya bien sigi ha nahi animu nai pot este na guma i Senate. Para i taotao Tinian un dankolo na sinseru na Si Yu'us Ma'ase pot i na'noku i yon miyo trust giya guahu gi este past 15 years yan kontinua un ma nahi i bendisión pa biahi sigi sumetbe hamyo ya biahi sigi lakkue animu yan mangachogmu para guaha maolek na inagong na i linala ya i isla'ta. Si Yu'us Ma'ase para enao siha en sacrifice hamyo sun suppota'yo sa biahi sigi kontinua sumetbe hamyo ginen kapisidát i Senate. Para i familiaku un sinseru na Si Yu'us Ma'ase pot todo tiempo gaige hamyo gi tatek'hu mas ki seha makkat i linala i kontinua sumuppota yo' ya bai sigi ha sumuppota ya para bai presenta islas'ta Tinian yan i taotao'ta gi maolek na karera yan mañera un dankolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.* To my wife, I sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding for me to continue serving our island of Tinian and our people in this capacity. Thank you, despite all the hardship, thank you for continuing supporting me to continue serving our people. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* and I love you my wife and I continue to ask you to bear with me so that I continue to serve our people and our island. To the staff of LB, my sincere gratitude and appreciation for always being there to serve this body whenever we ask for your assistance, your professionalism, you're always there to assist us. I sincerely appreciate all the help that you have given us. Thank you. And again, I ask the people of the Commonwealth to bear with us and we will continue our very best. You know, to alleviate some of the hardship. I know that everyone suffering the economy is not that good, but we will continue to work hard either to assist in or legislation. Thank you and I yield back Mr. President.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you. Senator Cruz. I now recognize Senator Karl King-Nabors.

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President, I would like to take this time and opportunity to express my gratitude to the people of the Second Senatorial. It is an honor and a privilege to have been given an opportunity to serve again with my colleagues in the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Legislature. This job, this privilege to serve the public, often puts strains on our own personal relationships with our loved ones, with our constituents, as we often spend time here on the hill away from home to conduct the business and move forward the initiatives and desires of the people of the Commonwealth. That being said, I want to thank my mom, my siblings, my better half, Melanie, for always being patient with me and supporting me through all my times of need. Through all the ups and downs and just being supportive, being there to lend an ear and

help guide me, I want to also thank my colleagues, and I want to say that I stand ready and willing to work with every one of you, both here in the Senate, in the House and with the executive branch. It's important that we put our differences aside and be true to the, the words that we put politics aside and do what's good for the CNMI. I really feel that that should not be just hollow words that we say when we rise here during inaugurations. That's something that we do with sincerity and with all our heart. With that, Mr. President, I yield.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you Senator Nabors. I now recognize Senator Ronnie Calvo.

Senator Ronnie M. Calvo: Thank you, Senator President Mendiola. I'd like to congratulate you and all our senators for their positions. *Hafa Adai* and *Tirow* ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, friends and family. What an incredible journey this has been. As I stand before you today, I'm filled with enormous gratitude, overwhelming humbleness and a deep sense of responsibility, the trust you have placed in me to represent our Commonwealth. Our cultural customs and values and our future is an honor that I will carry with unwavering dedication. First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt thank you to every person who participated in this election. Humbled, honored, and deeply grateful to have earned your trust and your votes. Your voices are a foundation of our democracy, and I pledge to represent each and every one of you in the integrity and fairness. This victory is not mine alone. It belongs to all of us who believe in a brighter and stronger and more united future for our citizens living on Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Northern Islands. Thank you to all new registered voters and off island voters who call the CNMI home while residing in the U.S. Mainland for military, medical, educational, vocational or family care needs. To my campaign leadership team members, volunteers and supporters. You are the backbone of this success. Your passion, your hard work and your belief in my mission have made this moment possible. I am deeply grateful for your belief in me, your tireless efforts and your unwavering encouragement. This campaign has been about more than one person or one seat in the Senate. It has been about the hopes and dreams of every person in our community. It has been about ensuring that our people's voices are heard, challenges are addressed, and opportunities are pursued. And to my fellow candidates, I commend you for your passion and commitment in serving our people of the CNMI and Rota. Together, we have shown that we have in spirited differences while respecting one another as individuals dedicated to the common good and welfare of our people. The very act of engaging in our democratic process is a testament to the strength and vitality of our homeland. To my wife and children, my mother in law, my cousin, friends, and relatives who stood by me throughout every challenge. I'm forever grateful for your love and unwavering support. Thank you for your patience, your sacrifice, and your love. As your senator, I pledge in working together with our fellow senators to serve with integrity, transparency, and relentless commitment to justice and equity, making accountable decisions to benefit our people and drive progress. As an optimistic person, I know that we can come together as one. There is nothing we cannot achieve. The road ahead will not be easy. But I am ready to work tirelessly on your behalf. I will listen. I will learn. I will lead with compassion and courage. Together we can tackle the challenges before us and build a future that reflects the best of who we are. As I prepare to take office, I am reminded that this is not the end of the journey, but the beginning. The work of building a better future requires perseverance, collaboration, and courage. Together we will build a future that reflects the values we hold dear. I ask for your continued engagement, your ideas, and your advocacy. Thank you for this extraordinary honor. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your belief in the power of what

we can achieve together. May God's love, grace and blessings multiply, and may we always be grateful for the goodness in our lives. Thank you, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, *Ghillisow* and [inaudible] Salamat Po.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Calvo. I now recognize Senator Donald Manglona from the First Senatorial District.

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon everyone present here today and those who are here. Join those who joined us earlier this morning. I'd like to recognize the presence of Chief Justice Castro, our CPA board member for Saipan Mr. Cabrera, Representative King-Hinds staff, and all those who, again, were present here during our swearing in. Thank you for coming and joining us this morning. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the to congratulate Senator. I would like to welcome Senator run Ronnie Calvo, Senator Karl King-Nabors, and Senator Manny Castro on your successful election. Your commitment to public service and dedication to our community have brought you here today, and I am excited to see the positive impact you will have in your new roles. To my colleagues whom I've served with in the 23rd Legislature, it has been an honor to work alongside you, and I look forward to continuing our shared commitment to the well-being of our Commonwealth and our community. Together, we have laid a strong foundation, and I am excited to build upon our progress in this new term. As we embark on this new legislative session, our focus must remain steadfast on collaboration and unity. And to my fellow colleagues from the First Senatorial District, Senator President Dennis Mendiola, Senator Ronnie Calvo, together with the ROTA leadership, our mayor and our municipal council members, we have the shared goal of building a better Rota, a stronger Commonwealth, and a brighter future for all our people. It is through working hand in hand, setting aside our differences, and embracing our common purpose that we will achieve success. We face numerous challenges, but within these challenges lie opportunities for growth and progress. Our priorities must include addressing the critical issues that impact the daily lives of our residents. During my time in the 23rd Legislature, I have introduced several important pieces of legislation to address critical issues in our community. One of the key initiatives that I've worked on would help to alleviate the shortage of medical professionals, and I am pleased to share that this bill was just signed into law last Friday. Additionally, I have introduced legislation to mitigate environmental impact, preserve our culture and history, provide a more affordable transportation alternative, and amending statutes that potentially boost economic activities. And as we transition into the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, I remain committed to developing and amending legislation that removes barriers, creates opportunities, and improves the overall wellbeing of our people. And I would like to take this time to thank and express my deepest gratitude to my family, my parents, Charles and Lorna Manglona, my siblings, my friends, to the LB staff, my office staff, and the people of Rota. Your unwavering support during the Twenty-Third Legislature has been a source of strength and inspiration and as we move forward into the 24th, your continued trust fuels my resolve to serve with integrity, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of progress for our people of Rota, and our entire Commonwealth. So, in conclusion, let us move forward with the determination and the spirit of cooperation. Together we can craft legislation that addresses the needs of our people, supports the growth of our islands, and ensures a prosperous future for generations to come. Thank you, and may we be guided by wisdom, strength, and unity as we embark on this journey. God bless Rota, and God bless the

Commonwealth of the United States, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Thank you.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Thank you, Senator Manglona. As for myself allow me to welcome some of our dignitaries, Justice Castro family and friends of our members. Thank you for being here today. My dear people of the CNMI, both online and present today in our gallery, thank you for your patience and understanding. Thank you for attending today's ceremony, inaugural ceremony. We are truly humbled. I'm here before you today with a heart filled with gratitude. Your faith and support have been the foundation of my journey. Each step I've taken in public service. This is not just for you, but with you. I thank you for that. As your 24th Senate President, I fully understand the weight of this responsibility, and I do not take it lightly guided by the timeless principle. Our government exists on for the people by the people. I am committing to leading with the best interest of our people in mind. I will engage in thoughtful and open dialogue and deliberate decision-making process to ensure that the need. And voices of our people are at the forefront. This role is a solemn obligation that I embrace with profound sense of duty. I pledge to prioritize the advancement of our community's well-being as a whole, my leadership will be grounded in the pursuit of progress, ensuring that voices of our people are heard and valued in every discourse to my esteemed colleague, first of all, congratulations for those returning and for those that were in the 23rd. We work well together, and I believe we can do the same in the 24th. Despite our political differences, let us channel our energy into finding solution solutions that will pave the way for a brighter future for the CNMI, rather than getting bogged down on political affiliations or other or the municipality from which members held from the time is now for us to come together, united by a singular purpose, for the people that has engaged with professionalism and mutual respect at the core of our interaction, ensuring that every discourse is grounded in a shared commitment to progress. We will have disagreements. There will be times when we find ourselves at an impasse when our views and approaches seems world apart. But even in those moments of tension, we must remember the higher responsibility we bear. The office which we hold the role we served in has not just position is not just position of power, but a position of trust. There are commitments to a greater good to the people we represent and the values that bind us together as human beings. In those moments of discord, it is not our differences that should define us, but our shared purpose and dedication to progress. Our duty is to rise above the challenges, seek common ground. And to ensure that the work we do, even in times of disagreement, moves us forward towards solutions. It is through collaboration, understanding, and mutual respect that we can transform obstacles, into opportunities and divisions into unity to those who got to me in my leadership role. Thank you. Your guidance and wisdom have been invaluable throughout this journey. You have shown me the importance of humility and perseverance. I am forever grateful for your love and support and the lessons you have imparted on me. Your influence continues to shape the leader, I strive to be every day. To our outgoing Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero, thank you for showing us fairness and impartiality. Your tenure would be remembered by your diligence in addressing our concerns as a whole. Finally, to my wife, Ana and our children. I had to look for you for a second. So sorry. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and your sacrifices. My constant absence as I serve our people is made easier because of your love and your support. The sacrifice we make together on this journey are a testament to our shared commitment to the people of Rota and the CNMI. You are my strength. I am eternally grateful. Once again, to everybody here, and those watching online. Thank you. God bless the CNMI and her people. May we prosper in the years ahead. Let's get to work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

President Dennis C. Mendiola: Is there any other announcements to be made? If none, I would like to announce that the committee chairs will be forthcoming in a memo from my office, appointing the respective chairwoman and chairman for each standing committee. Next on our item of business, or order of business, may I recognize the Floor Leader to hear an adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, I now move to adjourn the Organizational session of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors: I second the motion.

The motion has been seconded.

President Dennis C. Mendiola: There is a motion on the floor for the adjournment of the Organizational session of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, and it has been seconded. All those in favor of the motion, say aye. Those opposed, say nay.

All members voiced, "aye".

Motion carries. The Organizational session of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature is hereby adjourned. I now recognize Devin C. Macaranas for the closing of the Inaugural Ceremony.

BENEDICTION

Master of Ceremony Devin C. Macaranas: Thank you, Senate President Dennis James Camacho Mendiola. I now call upon Pastor Eric Abragan to lead us in the benediction. Please stand.

Pastor Eric Abragan: Let us pray. In one of the prayers of President George Washington in 1919, he quoted Holy Scriptures in Micah 6:8, which says, he has told you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God, he prayed to our father these words. May our God who will almost graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with a charity, love, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the divine author or God. So today our heavenly father, I thank you for this very gifted and blessed men and women of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. May do may be do the same by your grace to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God. We ask for your protection and provision. For senators and their families. We pray for wisdom in their roles and responsibilities and their mission. We ask for knowledge and understanding the correct information as they navigate difficult decisions. We pray this in the name of Jesus and by your grace, would you allow

them to live and work with integrity in these privileged positions of the people's trust in the world of misinformation and division? I pray that you would protect them from forces of darkness, the distract from what is important. I ask that you give them guidance in the days to come. Father, give them wisdom. From on high. We asked for your peace in this house. We pray for the shalom peace of God that dispels case chaos and ushers a unity organizational health teamwork that allows this team to be excellent and effective. Father, may they flourish by your grace. We pray this over their families, their friends and loved ones present here today. And online. May our people and our islands be blessed as they honor you. We affirm and declare that you are good. You're the source of every good and perfect gift. And this we give you thanks, and I pronounce these blessings today. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. and be gracious to you. Lord, turn his face toward you and give you peace and the peace of Christ may rule in your hearts and be thankful that the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In the name Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Master of Ceremony Devin C. Macaranas: Thank you, Pastor Eric Abragan. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our Inaugural Ceremony for the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. On behalf of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, their families and staff, and the Legislative Bureau, *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, *Ghillisow*, and thank you for your presence today to witness this historical and memorable event. We would also like to thank the Northern Marianas College for assisting the legislature by providing photography coverage for this morning's Inaugural Ceremony and Organizational Session. The legislative members of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and the Legislative Bureau invite you to join us for lunch at the Legislature's parking lot. Please continue to practice all safety measures to keep you, your family and our community safe. May you have a great day. Thank you.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Chanele C. Borja
Senate Journal Clerk