

~~FILE~~  
02  
67  
1972

RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE  
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION

The following named individuals are active, participating members within  
the Marianas Political Status Commission (hereinafter referred to as MPSC):

1. \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman (Tenure Permanent)
2. \_\_\_\_\_, Vice Chairman (Tenure Permanent)
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_

A. Call of a meeting of the MPSC

It is the duty of the Chairman of the MPSC (hereinafter referred to as  
Chairman) to call any general meeting of the MPSC. In the absence of or  
at the specific direction of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman of the MPSC  
(hereinafter referred to as Vice Chairman) shall have the authority to call  
a meeting of the MPSC. The call of a meeting of the MPSC shall be in

writing with not less than two days advance notice unless an urgent matter requires a call without advance notice, and shall contain the following:

1. Date and time of the meeting;
2. Location of the meeting; and
3. General indication of the purpose of the meeting--it being understood that this general indication of the purpose of the meeting is not a requirement for the calling of the meeting itself, but informative only.

B. Opening of Meeting

1. It shall be the duty of the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, to open the sitting of any meeting of the MPSC at the appointed hour by taking the Chair and calling the meeting to order;
2. It shall be the duty of the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, to call the roll of the fifteen (15) active members of the MPSC for purposes of ascertainment of their presence. It shall be required that, in order for any meeting of the MPSC to continue, a quorum must be present. A quorum consists of <sup>two thirds</sup> ~~a majority~~ of the active membership of the MPSC. Should a quorum not be present, the only business that can be transacted is a motion to adjourn that session permanently, or from time to time, until a quorum is present; and
3. Upon ascertainment of a quorum being present, the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, shall proceed with the meeting by a reading or an indication of what the purpose and agenda of the meeting is to be.

C. Functions of the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, are as follows:

1. Assign each member of the MPSC a seat;
2. Maintain order and proper decorum in debate;
3. Announce the business before the MPSC in the order prescribed in the Rules;

4. Receive and submit all matters properly brought before the MPSC by its members, receive proper motions, call for votes upon same, and announce results;
5. Receive all communications and present them to the MPSC and direct the different committees of the MPSC to consider suggestions contained in such messages or letters;
6. Authenticate, by his signature, all official acts and papers of the MPSC, and transmit same as required;
7. Make known the Rules of Procedure and interpret same when so requested, and decide points of order subject to appeal to the MPSC and a reversal of said decision upon an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the membership present;
8. Direct the activities of the Executive Director, all consultants, and other administrative officers and employees of the MPSC, and oversee the administration and finances of the MPSC;
9. Do and perform such other duties as may be required by law, these Rules of Procedure, and as may properly appertain to the office of Chairman;
10. Determine whether all or part of any meeting of the MPSC be conducted in English or Chamorro;
11. Any official statements or official releases on behalf of the MPSC are to be released only by the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, after approval of the MPSC, and there are to be no further official statements, other than the aforementioned, made by any member, consultant, or staff personnel of the MPSC;
12. When the Chairman has recognized a member of the MPSC to hold the floor or speak, that member shall continue to hold the floor until such time as he ceases to speak to the question or otherwise yield the floor,

except that he may yield the floor for the raising of a point of information or a point of order by another member and still retain the floor. No member shall speak for more than ten (10) minutes each time he is recognized, and this ten minute time frame shall be maintained and determined by the Chairman; and

13. The Chairman may close debate and call for a vote on the question before the MPSC at any time he is satisfied that every member desiring to speak to the question has spoken or has had an opportunity to do so.

D. Lodging of a Motion

A motion to be put before the MPSC must be raised in definitive form either verbally or in writing by one of the members of the MPSC. The motion must thereupon be seconded by another member of the MPSC within a one-minute interval, or the proposed motion will fail at that juncture. Once a motion has been properly introduced and seconded, that motion is then open for debate. Debate shall continue until the Chairman closes debate and calls for a vote on the motion according to the rules set forth herein.

E. Vote on the Motion

A vote on a motion pending before the MPSC shall be either by voice, show of hands, roll call, or secret ballot. A secret ballot may be requested by any member of the MPSC on any vote on any motion provided, however, such request is supported by a majority of the members present. If no such request is forthcoming, the Chairman may use a show of hands for voting purposes. Any member, on any given motion, may require for the record an indication of the outcome of the vote as to each individual member of the MPSC except in those instances where a secret ballot is requested whereupon only the ascertainment of the result of the vote will be recorded. A motion will be adopted only upon a majority vote in favor of said motion of those members present at the session, after proper

ascertainment of a quorum. Any motion that does not receive a majority affirmative vote is thereby rejected and cannot be re-introduced in its same form at that session of the MPSC. An abstention, for purposes of determining whether or not a motion shall be adopted, shall be treated as an affirmative vote; and will so show in the record as an affirmative vote.

Should any procedural problem develop that is not specifically answered by the above-stated Rules of Procedure, the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, shall refer to "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER REVISED" or "MODERN RULES OF ORDER" to assist in a determination of the appropriate procedure to follow. However, neither of the aforementioned books shall have any binding control on the Chairman's final determination.