

SAIPAN, NOVEMBER 15 (MNS) ---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN SAID THAT THE LAST ROUND OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS IS SET FOR DECEMBER 2 ON SAIPAN, ACCORDING TO A STORY CARRIED IN THE MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS, SAIPAN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

SENATOR PANGELINAN AND VICENTE N. SANTOS, VICE-CHAIRMAN, JUST RETURNED TO SAIPAN FOLLOWING A TWO DAY PRE-STATUS CONFERENCE IN HONOLULU WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AND JAMES M. WILSON, WILLIAMS'S DEPUTY.

THE MEETING IN HONOLULU WAS HELD TO ALLOW THE HEADS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS TO REVIEW THE WORK OF THE DELEGATION SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE LAST STATUS NEGOTIATIONS ON SAIPAN LAST MAY. SENATOR PANGELINAN INDICATED THAT SEVERAL ISSUES WERE IDENTIFIED WHICH WOULD REQUIRE RESOLUTION BEFORE THE STATUS AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED.

THE ISSUES INCLUDE LEASES VERSUS PURCHASE OF LAND ON TINIAN FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, THE PRICE OF LAND TO BE ACQUIRED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND APPLICABILITY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND ITS EXCEPTIONS IN THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH FOR THE MARIANAS.

THE MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CONFERENCE IS ONE OF THE CONTINUING EFFORTS BY THE TWO DELEGATIONS TO CONTINUE AN OPEN LINE OF COMMUNICATION AND IN PARTICULAR TO IDENTIFY THE ISSUES THAT WOULD REQUIRE RESEARCH AND CONSIDERATION BY THE STATUS DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO THE NEXT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, THE VARIETY STORY STATED.

THE FINAL ROUND OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY DECEMBER IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON ALL THE REMAINING ISSUES AND HOPEFULLY TO TURN THE ATTENTION OF THE NEGOTIATORS TO REVIEW THE LANGUAGE OF THE STATUS AGREEMENT AND THE SIGNING OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT BY THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.  
(CDDL SPECIAL SESSION OPENS)

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