

Meeting of the Plebiscite Voter Registration Board at the Office of the Plebiscite Commissioner at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 16, 1975.

Present:

Mr. Edward Dela Cruz, Chairman	Mr. Joaquin Torres
Mr. Abel Olopai	Mr. John C. Craft, Attorney for P.C.
Mr. William Reyes	Mr. N. Neiman Craley, Jr., Executive Dir
Mr. Nicolas Palacios	Mr. Erwin D. Cankam, Plebiscite Commis
Mr. Ricardo Villagomez	
Mr. Pedro Manglona	
Mr. Antonio Guerrero	
Mr. Lorenzo Diaz	
Mr. Dimas Hocog	
Mr. Roman Tudela	

Members of U.N. Mission: Ambassador Murray, Mr. Melhuish, Mr. De Lataillade, Mr. Abebe, Ms. De Costa, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Mallison and Mr. Katzen.

The Plebiscite Commissioner invited Mr. Dela Cruz, Chairman of the Plebiscite Voter Registration Board, to introduce the members of the PVRB. Mr. Cruz introduced members and reported the resignation of Mr. Alfonso Raza on May 23. He then outlined duties of the PVRB as set forth in Secretarial Order No. 2973. He stated that a total of 5379 persons had been registered. The Plebiscite Commissioner distributed copies of registration and voting experience in the Northern Marianas. Commenting on the fact that the 5379 registered voters was less than the last registration for the Congress of Micronesia election, he asked Mr. Dela Cruz to explain the difference. Mr. Dela Cruz said that there were two reasons: a) In some areas the plebiscite registration was less but in others it was more. This was due to people moving their residence. b) People from other districts of Micronesia were permitted to vote in the Marianas for the Congress of Micronesia election.

Ambassador Murray asked whether the PVRB felt that all those who have the right to register have registered. Mr. Tudela said that with the exception of the Guam residents he felt that almost all if not all people had registered.

Mr. Dela Cruz said that in ruling in favor of the Guam residents' right to vote, the PVRB had taken their affidavit that Saipan was their domicile. Ambassador Murray said that the U.N. Mission's only interest was to see whether the procedures outlined in the Secretarial Order had been properly carried out. They obviously had and it was not for the U.N. Mission to comment on the decisions of the Court.

He also said that the Mission had been provided with minutes of the PVRB's proceedings. These provided ample proof of the PVRB's hard work. He had one question: There was discussion of sending a delegation from the PVRB to Guam to look into the Guam cases. It was not clear from the minutes why this had not been done. Mr. Dela Cruz said that the PVRB had decided against sending a delegation because they felt that it was not the duty of the Board to investigate. The Board had only limited time for its deliberation and that the challengers should provide evidence against registration.

Mr. Olopai said that there had been considerable argument on the Board. They had consulted the Plebiscite Commissioner and he was ready to assist in making any arrangements but the Board as a whole had voted 6-5 against going.

Mr. Tudela said the Board had only two days to complete their work. They could not spare three people. Mr. Olopai said he felt the Board was entitled to the truth. It was not true that the Board did not have time. The Board found time to extend its own existence.

PLEBISCITE VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING

June 2, 1975 (1:00 p.m.)

Present

Edward T. Dela Cruz, Chairman
Roman T. Tudela
Pedro A. Manglona
Misael Ogo
Leonardo F. Diaz
Antonio R. Di. Cuervo
Ricardo P. Villagomez
Nicolas T. Palacios

Also Present

David Maratita

The Chairman called the meeting to order. He informed the Board that there were a number of Absentee Registrations that must be considered.

The Board acted on the following registrations:

Absentee Registrations Approved by the Board

- 1) Lizama, Maria Camacho
- 2) Teregeyo, Inacir R.
- 3) Tenorio, Priscilla Takai
- 4) Tenorio, Francisca Takai
- 5) Attao, Maximo Torres
- 6) Benavente, Veronica Arriola
- 7) Mendiola, Calistro Reyes
- 8) Taitano, Joaquin Igitol
- 9) Sanchez, Dolores Reyes
- 10) Borja, Alexander DLG
- 11) Atalig, Pedro M.
- 12) Lifoifo, Victor Selepeo
- 13) Archibald, Agnes Guerrero
- 14) Castro, Juan I. Jr.
- 15) Barcinas, Donald Cabrera
- 16) Taimanao, Carmen Songao
- 17) Hiyane, Angelina Atalig
- 18) San Nicolas, Matilde Arriola
- 19) Kisa, Doroteo Babauta
- 20) Ayuyu, Jose Cruz
- 21) Seman, Jacoba Takeda
- 22) Cabrera, Juan Tenorio
- 23) Sablan, Consolacion Duenas
- 24) Marciano, Dolores Ichihara
- 25) Inos, Rita Hocog
- 26) Villanueva, Ignacio
- 27) Rechebel, Elizabeth Diaz
- 28) Taitano, Escolastica Igitol
- 29) Babauta, Juan Nekai
- 30) Mendiola, Elizabeth Sasakura