

November 18, 1976

Mr. Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary
Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Atalig:

The following are my comments on the draft constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

ARTICLE I
PERSONAL RIGHTS

Section 4-f,g. What is excessive? Is excessive to anyone definition?

ARTICLE II
THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

Section 2. It appears that the delegates want to make the legislature as an employment center - making a large number of our people politicians, instead of encouraging our people to learn the skill work and other professional work to run our government. We will have more people making laws than the people to carry them out. Is being a politician the only thing that our people are qualified? I certainly do not believe so. Therefore, I recommend six (6) senators, two (2) for each island district, and the present composition of the Northern Marianas Legislature shall be for the House of Representative.

Section 8. I am strongly in favor. If we let the House of Representative confirm appointment, it gets too political that we may forget about the candidate's qualification.

Section 12. I strongly support.

ARTICLE III
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

Section 2. Qualifications of the Governor - I recommend fifteen (15) years residency requirement.

ARTICLE XI
PUBLIC LANDS

1. The Corporation shall be allowed to transfer title of any public lands to Public Housing Agency for housing development.

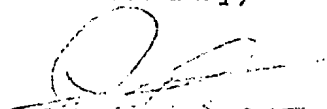
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2. The Corporation shall not issue village homestead, but must work with the executive and legislative branches of government and Public Housing Agency for housing development to be within reach for every Northern Marianas families.
3. Please be advised that it is in the Federal Housing Regulations that funds cannot be secured with homestead property. Village homestead is a political joke. Believe me there will be no housing funds from the Federal government for village homestead.

There are many Federal housing subsidies programs and there is no reason why a Public Housing Agency like MIHA cannot develop housing for every Northern Marianas families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft constitutions.

Sincerely,


Jesus T. Mizama
(MIHA Executive Director)