



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Natural Resources

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June 27, 1985

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Chairman, Committee on Local Government
Second Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention
House of Taga
San Vicente, Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reference to the following Delegate Proposal Nos. 73-85, "To Repeal Article III, Section 17 (b) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands Relative to Resident Department Heads for Rota and Tinian", Proposal No. 109-85, "To Amend Section 2 of Article VI of the Northern Marianas Constitution relating to Election of Mayor", Proposal No. 118-85, "To Amend Article VI of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands regarding Local Government", Proposal No. 151-85, "To delete Article VI of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution in its entirety relating to Local Government", and Proposal No. 154-85, "To Amend Section 17 (a) of Article III; to delete Section 17(b) and (c) of Article III of the Northern Marianas Constitution in their entirety relating to Public Services".

First of all, I want to thank you and this Committee for giving me the opportunity to comment. Mr. Chairman, if you permit me to say the following are my comments for the above proposals:

Proposal No. 73-85: No. For efficient government services and to carry out the programs of the administration, the Resident Department Heads should remain. The Department Head requires to deal with only one person instead of several persons. He is a political appointee and as such he will perform his duties and responsibilities diligently. It will be less expensive to have only one Resident Department Head to be involve with the activities of his assigned duties than to have several supervisors involved.

Proposal No. 109-85: No. Mayor Office has a definite function in our government. For an efficient government operation, the responsibilities of Mayor should be defined. It seems there are too many duplication of

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responsibilities which resulted in confusion. The chain of command in relation to the department of government should be defined more clearly. It would probably improved public services to the community under propose precinct Commissioners. However, it will be more expensive and a duplication of responsibility since at the present, the members of the House of Representatives extend public services to his precinct.

Proposal No. 151-85: Yes. I think that the Mayor's position as it stands now is merely just a figure head for our government. Public service are really not been taken care as provided in the Constitution Article VI Section 3. I strongly support the intention of the delegation to delete Article VI intensively.

Proposal No. 154-85: No. I strongly feel that Article III Section 17 should not be deleted. Public Services will be more effective and efficient if it runs by the Resident Department Head of the respective Departments. The Resident Directors are in daily contact with their clientiles. Deleting Section 17(b) and (c) of Article III will only cause inconvenience to the people of the respective islands of Rota and Tinian. Appointing one person to each of these two islands and to run eight government division department will only cause confusion and will not guarantee that public services can be deliver efficient and on a timely basis. Again, I urge your support not to delete Article III Section 7(a) and (c).

Proposal No. 118-85: No. I do not support proposal No. 118-85 on its entirety. We do not wish to create another body which could easily be handled by our existing legislature. After all, every island within the Commonwealth is represented by in both houses of the legislature. I feel that the Mayor is capable of handling the operations of the local government.

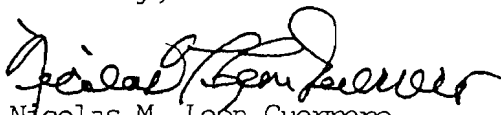
In the event that proposal 118-85 is passed by the delegates, questions will be raised as to why would Resident Department Heads be confirmed by the council when the present law authorizes the delegates of Legislature of respective islands to confirm such nominations. The delegates in the legislature are from their respective Senatorial District.

Again, I do not support the intention of proposal No. 118-85.

The above are some concerns that may be appropriate for changes or revisions. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the above proposals.

Sincerely,


Nicolas M. Leon Guerrero
Director of Natural Resources