



SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
SAIPAN, CM 96950

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July 8, 1985

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Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Governor Tenorio:

I wish to voice my strong displeasure and disappointment in the lack of interest being shown towards the Constitutional Convention on the part of witnesses from the Executive Branch. In particular, there is an absence of cooperation from these persons to appear and testify at public hearings scheduled after regular working hours and/or on weekends.

The choice to schedule and conduct public hearings on weekends and after regular working hours is not by our casual design, but is necessitated through the enabling legislation which allotted the Convention only 30 calendar days to complete its mandate. You are aware that to date 315 Delegate Proposals and 6 Resolutions have been introduced for consideration. It is impossible and impractical to schedule public hearings only during regular working hours.

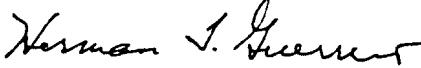
I cannot stress enough the importance of our need to receive the input of different views from a variety of expert witnesses. It is imperative that we obtain these views from those witnesses who are most qualified to talk on the issues under consideration. None of the delegates are experts on all of the matters that are being considered.

It is my hope that government employees would be reminded again of the importance of their role in this Convention to help refine, shape and make more relevant the current Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. As witnesses they will help us to make sound decisions about including new amendments and provisions in the Constitution changes which shall affect everyone in the Commonwealth now in the future.

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I am grateful for your strong continuing support of the efforts of the Convention, and I implore you to encourage witnesses from the Executive Branch to give the public hearings a high priority. Government employees should accept that it is their obligation and responsibility to include Convention needs in their call to duty and to take the time necessary to testify at public hearings, even when they are scheduled for after regular working hours and/or on weekends.

Sincerely,


Herman T. Guerrero
President