

Recd 7/8/85  
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BP NO. 109-85  
PH NO. 5

July 08, 1985

Delegate Paul A. Manglona  
Chairman, Committee on Local  
Government  
Second Northern Marianas  
Constitutional Convention  
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As a commissioner for the Village of San Roque,  
District of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1970,  
I tend to favor Delegate Proposal No. ~~275-85~~ 109-85  
The commissioner system during the Trust Territory  
Government was an effective method of represen-  
tation. As a commissioner, I had constant personal  
contact with the village people, I was very access-  
ible. In time of performing certain community  
projects for the village, the village people are  
readily available to participate. This type of  
community involvement, undoubtedly, gives birth  
to community awareness, social tranquility within  
the community, and a feeling of unity in the  
community's identity. Thus, I support any attempt  
to revitalize this type of representation.

The intend of Delegate Proposal No. <sup>109</sup>~~275~~-85 (here-  
inafter "Proposal"), however is not a true revitali-  
zation of the type of commissionership I described  
above. The Proposal attempts to provide for precinct  
commissioners (there were eleven commissioners during  
the T.T. Government) for each existing election  
precincts in place of one mayor for the island of  
Saipan (third senatorial district). My first con-  
cern of the Proposal is that unless it provides  
for a commissioner for the Village of San Roque  
(election pricinct 4B) and the village of Tanapag  
(election precinct 4A) having another commissioner,  
then I reserved my support. I firmly believe

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that the positive attributes described above can be revitalized for the Village of San Roque only if the eleventh commissioner is provided.

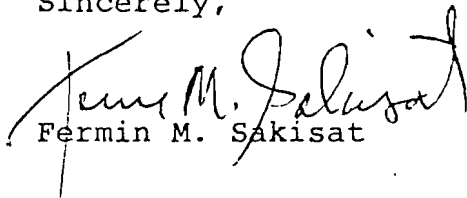
Another concern that I have on the Proposal is the different forms of local government within the Commonwealth. There seems to be certain inconsistency of having a mayorship type of local government in certain senatorial districts while having a commissionership type of local government in another. As a citizen, I find this bothersome.

Finally, not only that I am concern of the financial feasibility but also to the substance of the Proposal. For the several thousands of people of Saipan, are we really in need of this many and different types of representation?

It may be that I am exhibiting a contradictory position with this Proposal but this is not how I intend to do. While on one hand I am in support of this Proposal and on the other hand I am criticizing its content, my purpose is that maybe this Proposal can be reworded to the extent that it accomodates those concerns I have indicated above.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Fermin M. Sakisat