

President Recd 7/9/85



House of Representatives
FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
P.O. Box
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DP NO. ~~100~~ 109-85

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JUAN R. TUDELA
Vice Speaker

July 9, 1985

COMMITTEES:
Health, Education & Welfare
Vice Chairman
Appropriations
Member
War Claims & Federal Land Taking
Member

Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Chairman
Committee on Local Government
Second NMI Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Chairman Manglona:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and testify before your honorable committee in regards to a proposed Constitutional amendment which would amend Section 2 of Article VI of the Northern Marianas Constitution relating to the election of Mayor for the Saipan district and to replace it with precinct Commissioners.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see that the Mayor's Office remains as is in addition to adding a constitutional amendment which would give the Mayor a full authority and power in terms of decision-making process independent from other authorities such as the Governor. In other words, the Mayor should make decisions and perform public services without necessarily consulting or obtaining the approval of the Governor when such performances and actions does not require the Governor's attention.

Also, Mr Chairman, although I am in support of retaining the Mayor's office in Saipan, perhaps it is also fitting if there is a constitutional amendment that would create a Mayor's Advisory Commission which shall consists of four advisors whose duties, generally, is to advise and to report directly to the Mayor with regards to all administrative matters. May I also recommend that the appointment power for the membership of this advisory commission shall be vested in the Mayor. Furthermore, I recommend that the compensation of the advisors will be decided upon the recommendation of the Advisory Commission on compensation. Also, I recommend that the Commission shall perform its duties on a full time basis and must not hold any other governmental position upon assuming their constitutional position.

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In my opinion, the ineffectiveness of the Mayor's Office in handling and performing community projects as expected by the people, dictates that most of the heavy equipments necessary toward performing community services were given to the Department of Public Works which in turn does not give full control over the equipments to the Mayor's Office which is primarily responsible to perform such services. The other reason, is that the Mayor is not fully provided the authority to procure necessary equipments parts to repair and maintain broken equipments that it can use in the community, among administrative matters in our government.

Because of the mere fact that there is a confusion among the people as to who is responsible for the services, there is presently a duplication of effort in existence between Public Works, administration and the Legislature. There is absolutely no specific indication as to who does what and where is the proper channel to request for community services.

As a two term elected Congressman, everyday I receive numerous complaints and assistance requests for coral, equipments, streetlight installation and even I have to prepare job order requests for these services. At times, I had to rent heavy equipments from the private sector because of various reasons which have never been taken care of. As a public servant, I cannot afford to ignore the people's needs but at times, my hands are tied to immediately take care of all these problems.

Mr. Chairman, it is about time to address and consider these matters seriously so that the provision establishing the Office of the Mayor must be clearly specified as to its actual duties and functions within the community.

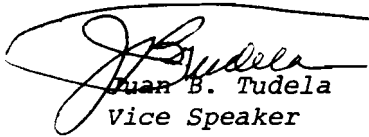
If these matters are resolved and clearly provided in the Constitution, the Mayor's Office can be effective in the community unlike in the past.

I feel that with the creation of a Mayor's Advisory Commission which consists of the four advisors, whose offices shall be within the community, the community's needs can very well be accommodated in an effective and efficient manner by the advisory commission.

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*If I may be of further assistance to you and your committee,
please do not hesitate to call on me. Again, thank you
for this opportunity and best wishes for our future. I
remain.*

Sincerely yours,


Juan B. Tudela
Vice Speaker