



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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CHAMORRO/CAROLINIAN LANGUAGE POLICY COMMISSION

JULY 10, 1985

Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero
Chairman
Committee on Finance & Other Matters
Second N.M. Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Chairman Guerrero:

We are very pleased to present to you and your committee our mounted picture in water color, the replica of our CNMI flag as requested during our testimony for proposal No. 108-85.

The significance of Mwar which we have selected to reflect our cultural heritage on our CNMI flag was described in our written testimony dated and submitted to you on June 28, 1985. The flowers of the Mwar we are further requested to describe compose of the Atbahakat, Lengilang, and the Plumeria.

The Atbahakat is a legendary shrub which when in bloom produces a dense cluster of florets some in light green color and others in light brown. When the florets mature, they produce very rich and pleasant fragrance. These florets were commonly mixed with coconut oil which in turn was used to apply to the body. The application of this oil reflects many purposes. Some for ceremonial and others for healing. Atbahakat was also commonly used for sacred rituals along with special type of coconuts by those who possess healing power.

Lengilang is green and yellowish in color when in bloom and also produces very rich and pleasant fragrance. Lengilang is also sometimes mixed with coconut oil and in some instances simultaneously with Atbahakat.

Plumeria, or the Flores Mayo, is our CNMI official flower. The popularity and beauty of this all season flower has for years and years captured the hearts of many lovers through music composers. Its abundance has made it one of the most attractive ornamental flower around the islands and for all occasions.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Jose M. Taitano
Executive Director