

Delegates call for cooperation

SAIPAN Delegate Tomas B. Aldan took the floor of the Third Constitutional Convention Tuesday morning (June 6) and called for cooperation among the delegates to accomplish the mission they were all elected to do and come out with a good product to benefit the residents of the Commonwealth.

Reading from a prepared statement, Del. Aldan said the product of the Third Constitutional Convention will be remembered by the people, and not authors of proposals.

"We all need one another to be successful," Aldan said. "We all must keep an open mind and sup-

Tourism is viable source of revenues in Pacific



Tomas B. Aldan

port proposal one thinks is good and would benefit the Commonwealth for years to come."

Aldan, who is a former Administrator of the Retirement Fund, said that if the delegates keep in mind that it is the product of the Convention the people will remember and not individual authors, and work cooperatively to-

gether, the Convention will become a success and they will all be proud of their product.

"If the Convention fail, we all fail," Aldan said. "If we succeed in producing amendments that would withstand the test of time, we will all succeed. As such, I am not here for anyone of you or for any individual or any special interest group. I am here to work for the people."

The former Director of Finance urged the delegates to give their "heart and soul" to the Convention to serve the people the best way they can.

"There is no room in this forum for vendetta and ill-feelings," he declared. "But there is plenty of room for constructive criticism, team work, and the feeling of oneness. Our people expect and deserve the best from each of us. Nothing more. Nothing less," Del. Aldan concluded.

On opening day Monday, Del-



Benjamin T. Manglona

egate Benjamin T. Manglona from Rota also issued words of inspiration about the diverse groups of individuals forming the convention.

"In this diversity, there is strength. There is power in these differences. Let our unique backgrounds and viewpoints not divide and weaken us, they are the

cement that brings and holds us together and strengthens our political union."

"...Let this principle be our guiding light as we begin our difficult task," Manglona said.

Manglona, who is a former Lieutenant Governor, said the diverse group of people representing at the Constitutional Convention various groups of people is a source of strength to "turn away economic and social dangers that threaten us." And that source of strength will forge solutions for the many internal problems the CNMI government will face in the next century, according to Delegate Manglona. "There is a real strength in our diversity," he pointed out. "We must respect our differences or we will weaken and not make stronger our great Commonwealth."