



# Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

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June 9, 1995

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

RE: Committee Membership, ~~Procedures~~ and Schedules

After considering the various comments and suggestions regarding the committee structure and the issues raised during the organization meeting of the committees, the Committee on Organization and Procedures has reached the following conclusions.

- 1. Membership.** The membership of the committee will remain as previously announced. The delegates are reminded that they are free to attend meeting of committees of which they are not members in order to explain and urge adoption of their proposals. Information regarding the tentative agendas and schedules of the committees can be obtained from members of the committees or their Chairs or Vice-Chairs. Delegates will also remain entitled to present their views on the floor of the Convention in the event that substantive committee that considered their proposals did not incorporate their ideas in the recommendation made by the committee to the Convention.
- 2. Procedures.** The Committee has considered whether the proceedings of the committees should be recorded. There is no requirement in the Rules of Procedures adopted by the Convention that requires such recording except for public hearings as specified by Rule 30. The Committee has decided that committee meeting should not be recorded. First, we believe that the members should be free to speak freely, to change their minds when the arguments presented persuade them to do so, and to discuss the issues informally without feeling that every comment is being recorded. Second, after the committee reaches a tentative decision regarding a proposed amendment to the Constitution, counsel will prepare appropriate draft constitutional language and a supporting draft committee report to the Convention. The committee will then review the draft report to see that it accurately records the deliberations of the committee. This report will be the authoritative source for legislative history purposes of the issues considered by the committee and the reasons advanced to support its recommendation to the Convention.
- 3. Schedule.** The Committee has decided to schedule the next plenary session for Thursday, June 15, at 10:00 A.M. We would like to have some proposed amendments and supporting reports from the committees to consider

at that time. This will require that each committee meet regularly next week and work hard according to the agenda adopted by the chairs of the committees. The Convention now has received substantially more than 300 proposals for consideration by the committees. Although many of these identify important issues for consideration, a large number deal with issues that clearly are "legislative" in nature. We ask the committees to consider the briefings of counsel during the pre-convention period and to concentrate on those proposals that are truly fundamental. In addition, we suggest that delegates limit any future proposals to only those areas that have not yet been the subject of other proposals. If you have ideas that you want considered by the committees, you can participate in the committee's discussion of the subject or ask another delegate to consider your suggestions. This Convention has a very important and difficult task before it and we must concentrate now on the work before the committees.

The Committee has approved the following schedule for committee meetings during the week of June 12, 1995:

Monday, June 12, 1995

8:00 A.M.	Committee on Organization and Procedures
9:00 A.M.	Committee on Executive Branch and Local Government
1:00 P.M.	Committee on Judiciary and Other Elected Offices
2:00 P.M.	Committee on Legislative Branch and Public Finance

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

9:00 A.M.	Committee on Judiciary and Other Elected Offices
9:00 A.M.	Committee on Executive Branch and Local Government
2:00 P.M.	Committee on Land and Personal Rights
3:00 P.M.	Committee on Legislative Branch and Public Finance

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

9:00 A.M.	Committee on Judiciary and Other Elected Offices
9:00 A.M.	Committee on Executive Branch and Local Government
2:00 P.M.	Committee on Legislative Branch and Public Finance

Thursday, June 15, 1995

10:00 A.M. Plenary Session  
2:00 P.M. Committee on Judiciary and Other Elected Offices (Tentative)

Friday, June 16, 1995

9:00 A.M. Public Hearings (Committee on Land and Personal Rights)  
(Tentative)  
2:00 P.M. Committee on Legislative Branch and Public Finance  
(Tentative)

The above schedule, especially with respect to meetings later in the week, is tentative and the entire schedule is subject to revision at the request of the chairs and this Committee.

  
HERMAN T. GUERRERO  
President

cc: Legal Team