



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Center
Callar, Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-0843 • Fax No.: (670) 235-0842

July 12, 1995

Honorable Herman T. Guerrero *H.T.G.*
President
Third Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear President Guerrero:

As the Convention progresses with its fiduciary responsibilities, it became very apparent that the Convention requires the services of translators, Chamorro and Carolinian.

I would like to recommend that the Convention utilizes the services of the Language Commission. It has translators for both Chamorro and Carolinian and I am sure that the Commission will be very happy to assist the Convention in its translation needs as well as a savings for the Convention since they are government employees. May I recommend that the Convention utilizes the services of Mr. William Macaranas for the Chamorro translation and Mr. Jose Roppul for the Carolinian version.

If I can be of assistance in this manner, please let me know. *→ south or north*

Sincerely,

F. R. Nogis
FELIX R. NOGIS
Chairman

Committee on Executive Branch
and Local Government

cc: Legal Counsel

Const. Tuesday
midweek 2-4 day
Thursday

TO: Grace Suarez
FROM: Cinta M. Kaipat *CMK*
DATE: July 19, 1995
SUBJECT: Bilingual Translators

I spoke to Mr. William Macaranas of the Language Commission (Phone: 288-5321) about the possibility of retaining him and Mr. Jose Roppul to translate the Constitution into Carolinian and Chamorro. You asked me to find out (1) if they would be interested in the assignment; (2) whether they would be able to work within a two- to three-day deadline; and (3) how much they would charge. (Note: Mr. Macaranas is Mr. Roppul's boss.)

According to Mr. Macaranas, it would be difficult to accomplish the translations with only two people. While the Language Commission is willing to assist with the translation, based on past experience, the suggested time frame and manpower would be impossible. He said it took well over a month to complete the translations for the Second Con-Con--even with several people working virtually 'round the clock to complete the task. He indicated that, on the average, it takes about a day to translate a half a page to a page of text because the translators must review each other's work.

In order to accomplish this task in the most efficient and expeditious manner, Mr. Macaranas suggests that a Translation Committee be established as soon as possible to work specifically on this assignment. He gave me a list of names to contact should the Convention agree to establish such a committee. For those translators who are still employed by the government, Mr. Macaranas suggests that a formal letter from the Convention be sent to all the respective employers of the translators requesting that they be temporarily relieved of their normal duties to concentrate on the translations. He also indicated that some of the people who worked on the last translation have retired, though we may still be able to contact them for assistance.

With respect to costs, Mr. Macaranas said that he would be willing to arrange for he and Mr. Roppul to work on some of the translations during regular working hours, which would help cut down on some of the expenses as they would not be able to charge their time to the Con-Con. However, they would have to be compensated for time worked beyond the normal working hours. In addition to this, the "retired translators" would also have to be compensated. It was premature to discuss figures at this time until the Convention decides what to do.

If the Con-Con agrees to establish a Translation Committee, then Mr. Macaranas would like to set up a meeting with Delegate Felix Nogis (and/or whomever the appropriate persons may be) as soon as can be arranged. I told him that I would get back to him.

/cmk