

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE JOSE DELA CRUZ SPEAKS ABOUT THE CON-CON

I believe, I truly believe, that this Convention has turned out one of the most excellent products in Constitutional law that will guide us, the people of the Commonwealth, for generations to come.

While the proposed constitutional amendments that will be put to the people [on Saturday, March 2] speak of having another Constitutional Convention in 25 years, I believe that this Constitution is so good, as [now federal Magistrate Judge] Bernie Zimmerman noted, that it may not be necessary to have another Constitutional Convention for the next several decades.

This is an excellent product that this Convention should be proud of.

I think that the issues debated by the delegates to this Convention have been substantive and serious and reflect in large measure the ability, the camaraderie, the sense of unity that the delegates from all the three different islands have engendered.

I am proud to be a member of the legal team and I hope that the participation that I have made and given to the Convention has helped the delegates in some way. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
Counsel to the Third Northern Marianas
Constitutional Convention
Statement before the Convention
August 3, 1995

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**VOTE “YES” ON THE 19 AMENDMENTS
PROPOSED BY YOUR ELECTED
CONVENTION DELEGATES**

I WAS HONORED TO SERVE AS AN ELECTED DELEGATE TO THE
THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A GROUP OF COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS WORK SO
HARD -- ON A NONPARTISAN BASIS -- TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY.

I DID NOT AGREE WITH EACH AND EVERY CHANGE PROPOSED BY
THE CONVENTION. BUT, WHEN I LOOK AT EACH OF THE 19 AMENDMENTS, I AM
CONVINCED THAT EACH AMENDMENT IS BETTER THAN THE STATUS QUO .

EACH AMENDMENT WILL MAKE OUR COMMONWEALTH A BETTER PLACE
IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK. THESE AMENDMENTS WILL:

**MAKE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT LOWER COST
AND MORE EFFECTIVE**

**LET LOCAL MATTERS BE HANDLED BY LOCAL ELECTED
OFFICIALS AND LOCAL VOTERS**

**STRENGTHEN PROTECTION FOR LOCAL PEOPLE ON LAND
MATTERS**

UPDATE OUR CONSTITUTION WHERE NECESSARY

JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION. VOTE “YES” ON EACH OF THE 19 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

JUAN S. TENORIO