



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

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

Post Constitutional Convention Committee Office
Joeten Dandan Commercial Center

AGENDA

Thursday, August 17, 1995
9:30 A.M.

1. Call to Order *- 10:00 am*
2. Ascertain Quorum *✓*
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. Minutes of August 7, 1995 *- Adopted*
4. Reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment

**Post Constitutional Convention Committee Meeting
August 17, 1995**

Attachment No. 1

1. Letters of August 10, 1995 to Governor, Lt. Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Executive Director of Board of Elections and Acting Attorney General - Transmittal of Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands as amended by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention and Analysis of the Constitution.
2. Letter of August 10, 1995 to Executive Director of Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission - Requesting assistance to proofread and review the draft unofficial Chamorro version of the Constitution as amended by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.
3. House Bill No. 9-408, S.D.2, H.S.1. ("To provide for a special election to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution which may be submitted by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention") - The bill is currently pending in the Senate for action.
4. House Joint Resolution 9-25 ("To recall House Legislative Initiative 9-1 from the Board of Elections and for other purposes) - Adopted by the House on August 9, 1995. HJR transmitted to the Senate for action.
5. Chair 's letter of August 8, 1995 to Editor-in-Chief of Georgetown Law Journal.
6. Memo of August 16, 1996 from Howard and Deanne re CD-ROM project for ConCon documents (Constitution, Analysis, daily journals, summary journals, attachments and public hearing transcript).
7. Press release of August 14, 1995 from Howard and Deanne re Article 11 and Article 14.
8. Press release of August 15, 1995 from Howard and Deanne re Article 19: Commonwealth Unity.
9. Press release of August 16, 1995 from Howard and Deanne re Article 17: Ethical Standards.



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**Post Constitutional Convention Committee Meeting
August 18, 1995**

Attachment No. 1

1. Letters of August 10, 1995 to Governor, Lt. Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Executive Director of Board of Elections and Acting Attorney General - Transmittal of Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands as amended by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention and Analysis of the Constitution.
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Post Convention Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 1995
Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Center

- I. Call To Order -- The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am with quorum present. Present were Chair Herman T. Guerrero, members Felix R. Nogis, Tomas B. Aldan, Justo S. Quitugua', Esther S. Fleming, David Q. Maratita and John O. DLR. Gonzales. Counsels Howard Willens and Deanne Siemers were also present.
- II. Organization and Procedures -- members discussed the organizational composition, concerns and priorities of the Post - Convention Committee.

A. Officers -- Herman T. Guerrero was selected as Chair, Esther S. Fleming the Vice Chair and John O. DLR. Gonzales the Secretary of the Committee.

B. Priorities/Concerns -- discussion resulted in the delineating of the following priorities, mainly (1) public education; (2) preparation of amendments for ballot; (3) appropriation of budget for public education and post-convention expenses; and (4) lobbying the legislature to amend P.L. 9-18 to allow for a special election for the amendments.

1. Public Education -- it was the concensus that the overall goal of the post - convention committee must be to assume an aggressive and unrelenting position in ensuring a comprehensive public education campaign. In its efforts to market the amendments to the public smoothly without unnecessary hamper, the post - convention committee must stand unwavering in defending the proposed amendments from potential legal and political opposition. The committee's bottom line goal is to ensure that the public fully understands all of the proposed amendments in time for voting. This would be accomplished, for example, by extensive weekly press releases of every single proposed amendment per article via newspapers, television and radio spots; via cluster public schools; via government departments or agencies; and most importantly, via well arranged public hearings throughout each or cluster villages throughout the CNMI.

The committee also recommended that we utilize the services of Mrs. Carmen Taima'nao of the Chamorro Bilingual Program of PSS, retired Chamorro Bilingual expert, Mrs. Dolores I. Marciano, Dr. Rita H. Inos, Deputy Executive Director of PREL, Mr. Jesus Elameto for his Carolinian

Orthography knowledge, Crispin Kaipat, retiree Felipe Ruak and Carolinian Bilingual Program retiree Mr. Francisco Olopai.

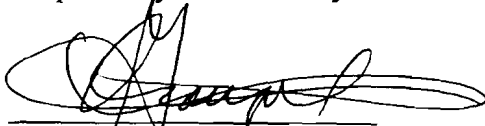
2. Preparation of Amendments for Balloting -- discussion ensued on the issue of how to present the amendments to the public for voting, whether by article, amendment or combined as sections. Counsel Willens advised the members of his discussion with the Board of Elections (BOE) legal counsel that the BOE's position is that the presentation of the amendments will be to their discretion, in light of the technicalities and time constraints involved for the upcoming November mid-year elections absent a special election. Both counsels (Willens and Siemers), however, informed the committee to tentatively hold off on any official decisions until they provide the committee with their preliminary findings on how best to present the amendments which would withstand potential legal and political challenges.

3. Appropriation of needed budget for public education and post - convention committee expenses -- member Tom B. Aldan was assigned to configure the overall budget needs of the committee. Among others, funding will be needed for the indexing of the entire convention proceedings off - island, perhaps the Carolinian translation of the draft constitution, retention of the services of a local attorney to assist our counsels, and counsels' services for the post - convention work. Additionally, funding is needed for public education supplies and equipment, printing, translations, necessary media spots and others.

4. Special Elections through the Legislature's amendment of P.L. 9-18 -- with the fate and success of the proposed amendments bearing on the legislature's action to amend P.L. 9 - 18 for a special election, members unanimously agreed that a collective effort was needed to lobby the legislature for their action. The committee unequivocally recommended that November is just too soon and presents a threat that the amendments will not be treated as important, if not, more important than the congressional elections as had been the case in the past. Therefore, members vowed to lobby all it can to have the legislature approve a special election.

III. Adjournment -- there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by:



Sec. John O. DLR. Gonzales (8/15/95)