

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Be it done unto me according to the will of God. I say so because We as Christians believe that God has dominion over the affairs of nations in big countries as well as over the affairs of people of the tiny islands in this area of the Pacific. He also governs the affairs of each one of us. There is no doubt that the result of the last Mayor election has been a divine will and disposition. I submissively accept it. Let us all be patient and conforming to the will of God.

Through the last election our Lord has appointed me to be your servant and charged me with the grave obligation of creating, preserving and promoting the well-being of our island and our people. According to the Saipan Municipal charter the duties of the Mayor are: To execute the laws of the Municipality; to preserve the peace; to further education; to protect the civil rights of the people; to encourage agriculture and business, to assist in obtaining aid for widows and the aged and inform; to promote the social advancement of the people to encourage native arts; and to protect the fundamental rights of the people at all times.

These obligations I have sworn and promised that I will carry out to the utmost of my power. Any progress we may not see within one week but little by little we shall see with your cooperation and the powerful help of our Lord.

To the United States of America we owe a great gratitude for granting us the privilege of self government and for introducing into our Island the democratic system of government. According to a definition given by a dozen educators and experts in public affairs Democracy means freedom: All men should participate actively in selecting leaders, in shaping the laws and in discharging the responsibilities of government. Every man should be free to think and speak, to write and create, to approve and criticize, to assemble and organize, to choose an occupation, to move from place to place, to improve his condition to worship God as he chooses, to follow the dictates of his conscience, to pursue in his own way truth and happiness.

We recognize the Government of the United States of America as the administering authority under the terms of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. We approve of the principle that the United States of America, as the administering authority retains the right and privilege to insist that the Municipality of Saipan adopt any proclamation, regulation, rule or law deemed necessary by the United States of America, for the safety, security, education or well being of the native people of Saipan.

Therefore let us pledge allegiance to the government of the United States of America where there is liberty and justice for every one.

/s/ IGNACIO V. BENAVENTE