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Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

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Håfa Adai Speaker Cruz:

Pursuant to **8 GCA §8113.1,** enclosed is a copy of the Commission on Decolonization's meeting agenda, approved minutes, and other attachments and addendums discussed during the Commission's monthly meeting held **November 7, 2017.**

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 475-9545.

AMANDA F. BLAS
Executive Director

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Commission on Decolonization

Commission Meeting Packet

November 7, 2017

Prepared by:
Amanda Blas, Executive Director
Mariana Pangelinan

Doc. No. 34GL-17-1267.

AGENDA
COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2017

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2017

III. Fourth Committee Recap

IV. Chamorro Language Political Status Panel Discussion (UOG)

   a. Tentative Date: Nov. 29

V. UOG Endowment Foundation

VI. Financial Report

   a. Procurement Requests

VII. Task Force Updates

   a. Free Association

   b. Independence

   c. Statehood

VIII. Next Subcommittee Meetings

   a. Self-Governance Study (November 14, 2 p.m.)

IX. Next Meeting: December 5, 2017

X. Open Discussion

XI. Adjournment

Doc. No. 34GL-17-1267.

COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. Roll Call

- Sen. Fernando Esteves, 34th Guam Legislature
- Mayor Robert Hoffman, Mayors' Council
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association Task Force
- Dr. Michael Bevacqua, Independence Task Force
- Eloy Hara, Statehood Task Force
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-At-Large
- Tristan Quintanilla
- Absences
    - Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman - Excused
    - Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman – Excused
    - Sen. Telena Nelson, 34th Guam Legislature – Excused
    - Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-At-Large – Excused
    - Tristan Quintanilla, Guam Youth Congress – Excused

II. Guam DOE Curriculum Framework Update – *GDOE Deputy Superintendent Joe Sanchez*

- Most important part is the resources available. If there is no official body of knowledge teachers have to work from then approaches are all different.
    - If you are trying to incorporate local content and material, right now it is up to the teacher. You don't want to give them a script. We hope to provide them with content that has been approved that the commission feels would be appropriate to share with the students. If it will be an official curriculum, it should be balanced

and provide all information that's factual. It should not lean in a particular direction. The DOE can do all the technical parts.

- We want to make sure that the websites, documents, and information we read is appropriate for us to use. Education systems really have a legitimizing power in the community. What a teacher says, students tend to believe. We want to make sure it is a planned body of knowledge. We will take care of making the curriculum itself. You could give us the okay to use material from the websites, and that could be the way.
- When we create sample lesson plans and topics, we can bring that to you and get your input and see if you'd like to make recommendations.

- Sen. Esteves – Do you have an idea of how you want to break it down in term of units. Has there been discussion as where you want to start. How do you blend this in so it can actually make sense.
- Joe Sanchez – the intent is to raise consciousness. The reason kids don't know about it is because it is limited right now to one class – Guam history. If you think of the educational system's impact on the generations. If it is not in the curriculum, we are assuming they are getting their information from somewhere else. The long term is a k-12 perspective to deepen the conversation over the course of 5, 10, 20 years.
    - How do we facilitate discussion among students who are not allowed to participate? It is inevitable
- Dr. Natividad – that is a relief knowing we will not be handling creating the curriculum. I suggest for next meeting to invite those who were a part of the writing last year.
- Executive Director – DOE work session - September 21, 3pm
- Joe Sanchez – some of the position papers are very deep. We would have to develop a vocabulary list. Those are sources we could use.
- Sen. Duenas – I was wondering in view of the fact that the plebiscite has not yet been decided legally – whether it will be open or waiting
- Joe Sanchez – we are talking about what we would put in writing. If it has not been determined, then we would say that and be open to students about that. When that changes, we would just inform all the teachers about the update.
- Sen. Duenas – I think that is a paramount question.

III. Approval of Minutes: August 1, 2017

- **Eloy Hara – motion to approve with corrections – add Sen. Duenas - Second by Dr. Natividad**

IV. General Assembly – Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

- Executive Director - The governor has shown interest in attending. We are looking at 1st and 10th so far. He has blocked his schedule.
- Adrian Cruz– I think the second person to go on should be a non- task force person, like Dr. Natividad.
- Dr. Natividad – I am on sabbatical, so I will be available to go.
- Adrian Cruz– If the task forces went, we'd have to raise our own money and pay our own way.
- Dr. Natividad – Usually the governor will get 7 minutes. It might be reduced to 3 minutes for testimony.
- Dr. Bevacqua – we are fundraising for people from our task force to go.
- Sen. Esteves – If it is appropriated for 2017, I understand it was a rollover budget. If there was funding for travel for two people, would the governors travel be funded from the commission or out of his office?
- Dr. Natividad –we have to make sure we are there a certain amount of days. It all depends how many people come to speak. It's better to have the flexibility built in.
- Dr. Bevacqua – We are sending two from Guam and three from California. We are also appealing to people residing in the East coast to go as well. Should we decide who is the second person who would go?
- Adrian Cruz – **I nominate Dr. Natividad, seconded by Robert Hoffman.**
- Dr. Bevacqua – You should not coordinate with the country offices about meeting.
- Dr. Natividad – I will connect with former Speaker Won Pat to see what kind of connections she made.
- Sen. Duenas – what kind of statement will they make?

- Dr. Bevacqua – they will comment on the state of Guam
- Sen. Duenas – I would like to make sure what they present is on behalf of the commission itself and not themselves.
- Dr. Natividad – we should speak to each other to strategize so that we do not say the same things since there is so little time.
- Sen. Esteves – I'm trying to see if I go, I would be speaking in my capacity as a senator. I think for fairness I would not be advocating for any particular task force. If I were to provide testimony, which I am thinking of doing, it would be on my personal experiences.
- Dr. Natividad – I think the greatest value of these testimonies is that it shows that we actually care about it. There was a lull for almost a decade. It communicates that we are serious.
- Sen. Duenas – in regards to fundraising, are task forces authorized to legally fundraise? In the beginning we were advised we could not.
- Executive Director – We will verify with legal.
- Tristan Quintanilla – Would it be prudent to have youth congress representation?
- Sen. Esteves – you can check to see if they will send you.

V. War Reparations Statement

- Dr. Bevacqua – I put in some of the points that were made. Some of the problematic issues were in term of funding source, limitations of who could receive compensation, and 5% would go to a funding office that has done nothing about educating. They have done no meetings on Guam. People say the Congresswoman's office only advises them to check a website. In the end it calls on congresswoman to find a new source of funding and hold meetings on Guam to educate the community.
- Sen Duenas – It may be a good idea for us to look into how the Aleutians were paid. There is a big difference though as they were relocated for protection, while Guam was subjugated to forced labor, massacre.
- Eloy hara – I appreciate the sentiment, but my mission has always been to educate eligible voters. This also comes to my theory that this has nothing to do with eligible voters. I agree that we are paying ourselves on this effort, which we shouldn't have to. The US without consulting with

Guam, made these decisions. We are citizens at their convenience. I don't think these things are not really a part of our mission.

- Adrian Cruz – I kind of agree. Especially this last part to call upon the congresswoman to immediately secure new funding. I think this is out of our purview. We can make a blanket statement that says this is another example of how colonization is playing around with us and we call on whoever's purview it is to look into it further. We are educating that this is another example of why we need to decolonize.
- Eloy Hara – back in the late 80s, former Speaker Unpingco, B.J. Cruz, and I testified. The war reparations is something Guam was cheated out of. However, my concern is again that I don't really believe this is our function. We can note them to take a look at this issue. If anything, I think it should come from the Governor, who is the Chairman.
- Dr. Natividad – I think the consensus was that we would provide a statement. I think the point of contention is the last paragraph that calls on the Congresswoman to take action. I support this last paragraph. If we don't say something and try to do something, and I think we as a Commission need to hold left on this issue. It is the only entity that looks at our human rights as a people. It is okay to say this is a horrible deal for us. It is such a mockery for our people to accept that bill.
- Eloy Hara – I apologize, Dr. Bevacqua. I think you've done a good job. I am just basing this on the principle.
- Adrian – My suggestion is that we add in a small section highlighting how this is an example on colonialism. We also would say we urge her as opposed to call on her.
- Sen. Esteves – I think historical reference is important to show how we even got here.
- Sen. Duenas – peace treaty of 1950. Apparently the US absolved Japan of taking care of Guam. The secretary of state said that the people of Guam would have to turn to congress to make good. I think McCain said he was willing to get the funding from Congress to pay only the living survivors.
- Eloy – Ben Blas, Underwood, and Madeline had a dinner, and everyone agreed they would accept 1990 cutoff date. Madeline showed up and spoke that Guam rejected it and wanted all or nothing. I'm just giving you some history on that.

- Executive Director – Revisions will be short revisions to the final paragraph and an added part.
- Dr. Natividad –our silence was really making a statement. I think tabling at this point will kill any initiative.
- Sen. Esteves – might I suggest making it now as the budget has not yet been set.
- Adrian Cruz– **Motion to accept this with the following edits:**
    - **Brief historical background, edits to final paragraph, and part about relation to decolonization. Motion passes.**

VI. Executive Director's Report

- We have some great questions and discussion from teachers at the doe presentation, and I sent those out to the task forces.
- We are looking at the websites. Each task force has a tab on the Commission website decol.guam.gov.
- Mariana has been going to MARC scanning things to be available. For stuff at the Agana library, it is illegal to take the things from the library, but we are working something out where we can scan those as well.
- Visiting mission letter has been received, and there are things being done
- We are looking into internships and service learning and are in contact with Eloise. We are trying to find the best way to operate as an office.
- Mariana and I will schedule separate procurement meetings in the interest of time

VII. Financial Report

- Free Association
    - FY 16: $15,040.00
    - FY 17: $50,000.00
- Independence
    - FY 16: $25,134.70
    - FY 17: $43,310.00
- Statehood
    - FY 16: $52,617.02
    - FY 17: $45,000.00

- DOI Grant for Self-Determination Educational Outreach
  - Funding Available: $179,000.00
    - ($121,000 allocated for Self-Governance Study, including advertising for IFB)
- Local Funding for Educational Outreach
  - Funding Available: $15,044.00
    - $4,800.00 encumbered for Commission on Decolonization website creation and annual maintenance
    - $416.00 encumbered for GCC Procurement Classes – Module 1

VIII. Task Force Updates

- Free Association – *Adrian Cruz*
  - We are just awaiting word whether it is okay for the task force to do fundraising to go. Monthly meetings are last Wednesday at 7pm.
- Independence – *Dr. Michael Bevacqua*
  - Last month we had village meeting in Dededo, general assembly and teach in.
  - Next is September 21 and will focus on Puerto Rican plebiscite HSS106 UOG 6PM.
  - Next village meeting - September 26 in Tamuning,
  - Next General assembly – September 28 at Chamorro Village
- Statehood – *Sen. Eddie Duenas*
  - Next week I will have meeting with the Mayors' Council asking them to make it as a project in their own village and invite us to come and speak.
  - Executive Director – if you have events, please send it to us so we could put it out to our media partners as well to get more traction.

IX. Next Subcommittee Meetings

- Self-Governance Study (September 13, 3 p.m.)
  - Sen. Duenas – I received the email about Japanese students joining us Thursday at the working session

- Dr. Bevacqua – they are two students here researching the North Korea threats and are interested in asking questions about decolonization and the different options.

- DOE Curriculum Framework (September 21, 3 p.m.)

X. Next Meeting: October 3, 2017

XI. Open Discussion

- Mayor Hoffman – would it carry more weight to call on Congress as opposed to just Congresswoman to find funding for this. We could send this to everybody: this is a clear example of decolonization.
- Sen. Esteves – I'm wondering if this could actually work against us going to Congress as a whole. You could probably get a legislative resolution out required by law with direct transmission to all of congress. If the committee could come up to the amendments to this and submit it to my office. I could have it turned into resolution format and submit it ASAP. A legislative resolution would hold more umph.
- Sen. Esteves – maybe we can do electronic approval.
- Sen. Esteves – this is something that has come from the COD, advocates for free association statehood and independence task forces to show overall support.
- Adrian Cruz – **Motion – Amendment to the letter: instead of addressing to madeline bordallo, address it to the congress and forward to Sen. Esteves for legislature.**
- Sen. Esteves - I will send something out to you tomorrow at 11am. If I don't hear from you, I'm going to move forward. We could always make amendments on the floor at the hearing, but I'd like to just put it in right away. It would go to resolution format. You could all come out to the public hearing where we could make any changes.
- Dr. Natividad – can I suggest we also proceed with letting this be a statement of the Commission just because we don't know about the outcome of the resolution. We could have two parallel things.

- Trini Torres – something that disturbs me about what Sen. Duenas says about fundraising. We had a big argument when we started out with the formation of COD about fundraising. There was an argument because there should be no outside interference. For example, there could be one task force that has more connections with bigger leads. We don't agree with that. The UN said no outside interference. If you are receiving money from here and there, no. I'm sorry but that's the way we feel. When the people start arguing. You have to settle this because this is a problem. We have to be careful as a commission.
- Executive Director – I am going to go back to legal and see if fundraising is legal. I can make sure that the commission is aware of what is legal and what is not.
- Sen. Esteves – ask legal as another option. If there was a consolidated fundraising for the commission as a whole, then the commission could send more people as well.
- Dr. Bevacqua – we have to be careful because ultimately the task forces are volunteers. In essence, they cannot tell people that they cannot privately fundraise for a cause.
- Executive Director – I will check on those two. I don't know if realistically procurement is involved.
- Trini Torres – I had a question on the curriculum for decolonization
- Joe Sanchez – I think you walked in after, but we discusses that DOE will take care of the curriculum and making it appropriate for the grade levels, but the commission would supply the resources.

XII. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn at 4:43 p.m. – Adrian Cruz. Seconded by Mayor Hoffman.**

COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Financial Report

As of November 7, 2017

- **Task Force Accounts**
  - **Free Association**
    - FY 16: $79,404.40
    - FY 17: $50,000.00
    - FY 18: $56,250.00
  - **Independence**
    - FY 16: $29,1777.17
    - FY 17: $39,191.00
    - FY 18: $56,250.00
  - **Statehood**
    - FY 16: $68,600.00
    - FY 17: $50,000.00
    - FY 18: $56,250.00
- **DOI Grant for Self-Determination Educational Outreach**
  - **Funding Available: $179,000.00**
    - ($121,000 allocated for Self-Governance Study, including advertising for IFB)
- **Local Funding for Educational Outreach**
  - **FY 17: $14,544.50**
  - **FY 18: $13,935.00**

Prepared by: Mariana Pangelinan, Staff Assistant