



Office of the Governor of Guam

The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Vice Chairman Sen. Rory Respicio once a quorum was established.

The Executive Director introduced the two new members of the Commission, which were Senator Tony Ada and Youth Congress Speaker Mr. Anthony Quenga. Sen. Ada replaces former Sen. Frank Blas Jr. and Youth Congress Speaker Quenga replaces Former Youth Congress Speaker Andrew Orisni.

The minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting were discussed and adopted after some clarification by the Executive Director regarding testimony at the United Nations. The E.D. expressed that UN testimony from any commission member or any testimony for that matter does not need Commission approval. And that any commission member can submit testimony of his or her behalf as well. There was, however an agreement, that a courtesy copy would be given to the commission for their perusal. There was an explanation by Dr. Lisa Natividad that made clear the UN Committee of 4 and the Committee of 24 testimonies. That the committee should see testimony to the Committee of 4 but not to the Committee of 24.

Also, on the topic of changing Title 1 Chapter 21 of the GCA, to allow the Commission to give tax credits in exchange for donation of services and tangible and intangible property etc., the E.D. offered that the Senators on the Commission and the Governor jointly submit a bill to the Legislature instead of the Governor submitting it alone. There were no objections to this offer.

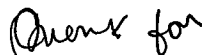
The next item on the agenda involved the format for the position papers for each taskforce. Discussion centered on the critical elements that should be contained in each position paper and a proposed format was distributed to the members. Members Joe Garrido and Eddie Duenas made statements that there was an established format at the onset of the position paper assignment. Dr. Lisa Natividad commented that since the Commission hasn't received all the position papers from each of the taskforces, it was hard to ascertain if a format was actually followed. The Commission adopted the format and agreed that the three taskforces will meet and refine it if necessary. Dr. Mike Bevacqua stated that some things in the format are general and need to be specific. Thus, two deadlines were given to the taskforces: 1. Finalize the format. 2. To submit to the Commission by April 30, 2013 a position paper that follows a format. Dr. Mike Bevacqua agreed to spearhead this effort along with Mr. Joe Garrido and former Sen. Eddie Duenas.

Following that discussion was that status of the grant application to the Department of Interior for partial funding for the public education program. According to Dr. Natividad, it was given

to UOG president, Robert Underwood in October 2012, then resubmitted in November 2012 but the status is unsure considering the situation with Asst. Sec. Tony Babauta. Vice Chairman then suggested that the Governor write a letter to Congresswoman Bordallo on the status of the funding and use Puerto Rico as a recent example of the US funding the referendum. Piti Mayor Ben Gumataotao stated there is no money. The US is 14.3 trillion in the hole! If there is any money, then we should get a time frame to receive the money. Member Joe Garrido would like to see the proposal.

On the public comment item, Mr. John Diaz spoke about the commission not having to convince each other about each status, but to convince the public. He exclaimed the importance of making sure each status option has everything in the position paper to convince people to vote for their choice. Also, that the recent law suit should lead us to the plebiscite vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm



Edward A. Alvarez
Executive Director
Commission on Decolonization