



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
Commission Meeting
April 9, 2014

The meeting was held on April 9, 2014 at 3:50pm, where Vice Chairman Sen. Rory Respicio called roll call via the Executive Director, who determined there was a quorum.

The first order of business was to adopt the minutes of 10-16-13, which were adopted subject to change via Vice Chairman Respicio seconded by Speaker WonPat.

There was a concern brought up by the Executive Director (ED) about the Dog eradication program. He has received several phone calls questioning the amount of money requested for dog eradication versus the amount for the public education program for the plebiscite vote which was about \$140,000.00 more for the eradication program. The concern was since when were dogs more important than the human rights of the native inhabitants of Guam. The Vice Chairman and Speaker stated they had to find out where in the budget the request was made before they could respond. Mayor Gumataotao relayed that if the Commission needed money, then we should raise the Hotel Occupancy tax.

Speaker WonPat spoke about discretionary monies from the Department of Interior (DOI) which are available now, and that she would gladly assist in the Commission applying for these funds as she doing the same for her Association of Pacific Island Legislatures project. She will contact the Executive Director when she is ready to assist. Joe Garrido asked if the Commission could write a foreign grant with Spain, perhaps a public private partnership where a non-government official or organization could receive the money and administer it. Lisa Natividad mentioned that this was the format for the DOI monies which were to come to the University of Guam (UOG) who would filter and fortify the task force Chairman's position papers, then get it out to the mass media. Joe Garrido had objection to this format and did not want UOG to interfere with any taskforce's position paper. It was made clear that this would not be the case.

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The public education may soon be getting \$100,000.00 for the educational campaign and the commission has been discussing how best to spend it. One item that everyone agreed on was partnering with PBS Guam and producing TV and informational programs to be aired on the Governor's, Legislative, and PBS channels. The ED will set up a meeting with the General Manager of PBS, Mr. Darrel Taggerty and discuss these matters.

The "We the People" movement was discussed regarding how to handle Mr. Neil Weare and his law suit. Should the Commission support or refrain from this movement. The ED stated his concern that political status should not be decided in the Courts. Instead, it was meant for the native inhabitants of Guam to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. It was suggested by Speaker WonPat that they should meet with Mr. Weare the next time he returns to the island. Mike Bevacqua state he might be here in the next few weeks.

Next, the commission discussed CNMI Rep. Felicidad Ogumoru's law regarding the creation of a political status commission to reexamine the CNMI's commonwealth's covenant with the U.S. This was born out of the federal government's takeover of the immigration control from the CNMI. The Legislature as per Speaker WonPat and Vice Chairman Respicio stated they would support this endeavor.

Finally, Joe Garrido mentioned that the current law is ambiguous about what 70% means. Is it 70% of all the registered native inhabitants voters, or all native inhabitants, or 70% of those native inhabitants registered in the Decolonization registry. This will be clarified by the next meeting.

There was no further discussion, so the meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

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