



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

Commission on Decolonization
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Senator Rory Respicio at 3:15 p.m. Executive Director Edward Alvarez conducted roll call and revealed there was a quorum. Those in attendance were:

1. Acting Chairman Senator Rory Respicio
2. Senator Tony Ada
3. Piti Mayor Vicente Gumataotao
4. Youth Congress Speaker Leonardo Orsini
5. Taskforce Chairman – Former Senator Eddie Duenas (Statehood)
6. Taskforce Acting Chairperson – Victoria Leon Guerrero (Independence)
7. Member at large – Lisa Baza

Minutes of the July 14th meeting were approved subject to correction and the Commission began to have discussion on the Taskforce's budget submissions. The Executive Director stated that Procurement Officer Ms. Christine Flores will soon meet with the taskforces to assist them in encumbering their budgets. Victoria Leon Guerrero stated she was getting quotes for the equipment requested in the Independence budget. Chairman Respicio stated there can be carryover language in the FY2016 to roll over any public education monies and that it would be a continuing appropriation until the money is spent. A motion was made by Lisa Baza that there be language in the FY2016 to this effect. Motion was seconded by Eddie Duenas.

Office space for the taskforces was discussed with Victoria Leon Guerrero relaying the University of Guam (UOG) and the Guam Community College (GCC) may have office space for the Statehood and Free Association taskforces to utilize, space that is adequate, private, free, and with phone service. Eddie Duenas said he is not against this idea but was concerned with security. A motion was made by Ms. Leon Guerrero to have the Executive Director inquire with UOG and GCC, motion was seconded by Mayor Gumataotao.

The Executive Director gave a briefing on the Decolonization process stating that a governance study is the first step in the process because it serves as the foundational document to the process by exploiting at all levels within Guam's government where we are not meeting the minimum levels of self governance. In short, this document is pivotal when the Commission meets with the federal government to discuss Decolonization. To not do this study will result in the Commission having no





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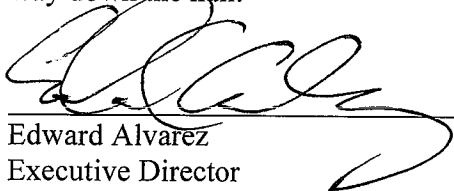
proof of federal control in documented form and the commission will wind up exchanging inferences and opinions and not facts during meetings with the federal government. Member Lisa Baza agreed but stated that we should first focus on the education aspect of the political status options. Victoria Leon Guerrero mentioned that town hall meetings might be a better use of commission money. The Executive Director exclaimed that the information uncovered from this study will be educational for the public and perhaps bring about much unknown information about our government and its political, social, and economic arrangements. Arrangements were largely made without our input and representation. Chairman Respicio agreed and said we need credible information such that this study can provide. Victoria Leon Guerrero also mentioned that we need to know where the community is on this issue, and that's why town hall meetings are a good use of this money. Eddie Duenas asked what direction are we heading in, meaning are the taskforces going to educate the public, to which Chairman Respicio iterated that the commission will act as a disinterested third party in that regard. He further stated the taskforces will educate the public as far as the three statuses, but the commission will educate about the decolonization process.

The Executive Director told the Commission he did communicate with Attorney Julian Aguon about the possibility of a legal review on the binding versus non-binding vote. However, Attorney Aguon was not feeling well and asked to have a discussion next week. Victoria Leon Guerrero made a motion suggesting the review be used as educational material as it pertains to federal and local law regarding the decolonization process. Motion was seconded by Eddie Duenas.

During open discussion, Mr. Pete Santos suggested that each Taskforce should also get their own legal review for neutrality as Attorney Aguon's review may have issues between the three taskforces.

The Commission agreed that the next meeting will be held on September 1, 2015 at 3 p.m. in the Large Conference room. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Note: Midway through the meeting as the Commission was discussing the Governance study, the commission allowed a Mr. Paul Zerzan to comment. Mr. Zerzan advised that the Commission needs to do things right as nowhere in the United Nations Charter does the charter recognize native inhabitants or indigenous peoples and that it only mentions Universal adult suffrage. He continued to raise his voice and repeat the same statement over and over again. He even interrupted the Acting Chairman as he was speaking. After that, the Executive Director got up and went over to Mr. Zarzen and asked him politely to vacate the conference room, to which he did, but continued to yell all the way down the hall.


Edward Alvarez
Executive Director

