



**EDDIE BAZA CALVO**  
Governor

**RAY TENORIO**  
Lieutenant Governor

*Office of the Governor of Guam.*

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Commission Meeting

December 20, 2016

Governor called the meeting to order at 3:15pm and ordered the Executive Director to take roll call.


In attendance were:


1. Chairman Gov. Eddie Calvo.
2. Acting Chairman Sen. Rory Respicio
3. Speaker Judy WonPat Borja
4. Sen. Tony Ada
5. Mayor Ben Gumataotao
6. Youth Congress Vice Speaker Tristan Quintanilla
7. Adrian Cruz, Chairman, Free Association Task Force
8. Victoria Leon Guerrero, Acting Chair, Independence Task Force
9. Dr. Lisa Natividad, At large member
10. Lisa Baza, At large member.


Statehood Chairman Eddie Duenas not in attendance and Mike Bevacqua joined in later.


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After a quorum was determined, Gov. Calvo greeted everyone with a holiday expression and acknowledged all the hard work from the Senators on the Commission as well as his appreciation for the entire commission on its hard work and accomplishments the past 6 years.

Meeting minutes were approved subject to correction with the motion made by Sen. Respicio and seconded by Speaker Won Pat.

Next item dealt with the Youth Conference on Identity and Political Status. Dr. Lisa Natividad gave a briefing on the matter stating that UOG is coordinating this conference slated for April 28, 2017. Each public high school will be asked to send 10 representatives and each private high school will be asked for five to come to participate in this conference. She believes that 150 people will attend this conference which is themed around identity but more so on political status issues. She will ask Pastor Steve McManus to host the debate portion of the event. Also the youth congress in conjunction with the participants will be invited to participate in the forming of a resolution to be presented at the next Youth Congress session. It is an attempt in getting this population involved with Decolonization and engaging their fellow peers to get involved and ignite youth participation on this matter. She is asking for co-sponsorship from the Commission of \$1,500.00. Governor interjected by thanking the legislature for their support for this issue and stated that \$1,500 should not be a problem given all the money the Commission has received in local and federal money. Dr. Natividad mentioned this event will be youth driven and include University students as well. Motion was made by Dr. Natividad and seconded by Sen. Respicio. Motion passed unanimously.

The FY2017 approved budget which includes \$210,000 for the commission to be divided amongst the task forces as well as the carryover language which states that the FY2015 and

FY2016 educational program monies will expire when the money is expended. Also, and perhaps most importantly, the budget includes language that absolves the task forces from the procurement process. Conditionally, the task forces must post their expenditures on all their websites as well as the Commission's for transparency purposes within 30 days of expenditure. Independence task force announced their budget and asked for it to be approved by the commission. Chairman Calvo felt that as long as they stayed within their perspective budget amounts, it might not be necessary. The procurement process will still be followed, but task forces are no longer subjected to the long wait but must still get three quotes and follow accordingly. It appears the manner in which the funds get to the task forces still needs to be ironed out. Governor felt that DOA should establish accounts for the task forces seeing how liberalized the process seems to be as a result of the amendment. Maybe that might be the easiest way to get this done. Further discussion revealed there needed to be more details on this matter so he directed the Executive Director, task force chairs, and Director Christine Baletto of DOA to meet and sort this out. A meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 4, 2017.

During open discussion, Lisa Baza brought up the joint resolution between the Guam and CNMI mayors regarding the reunification of the two islands. She asked if at the next or near future meeting that we hear from the Mayor's council about this since it has a bearing on the commission's work in relevance to Decolonization. Mayor Melissa Savares was recommended by Mayor Gumataotao to do this. An official letter will be sent by the Chairman to her requesting a presentation from the Council.

Executive Director announce the Decolonization website has been completed, but not launched as it needs some updating on certain information such as the registry, monies, and

accomplishments. He will be working with the vendor at soonest to get the work done and launch at soonest. A suggestion was made and agreed that there will be a public launch event.

Governor spoke about his passion about this issue and stated that sometimes he is not agreed with in certain groups, but since the money is available, we should set up timetables and milestones so we can better determine the date. Discussion then centered around re-thinking the initial approves commission plan of April 6, 2016. Speaker Won Pat iterated that she doesn't want to see the effort go backwards. Also stating how many elections go on during the general election year, and that this issue cannot be lost at that time. The governance study was brought up and the Executive Director gave a briefing noting that the study was approved by the sub-committee and the Governor, and that the scope of work was submitted, and then expanded by the sub-committee. The next step is to sit down with GSA and our procurement office and determine if the scope of work is ready for bid. \$120,000.00 was set aside for this study funded by the D.O.I. money.

Village meetings, although not well attended, did have very good and informative discussion. The Executive Director mentioned that he did not think we got the value for the amount of money spent. He believes we might need to rethink the village meeting tour and try to come up with a more captive audience venue or better ways to get our messaging out.

Suggestions were made to do a better marketing job in concert with the Mayors and other leaders of the villages. Further discussion on this matter is upcoming. Perhaps a personalized letter from the Governor with basic information coupled with an invitation to a meeting was suggested. Tristan Quintanilla stated a digital presentation on social media might be helpful for outreach. He thinks the three most popular sites are Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. A schedule of the

village meetings 2017 will be announced and a letter from Governor attached with location, date and time along with more detail on how to capture the audience. Mayor's council may be a great venue for outreach via email, etc.

Finally, the three Senators on the Commission gave there farewells and stated they would all continued to be involved. All three thanked the Commission for their hard work and even though at times things were tense and passionate, contentious, and heated, we have come a long way these past 6 years and all felt we are close to the vote. Much accomplishments have been made. A loud round of applause was given to all three by the Commission. Governor closed the meeting by stating that he knows we all loved our people even though we have had our differences, we continue to cooperate and move forward and it is this spirit of teamwork and cooperation that will lead to our success.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm



EDWARD A. ALVAREZ

Commission on Decolonization  
Executive Director