



**COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 14, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. by Chairman Governor Eddie Baza Calvo.

**I. ROLL CALL**

○ **MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman
- Sen. Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman
- Speaker Benjamin J. Cruz, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*
- Victoria Leon Guerrero, Independence Task Force
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association Task Force
- Eddie Duenas, Statehood Task Force
- Lisa Baza, Member-at-Large
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-Large
- Tristan Quintanilla, Youth Congress

○ **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Sen. Fernando Esteves, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* (Minority)
- Mayor Robert Hoffman, Mayors Council

**II. CHAIRMAN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

- Vice Chair Sen. Therese Terlaje, Speaker BJ Cruz, Sen. Fernando Esteves, and Mayor Robert Hoffman.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December 20, 2016 meeting)**

- Motion made by: Adrian Cruz, Free Association Task Force
- Motion seconded by: Eddie Duenas, Statehood Task Force

**IV. UPDATE ON THE YOUTH CONFERENCE ON IDENTITY AND POLITICAL STATUS**

***Report (Item IV on agenda) given by Dr. Lisa Natividad***

- Cost for the conference has increased because of expansion to two days and cost for use of museum.
- Dr. Natividad requests an additional \$2,400 of funding from the Commission for the conference to cover catering of food and rental of museum.
  - **Motion: Allocate \$3,900 for catering of food and rental of museum for the Youth Conference on Identity and Political Status** (Made by Victoria Leon Guerrero)



- **No objection, motion passed unanimously**
- Vice Chair Therese Terlaje asked if the Task Forces were involved in this event.
- Dr. Natividad - Task Force will be involved. Once the logistics are figured out, there will be more discussion. Task forces will work closely with students to prepare for debate. The best thing about the conference is that it is youth-driven.
- Steven McManus and Executive Director to assist with debate
- 200 students anticipated to participate (including UOG students)
- No busing issue – students will be dropped to event
- Chairman – will event be televised or filmed?
  - Dr. Natividad – Yes – social media and public access channels
- Chairman – AG or representative needs to give the Commission a briefing on where the lawsuits are and what they might mean for the Commission’s work
- Discussion: Whether or not age of students is relevant considering no set date for plebiscite vote and we might be spinning our wheels for nothing.
- Davis case deemed irrelevant to Commission’s work at present.
- 70% voting requirement only relevant if we were having a plebiscite soon.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – Footage of event
  - **Motion: Allocate \$500 for videography and editing of footage for the event.** (made by Victoria Leon Guerrero)
  - **No objection, motion passed unanimously**

V. **C.O.D. WEBSITE UPDATE**

*Report given by Ed Alvarez, Executive Director*

- Concern about links to Task Forces’ websites – links did not identify what website on was being forwarded to
  - Executive Director – he would look at it and correct it

VI. **GUAM & CNMI REUNIFICATION BRIEFING**

*Report given by Mayor Melissa Savares*

- Organization has been very active with meetings, conferences, and activities
- A bartering arrangement has begun
  - Produce from NMI are brought to Guam to sell
  - Guam produce sent to NMI in exchange
- They want to bring meat from Tinian but have issues with Department of Agriculture
- Current membership would like to strengthen ties with Guam and unify with us in a political status effort.
- Trading of produce is one of the confidence building activities which hope to lead to reunification in the future
- Eddie Duenas – who will be the Governor if we reunify?



- Chairman – has had discussions with the Governors and will bring this up during the MCES summit and hopefully the Legislature’s organization with the CNMI

## **VII. UPDATE ON THE GOVERNANCE STUDY**

### ***Report given by Ed Alvarez, Executive Director***

- Scope of work for project is with legal counsel for final review
- Request for Proposal will be out after final review and a vendor will be chosen accordingly
- Vice Chair Terlaje – what is the study for and what does it do for us?
  - Executive Director – it is an assessment of our government and the state it’s in as far as governance. Does Guam meet the minimum standards of self-governance even though we are a colony?
  - It will be used as an educational and reference material to the public education program which will reveal how much control the federal government has on Guam and the effect of that control politically, socially, and economically
  - It is also an overlay to explain benefits and detriments of the current political status
  - It would also be an assessment on what might be possible under each of the three status options in areas such as trade/commerce, taxation, immigration, and culture.
  - It will expose the areas in the government where federal control is not supposed to be that controlling
- A draft of the study will be distributed at the next Commission meeting for review and approval
- Procurement has been slow and cumbersome. Delays continue.
  - Some requests have been delayed over a year. Most task force members are volunteers and can’t follow up full time.
  - Chairman ordered for all involved to get issue cleared up.
- As for public law 33-196, everyone involved needs to meet and make a determination.
- Executive Director – Governance study will come out of local money
- Task forces will get their share of \$120,000.00 from the DOI money

## **VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

- **Outreach Plan**
  - Executive Director – sub-committee met and decided to discontinue village outreach tour and agreed a social media marketing plan was a more efficient option.
  - The committee met with vendors and asked if proposals can be submitted for evaluation by the Commission



- GDOE Acting Superintendent Joe Sanchez – spoke about having a curriculum in the schools and then having the students go and provide outreach to the community.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – offered to give some of task forces’ DOI money to GDOE to enhance a public school program about Decolonization.
- Sanchez – program is written from the colonial perspective and fails to connect the history to the Guam experience, and this is what the students need to learn that is relevant to their everyday life.
- Marketing plan being developed to address questions such as
  - What is self-determination?
  - Who are the colonized people?
  - Why isn’t status quo an option?, etc.
- Commission is currently working with vendors to formulate the plan and submit to the Commission for approval.
- **Dr. Mike Bevacqua – request to sponsor a conference during Charter Day**
  - No previous discussion so the matter was tabled until further notice.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.