



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
Commission Meeting
July 28, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 3:20pm by the Executive Director who conducted roll call and determined there was a quorum. Present were Speaker Won Pat, Senator Tony Ada, Mayor Ben Gumataotao, Mike Bevacqua, Jose Garrido, and Eddie Duenas.

First item for discussion was the 2014 Island Wide High School Decolonization Debate. Mr. Steve McManus from Southern Christian Academy was called to give a briefing on this event. He spoke about involving as many high schools as possible who will have intramurals at their respective schools. The goal is to get the students to begin talking about Decolonization. From that will result in some students going to one of three super teams who will continue debate on at a more intense level. From the super teams will result in three students being selected to debate in the finals to be held at UOG or Southern High School. It was decided that there will be no winner but all three finalist may receive some perks for their participation.


These debates will be recorded by PBS and played on public access channels and possibly on Docomo channels. We aim to gauge whether or not these debates are having an effect on the public's awareness about Decolonization and if there is a change in preference amongst voters resulting from the showing on the TV channels. Also, we want to see if there is an effect on the military build-up perception by June of next year when the Record of Decision is due.


The Commission is in favor of this project but had concerns on laying the foundation first before the debates begin. Jose Garrido and Eddie Duenas suggested to delay this event until student have had a chance to immerse themselves in the history of Guam's

Self-Determination movement as well as the United Nations Charter so they have a basis to develop debate for the political status choice they choose. In short, the student must be convinced that whatever status they choose to represent, that they have some conviction in it. At the opposite end, Jose Garrido stated his support because when he was in school, there was no discussion or education about Decolonization.

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Mike Bevacqua stated that it should be clear at the high school level on who can vote for Self-Determination and that people have different relationships with Guam, so we have to make it clear about the process of Decolonization.

Jose Garrido and Eddie Duenas suggested the debate be put on hold until clarification is given about the format, but Speaker Won Pat disagreed and stated that we should continue planning the event. She made a motion which was seconded by Mayor Gumataotao, thus the motion passed.

The Public Education Program was discussed and centered around how to split to the 100K. Speaker Won Pat relayed that it should pass into law. Ed Alvarez stated it would be the first money for the Commission in almost 20 years. After some discussion, the only thing agreed upon was that each taskforce would get an equal share.

The DOI grant proposal was discussed and it was decided that the Commission would not submit one to DOI because Speaker Won Pat was working on one for 400K which she submitted two weeks ago. She mentioned giving each taskforce 100K to start off with.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

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