



Office of the Governor of Guam

Commission on Decolonization
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 3:35pm by Acting Chairman Rory Respicio. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established. Also in attendance was Speaker Judy WonPat, Senator Tony Ada, Mayor Ben Gumataotao, Youth Congress Speaker Leonardo Orsini, Taskforce Chairs: Jose Garrido (Free Association), Eddie Duenas (Statehood), Victoria Leon Guerrero (Independence), and Dr. Lisa Natividad. Procurement Officer Christine Flores present. Minutes were approved subject to change.

First item on the agenda was the budget for the three taskforces in which Ms. Flores explained that the funds need to be encumbered by August 30th and expended by September 30th of this year and that all of the \$100,000.00 was under the contractual category but could be reprogrammed to other object categories for expenditure if necessary. Speaker Won Pat stated that the budgets can be rolled over to the next fiscal year and will verify at soonest. Chairman Respicio expressed that there will be different activities for each taskforce and inquired about the role the commission will play relative to ensuring integrity and monitoring the activities. He does not want the commission to be in a situation where it has to defend what a taskforce produced and proposed some kind of check and balance be in place, thus he asked does the commission review all taskforce material. Ms. Leon Guerrero interjected and stated that the taskforces need not be micromanaged by the commission and that any misinformation will affect a task force's credibility if that happens. She further relayed the Commission should focus on the \$10,000.00 left over from the budget. Discussion centered around updating the insert on Decolonization that produced years ago. A copy was available during the meeting and sounded like a good idea. Also, other suggestions were to create a website and have all the information contained within or print a brochure a tri-fold brochure that provides information on decolonization. Ms. Leon Guerrero reiterated that the commission needs to be encumbered and determine how best to spend the money. Joe Garrido expressed again that he finds it very hard to operate without an office at which time the Speaker and Mayor Gumataotao offered office space.

A motion was made by Ms. Leon Guerrero to allow the Executive Director to reprogram funding for taskforces upon requests. Motion was seconded by Speaker Won Pat and the vote was passed unanimously. Ms. Flores also advised that any item in the budget over \$15,000 is due tomorrow but there were no amounts that high from the taskforces.

Another motion was made by Ms. Leon Guerrero to allow the Executive Director to communicate with Attorney Julian Aguon and propose a contract to get a legal summary or a review of the Decolonization process and include in the scope of work an explanation of non-binding versus binding vote as Eddie Duenas brought up. The motion was seconded by Speaker WonPat and the vote was passed unanimously.

Member Joe Garrido asked "How can the Commission go to the International Court of Justice to state its case against the United States?" Ms. Leon Guerrero explained that we have to be a member of the UN or be sponsored by a member state country or island nation on the United Nations general assembly. Lisa Natividad stated that the UN Security Council is another and easier route.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 28, 2015 at 3:30pm.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.



Edward A. Alvarez
Executive Director