



EDDIE BAZA CALVO  
Governor

RAY TENORIO  
Lieutenant Governor

*Office of the Governor of Guam*

MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION  
Commission Meeting  
September 1, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 3:05pm by Acting Chairman Rory Respicio who called on the Executive Director to take roll call, which revealed there was a quorum. In attendance were:

1. Acting Chairman Rory Respicio
2. Speaker Judith WonPat
3. Senator Tony Ada
4. Mayor Ben Gumataotao
5. Youth Congress Speaker Leonardo Orsini
6. Michael Bevacqua (Independence Chairman)

Joining in later were at large members Dr. Lisa Natividad and Lisa Baza as well as Jose Garrido (Free Association Chairman).


The minutes of August 14, 2015 meeting was approved with subject to correction. Motion made by Ben Gumataotao and seconded by Senator Tony Ada.


Acting Chairman acknowledged Chief of Staff Mark Calvo in attendance, then proceeded to give an update on the Guam first commission meetings. He stated that discussions surrounding the Decolonization Commission were "lively discussions" and that a general briefing regarding the Decolonization process was given. Also, that a mirror message relative to Decolonization was agreed to be present on both the Democratic and Republican Party platforms, something the Governor recommended.


Discussion turned to retaining Attorney Julian Aguon for a legal review on binding versus non-binding vote. Jose Garrido explained that P.L. 23-147 says the vote is non-binding and that it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what that means. He also felt that \$10,000 may be too much. Speaker WonPat stated that they hired Attorney


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Aguon for the APIL Shark finning case after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration informed that Guam's law was not in compliance, thus for about one month's work, \$10,000 was paid to him. She also warned that the result of this review could open up Pandora's box. The Executive Director noted that one of the uses of this review would be for an educational material to be used in the public education program. Jose Garrido stated that people blame the Chamorro people for not going through this process but exclaimed that the U.S. has an obligation to promote self-governance to the people of Guam and that the U.S. should create a federal taskforce for this purpose and that a mission should be sent by the U.N. Michael Bevacqua mentioned that if the Administering power is small, the U.N sends a mission, but when it is big, they won't! Speaker WonPat said we should just do it, make the vote binding! She then made a motion to retain Attorney Aguon. Miguet Bevacqua seconded it and the Commission voted unanimously to approve, but then there was discussion about extending the scope of work to include:

1. An interpretation of what the 70% threshold means.
2. Who votes in the Constitution in the event Independence or free association is chosen.
3. Can a mock plebiscite be consider an act of self-determination.
4. The definition of "Self" in the word Self Determination.
5. The process of self-determination as set out the U.N and U.S.

The executive Director cautioned the Commission that the price tag for these items will probably increase. Mike Bevaqua also cautioned the Commission stating that we must be careful because the U.S. doesn't have to do anything. A suggestion was made that we invite Attorney Aguon to our next meeting.

There was discussion about the upcoming High School Decolonization debate where the Executive Director gave a briefing on it and reminded commission volunteers about Thursday's meeting with Pastor Steve McManus. Basically, a letter signed by the Governor will be sent to all public and private high schools encouraging participation. Intramurals would then begin and from them will rise a semifinal round involving 9 students. From there would rise 3 students who would debate in the finals. There was concern that whatever status wins would be perceived incorrectly in the public's eyes. Michael Bevacqua that he has many debates in his classes and it is exciting when it is a competition as opposed to it being a forum. Jose Garrido cautioned that it must be clear that the winner is not necessarily the popular choice.

Office space was found in the CAHA building. Free Association needs to make a visit to see if it fits the needs of the taskforce. There was discussion with the UOG President who said he would look around a find two spaces at the University. Mayor Ben Gumataotao also offered space in his office for the Statehood taskforce.

Finally, participation to the C44 meeting at the U.N. in New York was discussed. Acting Chairman Rory Respicio and Speaker Judith WonPat will attend. They will take about the effects

of the military buildup on Guam and update the committee on the efforts of the commission this past year. The meeting will take place from October 8 through the 15th. The commission hopes the testimony reflects the perspective of the discussions the commission has been having.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Alvarez', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

EDWARD A. ALVAREZ  
Commission on Decolonization  
Executive Director