

MINUTES of the Commission on Decolonization

Call to Order: The first meeting of the Commission on Decolonization was held in the Governor's Conference Room, Adelup on September 23, 2011. The meeting was convened at 9:45a.m., Governor Eddie J.B. Calvo presiding.

Members in attendance:

- Governor Eddie Calvo, Governor of Guam
- Mr. Edward Alvarez, Executive Director, Commission on Decolonization
- Senator Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
- Senator Aline Yamashita, representing Senator Frank Blas, Jr., Minority Leader, *I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
- Senator Rory J. Respicio, Majority Leader, *I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
- Mayor Vicente Gumataotao, Mayor's Council of Guam
- Mr. Andrew Orsini II, Speaker, Guam Youth Congress
- Ms. Trini Torres, Chairperson, Independence Task Force
- Mr. Joe Garrido, Chairperson, Free Association Task Force
- Mr. Eddie Duenas, Chairperson, Statehood Task Force
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-Large

1. Welcome was given and introductions were made.
2. A letter to President Barack Obama was read declaring the People of Guam's Sacred Inalienable Rights for Political destiny.
3. Mr. Alvarez reminded the Task Force Chairpersons that the Commission will be reviewing their educational materials regarding their respective political status.
4. Governor Calvo spoke on two points of information:
 - a. Chamorro Self-Determination is an inalienable sacred right given to us by the United States by the signing of the U.N. Charter in 1946.
 - b. Once the political status choice is made everyone gets to participate in the making and ratification of the constitution.
5. Governor Calvo inquired about future meeting dates and recommends meeting every other week. Speaker Won Pat made a motion to have meetings every other week. Motion passes.
6. Mr. Garrido made a motion to have meetings every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Motion passes.
7. Dr. Natividad expressed concern about sending a representative to the Fourth Committee of the U.N. to petition on behalf of Guam. Senator

Respicio made a motion to designate the Executive Director as a delegate to the Fourth Committee and, if unable to attend, the Governor will appoint another representative. Motion passes.

8. Ms. Torres made a motion to send a woman representative, such as Speaker Won Pat, to attend the Fourth Committee. Motion passes.
9. Mr. Orsini inquired whether the "Reunification of the Marianas" is a subject that fits within the mold of self-determination and will the Commission entertain? Mr. Garrido said the matter should be addressed by a separate commission or body.
10. Senator Respicio raised a point of discussion in determining the process of self-determination and once established the Legislature will put into statute.
11. Governor Calvo recommended that the Commission look into future international events by world-governing bodies and within the American political system that may be important for discussion. Mr. Alvarez expressed the need to jumpstart the conversation locally because the framework has been established nationally and internationally. Mr. Garrido conveyed that we should be discussing our relationship with the CNMI before starting the quest on Self-Determination.
12. Speaker Won Pat made a motion to table Items #1 and #2 on the Agenda at the next meeting. Motion passes.
13. Governor Calvo discussed updating the archives of the three political statuses because much has changed internally and externally such as the military build-up, visa waivers, American treaties and policies.
14. Speaker Won Pat announced that a Self-determination Conference will be hosted by her office and the students of the Public Policy Institute. Dr. Natividad made a motion to have the Commission be a co-sponsor and intersperse the three Task Forces as part of this educational process. Motion passes.
15. Speaker Won Pat suggested that the Governor write a letter requesting the next Expert Seminar of the U.N. be held in Guam. Dr. Natividad made a motion on this matter. Motion passes.
16. Mr. Garrido disagreed with the Points of Information, "Inalienable Sacred Rights given by the United States..." and made a motion for the language to be changed. Matter will be tabled until the next meeting.
17. Governor Calvo discussed the importance of looking at other countries, such as Palau who are now freely associated, and examine their track records so that we can learn from their history.
18. Next meeting date had been tentatively scheduled for October 7, 2011.