



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2017

Chairman called meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

I. Roll call

- Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman
- Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association Task Force
- Victoria Lola Leon Guerrero, Independence Task Force
- Tristan Quintanilla, Youth Congress
- Sen. Eddie Duenas, Statehood Task Force
- Mayor Robert Hoffman, Mayors' Council
- Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-at-Large
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-Large
- Absences
 - Sen. Fernando Esteves – excused
 - Sen. Telena Nelson – sending representative

II. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion to approve minutes** - Eloy Hara. No objections.

III. Subcommittee Updates

- UN relations
 - Draft letter to be sent to chairman of UN special committee on decolonization inviting a visiting mission to Guam.
 - Victoria Leon Guerrero – May I suggest attaching more information on the davis case and how it hinders the decolonization process, if not an amendment to the letter, as an attachment. I'd suggests giving more details about the case itself and stronger language on the urgency – how these legal delays interrupt the decolonization process.
 - Dr. Bevacqua – I'd recommend sending it out immediately.



- Chair – I recommend we send this letter out and let them know we will be sending subsequent information.
- Dr. Bevacqua – The people who would have to read it have to put together a working paper for Guam. They would already have some knowledge. I'd suggest we send it immediately. We need to get it into the pipeline. You could attach the executive director's paper from the last UN regional seminar.
- Dr. Natividad – Or the judgment from the case
- Chair – Let's generally agree it would be: court ruling, executive director's and attorney general's statements.
- Vice Chair – Is this approved by the Special Committee? The resolution concerning Guam.
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – This is a draft resolution which will be enacted in October.
- Vice Chair – maybe we can say that for the past so many years we can say that they've adopted this resolution? I'd like this sentence to show that this resolution concerning Guam has been adopted in several sessions, establish a history.
- Dr. Natividad- This is addressed to the special committee, so they are very aware, even more than we are here.
- Dr. Bevacqua – The resolution hasn't been changed in many years – hasn't contained info on militarization, so we want to send this out as soon as possible.
- Adrian Cruz– I think they're going to have a reshuffle of their subcommittee. If the seat at the head of the subcommittee changes, it may ruin? If a less favorable country gets a seat at the head of the subcommittee, it could ruin our chances.
- Dr. Natividad - **Motion to accept letter with attachments.** No objection. Signed by Governor.
- Self-Governance Study
 - Oyaol Ngirairikl – Just to wrap up, UN Relations subcommittee meeting will be held august 10, and reminder will be sent out to all members
 - Chair – As a reminder, I'm really trying to be able to go. It's very important
 - Victoria Leon Guerrero – As Dr. Bevacqua said, strong language was used. It would reaffirm their language as well as the letter we are sending
 - Oyaol Ngirairikl - We haven't gotten confirmation on the dates



- Chair – I’m tentatively saying yes to going. I’ll work to be there to make the official presentation.
- Vice Chair – I say we attach the resolution itself as well. So people would know where it came from. **Motion to attach the most recent resolution by the United Nations committee so that the people of Guam can have it ready.** No objection, so moved.
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – Regarding the self-governance study - The subcommittee members reviewed the scope of work. Further discussion is needed, so we will table that and get an update next meeting. The next subcommittee meeting is August 10. Reminders will be sent out to everyone and members of the media.
- Dr. Baza – I’d like to just make sure we are following open government law.
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – Yes, we are giving proper notices.
- Chair– we also have working groups where no voting is done. We don’t even come close to polling. We are all abiding by the rules
- DOE Curriculum Framework
 - Oyaol Ngirairikl – At the last subcommittee meeting, Deputy Superintendent Joe Sanchez presented long term draft curriculum framework. After discussion during the meeting, there was a request to have a working session to discuss the details on the framework, including a short-term plan. During the working session, the need for a curriculum writer was discussed.
 - Dr. Natividad – We felt in the discussion, the scope of work was beyond what we would be able to accomplish. We were hoping to recommend to this body here that some of our residual funds could go toward a curriculum writer and we would outsource that function.
 - Dr. Bevacqua – part of the reason is that there exists significant amt of resources for high school but little to none for elementary and middle school. There were people from curriculum department who shared some things from the Haleta series. It wouldn’t just be repackaging. We really needed someone to make sure these concepts match the certain levels they would be for. There was a mandate for DOE to undertake this curriculum.
 - Adrian Cruz – was there a ballpark figure?
 - Dr. Bevacqua – According to Joe Sanchez, it would be of low cost as it is just enhancement of existing curriculum as opposed to overtaking the entire thing.



- Dr. Natividad – What would be different, is that when it is included in the curriculum, it will be sustained over time. They would go in and enhance the existing social studies classes
- Chair – I’d assume middle schoolers would be more general, then in high school it would get more detailed. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled August 3.
- Chair – I would recommend that the executive director work with DOE on a plan to create this curriculum. They probably know the budgetary issues as well. We can get the ball rolling at least with discussion.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – **Motion - Executive Director work with GDOE to produce by next meeting an estimate and the proposal for a curriculum writer in consultation with DOE about the rates.**
- Therese – Did DOE give you a proposal that we could act on? Does the committee have a proposal?
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – It is a very basic framework.
- Therese – Did DOE explain why they did not do this already according to public law?
- Dr. Bevacqua – They didn’t know
- Oyaol Ngirakirikl – They are offering assistance, but I think it was clear they are not taking the lead. For it to be done right, it needs to be a partnership between them and us. Going back to the motion to have our E.D. work together with DOE.
- Chair – maybe it would be wise to have a report to be made out so we could entertain these questions. Maybe we could have this group from DOE meet with us to discuss how we move forward to this DOE curriculum.
- Sen. Duenas – What would be our role
- Eloy Hara – The idea is perfect. We believe this is DOE’s function. We can give them the idea and the material and information, but they can put it into their curriculum how they know. Our function is to educate eligible voters. I support that our people needs to know, but I believe this is the function of DOE.
- Adrian Cruz – We all respect you and Sen. Duenas. I think the lack of movement is due to lack of political will. The function of education is to provide informed citizens. If we had had kindergarten education from when you started, we would have had people my age who are educated.
- Chair – We can’t go back on history. We already decided.



- Oyaol Ngirairikl – We had a long term plan, but the committee wanted the subcommittee to look into a short term plan as well.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – there is nothing institutionalized that is geared towards learning about their own place. They are asking us for our guidance.
- Eloy Hara – Let them do it with our help.
- Adrian Cruz – If we expect to give our piece to DOE, we can't do that unless we are all participating.
- Chair – They are asking us to provide them the necessary resources and subject matter expertise. We are not experts in curriculum, one thing the E.D. can do is to facilitate meetings with our experts in each task force together with curriculum people to bring forward a product.
- Dr. Natividad – They don't have the resources in the department to take the lead in this. If we don't invest, the opportunity might fall.
- Vice Chair – There was a debate at the last meeting. What did you decide on? K-12 or start in high school? We should approve the map first.
- Dr. Natividad – It is logical to do a short-term plan first so we could have those who would be eligible to vote, but in light of what is going on with the Davis case, we don't know who would be able to vote. So we were thinking a longer term program would be better.
- Chair – As to the question marks regarding the lawsuit, there are ways to educate. You tell the high school students the reality of the situation.
- Dr. Bevacqua – the only issue would be that if we were to come out to propose a curriculum which is either in favor of or against the ruling while the case is being appealed.
- Chair – I still think the education program can tell the reality of what is going on. It is harder to teach it to the younger kids, but we have a bunch of smart young people. I hope we don't get caught in the weeds. This court case is something that should be discussed in the classroom.
- Dr. Bevacqua – The long term program would do that and would not just be based on a vote which might happen in a certain amount of time. It would be history and concept-based and not based on educating for a plebiscite which is dated in time. It would be in compliance.
- Chair – In the secondary level is where the details of the task forces would come in. There is a way to do it where you're not biased. This was the direction of Guam law, the UN Charter, and Federal Court Ruling. I'm excited. I think the long term is the right way.



- Victoria Leon Guerrero – Amanda sent a proposal of these different options. In younger grades it's about educating their place in the world, and as they progress to do exactly what you're saying. The discussion keeps getting to that we should educate people who could vote in the plebiscite which brings us back to the short term. They did come up with a K-12, I think it would be important, because it is a process that is going to take many years. If we have only Junior/Senior education on the matter, you're doing them a disservice.
- Eloy Hara – I mentioned last time, let's move forward with this. I recommended we put the plebiscite in for all voters of Guam in the next election. Let them vote and let's see on the surface.
- Chair – Let's get back to the education aspect.
- Sen. Duenas – How did we get involved with the curriculum?
- Dr. Natividad – I suggest we go back to the subcommittee and prepare the long term plan for the Commission to look at.
- Vice Chair – We need something more concrete. We need to build consensus. I think we might get consensus for the high school program. If you can start with what is required by law and where you intend to put this in, so we have something we could look at and agree or disagree. If you've got required readings, add them to the list. Give us an idea what's not there that you want to include. We could frame it that we're still educating for a plebiscite pursuant to the mandate of the United Nations.
- Dr. Natividad – That is all included in the long and short term frameworks.
- Vice Chair – Put concretely what we want to be put into this curriculum
- Dr. Natividad – Curriculum writer should divert to the task force position papers.
- Sen. Duenas – How many months have we been discussing this thing? I would like to have a long term, but under circumstances, we are here because of the plebiscite, nothing more.
- Chair – Some of you have a difference of opinion as to primary included vs. only secondary. We're looking at putting this educational material that you'd put on a newspaper in a classroom setting.
- Sen. Duenas – We do our presentations for kids who are 16-17, who will be of age come the voting, which is fine.
- Chair – I don't want to get stuck on this.
- Dr. Natividad – The long term and short term - This is why the subcommittee was established.



- Adrian Cruz – I think it does a disservice to the subcommittee meeting that not all statuses were there. Statehood was not there at the meeting.
- Eloy Hara- We were not invited to these meetings
- Vice Chair – I don't remember anything being approved except for there being a subcommittee
- Chair – Everyone has to come together at the Aug 3 subcommittee meeting
 - o **Motion -table this until after the Aug 3 subcommittee meeting.**
I'm imploring all of you to come together and report back to this commission on our next monthly meeting.
- Tristan Quintanilla – Time and location for next meeting?
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – Large conference room, 3pm Thursday, August 3

IV. Draft Statement on War Reparations

- Oyaol Ngirairikl – At the last Commission meeting, a motion was made that the Commission make a statement on War Reparations. Dr. Bevacqua will provide an update on the draft.
- Dr. Bevacqua – I need to send it to the Commission.
- Tabled until next meeting

V. Financial Report

- Vice Chair – For DOI grant money, I want to know what happened to the appropriations for the decolonization commission, how were those spent. The local funds. Budget was supposed to be status quo.
- Sen. Duenas – I'm wondering about this amount set aside for the Self-Governance Study.
- Dr. Bevacqua – this was approved last year to set aside money for it. The first part is the status quo analysis, taking data and information of where Guam is right now and where Guam falls short in self-governance. Another part is looking at the 3 status options – hiring economists and other experts to look at how things would be like under each status option with study on projections.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – In terms of Guam specifically, there is a degree of expertise in different areas that we as volunteers do not have. I have sat on panels where people are misinformed. The Commission needs to inform the community accurately. We need to know how dependent our island is now and how each option will afford us. Even the Bradley report is not enough.



- Dr. Bevacqua – There are companies that do this. I don't think we should overthink this. It is just a matter of moving forward to what we want to ask them.
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – We missed the deadline for the procurement schedule, so it will go out in October.
- Vice Chair- The subcommittee is still working on the scope of work, and dividing the studies into multiple parts.
- Dr. Bevacqua – That's what we discussed at the last meeting – breaking it up.
- Vice Chair – What is this \$419 for GCC procurement classes, and why is the Commission paying for this?
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – That's part of their solution to the procurement issues that you have been dealing with. What they've been doing is leaning on the Deputy Chief of Staff Office – which has one person doing procurement for several offices. To ensure that procurement goes smoothly for Commission, we wanted to have someone take the class so that they could handle procurement for the Commission.
- Vice Chair – I don't think the Decolonization Commission needs a separate procurement person for the Government of Guam. Can't we use one that's already been trained? Or can't we go through GSA?
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – The encumbrance is right now recorded under the local funding, but it is going to be moved to the director's office's account.
- Christine Flores – Unfortunately, the funds that started in directors account, a portion was taken to create the 30000 for the educational outreach under directors office. It left only so much funds in director's office in old 230 account. I did a JV to transfer the money to the director's office account. They needed someone who was certified. Following procurement law, anyone who handles procurement to be certified. GCC did not know when it would next be offered. In the event of me leaving, it would leave them with no one. With Mariana taking over procurement for the commission, she needs to at least take module 1 to be able to handle procurement. That's the reason it ended in the account it is now, I'm waiting for the JV to move the encumbrance to the director's office. It was in the interest of her being able to take the classes.
- Vice Chair – It's not my problem with where it's coming out of the budget, but that it's coming at all out of the budget. I don't think this is necessary.
- Chair – I want to help as much as possible, but I've got people who are overwhelmed. We might as well get someone within this commission to get procurement authority, and to get that they have to take the course.
- Vice Chair – why wouldn't GSA handle it? Don't they still have to go through GSA?



- Christine Flores – No, it is being handled like the Mayors’ Council. They work in tandem with DOA. GSA is only involved when it’s \$15,000 or above.
- Dr. Natividad – I think the task forces will agree that this is the best it’s ever been, compared to even a year before that.
- Sen. Duenas – If we are going to go according to the GSA and procurement process, it is very tedious. If the plebiscite were to be held in 2018, maybe 16 months from now – it would only be for a short time frame. I’d like to bring up to the Vice Speaker: If we were to be exempt us for this particular period, I don’t see a problem there.
- Vice Chair – Apparently, they are saying they have that authority now. Maybe they’ve had it all along to be treated like the Mayors’ Council. My issue is if we’re going to be coming to meetings and finding out that we’re spending money on all these things that were never brought up prior. That is not appropriate for a commission. I’ve watched for years as this Commission spent all of its appropriations, and the product that comes out – I don’t know if we can say that’s what we spent our money on. Right now I can’t find any statements made to the UN on behalf of this Commission, made by anyone on Guam. Those are always relevant for what we’ve been tasked to do. I’ve been promised those are going to be collected and scanned. I’ve been waiting for those for years. Only now, we’re going to pay to get a website, pay to get procurement. It’s not making sense to me.
- Chair – I have to hand it to my people. I don’t know what everyone’s been doing for the past 20 years. When I came in here, it was nothing. We had to start from ground zero. I don’t want to point fingers. I want to commend my staff and you folks because we’ve done a lot of progress in a short period of time that hasn’t been done in 20 years. We felt that getting someone within the office with this certification, it would speed the process up.
- Vice Chair – That is fine, but it was never brought up to be the issue for procurement delay.
- Chair – It was not us. Pursuant to the law that legislature created to follow procurement law and do it this way is the reason why we did this.
- Vice Chair – Because they are Commission, we are supposed to vote for things.
- Dr. Natividad – Earlier I was praising Amanda’s efforts. So much more has happened in the last two months than in previous six years. This, to me, is a very creative strategy in terms of getting procurement needs met. Vice Speaker, I’m wondering if your concern is not so much that this procurement function is done in house or about the approval of the expenses.



- Vice Chair – Discussing it first is a need. It was never told to us that that was the issue. That’s not what delayed procurement for all those years.
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – I believe it was in the interest time. We had a lot going on and needed to get the procurement issue addressed. We had Mariana coming on board and had an opportunity to take this class. We didn’t know when it would be offered again next. It was a bit of a rush, but we will make sure moving forward that all future expenditures are discussed and approved first.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – Public law says that we meet the first Tuesday of every month and as necessary. If there needs to be an approval for spending money, we can have an emergency meeting. That way we make sure there is this accountability and approval process. I will attest to the fact that we did meet with the executive director when she was hired to come up with procurement solutions. We were told what we’ve been doing all these years getting all our quotes was illegal.
- Vice Chair – I agree that it should move as fast as possible, but you should know if you’re paying to move it. And the staffing – you asked several meetings ago for the staffing patterns.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – this is the first time we’ve been informed who the staff members are. I think this is about the approval process. I think we could have emergency meetings so we could do that.
- Sen. Duenas – The figures we see here: are these local funds?
- Chair – DOI funding \$179,000 is federal. The task force accounts are local appropriations. The education outreach is also local funding.

VI. Task force updates:

- Victoria Leon Guerrero – GDOE has their professional development on August 15, where they are allowing us to meet with Guam History and other social studies teachers. Last year only Independence attended. This is our opportunity to share our information and materials.
 - Oyaol Ngirairikl – We haven’t received confirmation on the venue yet, but that will be emailed to everybody.
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association Task Force
 - Amanda is working on procurement needs. Everything is going smoothly.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero, Independence Task Force
 - We have our general assembly resume the last Thursday of every month at Chamorro Village. We’re still doing village approaches, which will be sort



of one-on-one. We are still doing our topic based teach-ins. We have one the second Thursday of the month. Our next event will be a teach-in at the University on the MIT.

- Oyaol Ngirairikl - Please make sure Amanda has these so we can post it on the website. The website is under construction, but you can go on and check your links out. If there's anything you want added, please send a note to Amanda or Mariana. They are currently scanning a lot of the documents at the library and the MARC. The goal is to have all this information on the website.
 - Vice Chair – Can we keep a running tab of resources available, so the task forces will know what's available – even what you decide not to copy.
 - Mariana Pangelinan – we have one that we are working on that lists what is available at the Agana Library right now.
 - Vice Chair – I also would like the testimonies given to the UN on behalf of Guam.
- Sen. Duenas, Statehood Task Force
 - We are regrouping and hopefully will have a bigger meeting next week to think of our campaign strategy. I would like to suggest that every so often, this Commission could schedule an educational meeting in the villages and then we can come in and provide our information. We had a meeting with Amanda and laid down our programs and had a productive meeting.

VII. Open Discussion

- Chair – For the next meeting, I will be in Japan, so Vice Speaker will be the Chair.
- Vice Chair – in 2010, the DOD adopted a Mariana Island Range Complex training range where they would use live explosives on land, sea, and air. In 2015, they established the MIT, which expands the training range to the biggest training range in the world, using live fire explosions and sonar. They got permits which allows for the deaths of so many marine wildlife including fish and dolphins and destruction of coral per year. They approved a live fire training range which will impact Litekyan. Pending is joint CNMI Joint Military Training Establishment – 2/3 of Tinian and 100% of Pagan. The people of Guam have until September 15 to respond. They want to renew their MIT to extend until 2020. They are going to do another study of what the impacts might be. I think we should do everything in our power to compile the data about any impact for the Government of Guam to



make a response. Because we're looking at status, it affects each option for political status. We need to be able to negotiate our resources. Taking away of these resources impedes our ability to move forward with this decolonization process. They are putting this here because they control this place, which is the epitome of colonization. I suggest we draft a statement on this.

- Chair – There are things such as militarization of Guam – all these ranges, and also about an entity taking control. They had a national monument put on us which protects things but also takes control away from us. One thing we can all agree, is that they've done these things, and we were not a part of it. There's a way to say something about it without offending any of the status options. That's a good thing. We've got to put it in somehow. Either way, this question has got to be posted: What if? What next?
- Vice Chair – We know from their studies what resources are available in this area that has been put under a national monument. Trump passed this executive order to restudy all monuments to reopen them for mining.
- Chair – I feel very comfortable with what we say about ourselves, but as we start moving along into speaking about our brothers and sister islands, I just don't want to offend someone.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – This is in violation of international law because when an administering power does something that affects natural resources, they need the full consent of the people. They've never sought our consent on the buildup or the MIT.
- Dr. Natividad – Because we are indigenous peoples, they are in violation.
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – It will endanger marine animals and our ability to sustain ourselves, thus making us more dependent. It is very clear that while you colonize a place, you cannot destroy their resources. I think this is an opportune time to make a comment on the matter.
- Chair – I think that the question of the Commission on Decolonization is if we go forward any of the status options, what would these rules and treaties mean?
- Victoria Leon Guerrero – The only reason they are able to do this is because they have sovereignty over our land and waters.
- Chair – Let's take a look at this and see how we would posture a statement that is tied to the goals of the Commission.
- Oyaol Ngirairikl – May I suggest we request to EPA and Marine lab to provide some information on the impacts.
- Dr. Natividad – They should have a lot of data we could use for our statement.



- Victoria Leon Guerrero – **Motion** – **Executive director will via email collect statements from Chair, Vice Chair, Task Force Chairs, and Commission members to compile for a comment on the MIT for the next meeting. No objections.**

VIII. Meeting Adjourned 5:20p.m.