



**COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair at 3:17 p.m.

I. Roll Call

- Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje – Vice Chair
- Dr. Lisa Natividad – Member-at-large
- Adrian Cruz – Free Association Task Force
- Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – Independence Task Force
- Sen. Eddie Duenas – Statehood Task Force
- P.J. Guerrero – Representative for Sen. Fernando Esteves
- Tristan Quintanilla – Guam Youth Congress

II. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2017

- **Motion to approve minutes – Adrian Cruz. No objections. Motion Passes.**
- Vice Chair – Consider adding “also in attendance” to meeting minutes to include other members of task forces present.

III. Fourth Committee Recap

- Vice chair – I’d like to thank Amanda for her support in setting up meetings and everyone for attending and supporting our efforts.
- Dr. Natividad – It was historic for a number of reasons – the size of delegation and chairman’s attendance. Thank you independence for putting together a booklet with all the testimonies. We can use it for advocating to other countries throughout the Pacific. Usually at this stage, it pretty much is a resolution that has been agreed upon that goes up for vote at that time. In meeting with C24, the ambassador from Venezuela showed willingness to go into drafting for the resolution for Guam. After their review, they decided to make the language softer than we had written. As of today, they have not passed resolution for Guam. The US has called for a vote on our resolution. It has been lobbying against its passage. As of Thursday, they are supposed to call for that vote and we will see what happens. Strong statements about removal of military bases will be talked about Wednesday. They needed harder evidence to support our



position. We forwarded the resolution, the Hita booklet to members of C24 and members of PSID, I'd like to make a motion to proceed with a letter from our governor to their head of state requesting for their support. We were able to visit with FSM, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, and Nauru, and while in its face value they are supportive, but they are in compacts with the US. We don't want to put them in bad positions. In terms of strategizing, Marshall Islands and Kiribati have expressed willingness to support. Solomon Islands is on the brink of collapse. We attempted to meet with the bigger states, but there was no time. Solomon Islands is really critical. The letter is critical.

- Executive director – In the meeting with the US Ambassador, Governor brought up visiting mission and asked for their support. He wrote a letter in reference to other things – North Korea threat and visiting mission. We can send a copy out.
- Vice Chair – there is a resolution proposed prepared by subcommittee to present to this committee. We are asking for their support of this resolution. There were some changes made – asking for environmental assessment and the visiting mission.
- Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – The ability to engage with the US at this level added to the success of this trip.
- Dr. Natividad – Did they support this resolution?
- Executive Director – There was no commitment at the time, but we have other contacts we are hoping to pursue – other members of the Department of Interior.
- Vice Chair – It was my first time to the UN. I hope to make a future motion to look at these resolutions and we really affirm. There is language I would actually like to remove. Maybe we could update it. It went very well. I'd like to thank all of you who were there, and all of you who supported.
- Dr. Natividad – I think we need to engage it early on. I think it would be stronger if we made a motion to have the governor write those letters to the countries.
- Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – Nauru ambassador extended invitation for Governor to contact her to work more closely with PSID. We could send something to her and ask her to help to distribute to PSID. I think we should reach out to the Chair (Venezuela) to help with writing of the resolution and work with Vice Chair Terlaje with removing what needs to be removed.
- Dr. Natividad – we could request through the chair of the Non-Aligned movement to extend to the Non-Aligned as well to pull in other member states as well.
- Sen. Duenas –What kind of support are we looking for?



- Vice Chair – Our two representatives were Governor and Dr. Natividad. The other people who attended went on behalf of other groups.
- Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – we are looking for their support on the resolution with the amendment requesting visiting mission and environmental study when the vote occurs.
- **Motion (by Dr. Natividad) - Governor to write letter to heads of state of nations of Oceania for their support on resolution of Guam. Seconded by PJ. 6 for. 1 against. Passes.**
 - **Include in the letter – Visiting mission. – 4 Vote yes. Passes.**
 - **Include in the letter – Support for decolonization of Guam – passes.**
 - **Additional letter to Venezuela for Non-Aligned Movement – passes**
 - **Letter to pacific states via Nauru ambassador – passes.**
 - Statehood task force abstains from voting.

IV. Chamorro Language Political Status Panel Discussion (UOG)

- **Tentative Date: Nov. 29**
- Executive Director – A UOG Gender Studies class is holding a panel in Chamoru. It is tentatively set for November 29. This is an invitation to the task forces.
- Statehood and Free Association confirm attendance.
- Sen Duenas – why is it only in Chamorro? I wonder if the class will understand fully what we will be mentioning.
- Vice Chair – As we are not sponsoring, it is not in our place to dictate what language it will be in. I ask if you have any further questions or suggestions to contact those who are hosting the event.
- Dr. Bevacqua – There is no reason that it shouldn't be done in Chamorro. While we have people who can do it in Chamorro, then we should have it.
- Vice Chair – I ask that task forces take any matters in regards to this event up with the inviters at UOG.

V. Financial Report

- **Financial report as of November 7**
- Sen. Duenas – What are the amounts allotted and spent for 2016 and 2017?
- Mariana Pangelinan – I will get those amounts for you.
- Executive Director – The funding expires in 2020 I believe, based regarding the law.



- Vice Chair – Can we get a packet at the next meeting with the financial information – anything regarding what laws applying to our finances and any allocations?
- Sen. Duenas – I had issues with getting a different computer than I requested.
- Executive Director – we are bound by procurement laws and have met with task forces individually. We can have another work session open to all members to explain the process of procurement and all rules and laws we have to abide by as a government entity. We cannot dictate the brand of products we purchase. This continuously comes up.
- Vice Chair – The laws have been changed significantly to restrict any reference to brands. You might end up with a different brand, but it will meet specifications. The Executive Director will meet with you.

- **Procurement Requests**
 - o Open purchase orders for office supplies
 - **Motion to approve purchase of office supplies up to \$1000.**
 - o Purchase Order/ Requisition Forms
 - **Motion to approve purchase of PO forms up to \$450.**
 - o Printer
 - **Motion to approve purchase of printer up to \$300.**
 - o Air Conditioning Unit
 - **Motion to approve purchase of Air Conditioning Unit up to \$2000.**
 - o Audio Recorder
 - **Motion to approve purchase of audio recorder up to \$100.**
 - o **Motions by Adrian Cruz. Seconded by Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero. All motions pass.**
 - o Vice Chair – I would also like an update on the website and availability of prior documents which were scanned.

VI. Task Force Updates

- **Free Association**
 - o We are trying to engage in all speaking arrangements we have been approached to do
 - o Waiting on some procurement issues which we are ironing out
 - o Continuing normal meetings – looking forward to see position of Government of Guam as to moving forward from the Davis Case.



- **Independence**
 - o We have a teach-in on Thursday November 9, about Catalonia and their independence vote 6:00-7:30 UOG HSS 106.
 - o Another teach-in about protecting Litekyan November 16 6:00-7:30 UOG HSS 106.
 - o This month General Assembly will be Tuesday 11/28 instead of 11/30 6:00-7:30
 - o On December 8 – War Claims Drive to help war survivors to fill out their war claims. Several of us have gotten requests from war survivors. We are seeking volunteers. Dec 8 9-5pm. 1st floor UOG HSS. We will also be screening WWII Documentaries and have books shown. We want to help with the process as well as have a place for the Manamko to tell their stories. We also wanted to have it on December 8 because of the significance on that particular day.
 - o We are having volunteer trainings on November 21 at 12pm in the MARC Conference Room and Dec 5 at 6pm. All are welcome to participate.
- **Statehood**
 - o One thing holding us back – When are we going to set a date? Will we have an open plebiscite?
 - o Vice Chair – we don't have a timeline for the plebiscite.
 - o We had a meeting set for two weeks ago, but it was postponed because of the fiesta.

VII. Next Subcommittee Meetings

- **Self-Governance Study (November 14, 2 p.m.)**
 - o Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – what is the delay for the self-governance study?
 - o Adrian Cruz – The delay is the statehood task force. We would never reach consensus to present to the commission.
 - o Vice Chair – If you have a draft that you need approval of, bring it in. I recommend someone bring in a motion with documents.
 - o Adrian Cruz – By next month we will bring it to the committee as a whole and vote on it.
 - o Executive Director – When we do invitations for bids, we have to guarantee there is money to pay the bid. The \$121,000 was previously decided on.



VIII. UOG Endowment Foundation

- Leana – *UOG Endowment Foundation* – Our work is to support the work of UOG. MARC had its 50th anniversary this year. They are re-envisioning the work that they do. We have a scholar we'd like to bring out. All of you here have ideas for other indigenous scholars who can come to Guam and speak about self-determination. He is a Fulbright scholar with a research grant for four months. He is from New Zealand. MARC is situated at UOG, but students from GCC, middle, and high schools, and others in the community utilize the MARC. We would like to host self-determination in the Pacific Islands conversation. We are asking for monetary support. In any way we'd like to proceed with it, of course we'd ask for your feedback. We'd like to bring him out between February and June. I've reached out to others. We'd like to have 3-5 scholars to come together in the conversation.
- Adrian Cruz – if they come, this will be placed on PBS?
- Leana – yes we'd have to go through the solicitation process.
- Adrian Cruz – as far as my task force, it is very worthwhile. \$3,500 is not an unreasonable. I'd like to commit \$1,200 from our own budget for this cause and challenge the other task forces to match it.
- Dr. Natividad – Indigenous rights and decolonization issues are two different things. What I would be comfortable with is a cost-share with MARC. We want to make sure that we don't confuse the two. I think if we can identify two of the five people, I think that would be good. At FestPac, we asked the delegations from different places talk about different things toward the different status options.
- Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – maybe we can get targeted scholars.
- Dr. Natividad – maybe the task forces could seek out some experts.
- Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero – what makes more sense for our budget, is to create educational materials.
- Vice Chair – I'd ask that you give each of the task forces your contact information so they could contact you regarding this. We appreciate it and it is a good idea to join with this. I think it should be task force driven.

IX. Next Meeting: December 5, 2017

X. Open Discussion

- Sen. Duenas – is there any indication about when the plebiscite might be forthcoming.



- Vice Chair – the law still restricts us, and so we are not able to move forward with this. If anyone wants to change that we need action by legislature, congress, or the United Nations.
- Sen. Duenas – if we open it to all, then we don't need the registry. The ruling of the district court stands. Legislature can change the date but not the court case.
- Vice Chair – we have been planned from proceeding with the decolonization registry. There would have to be a law put forward to have an open plebiscite.
- Tristan Quintanilla – Guam Youth Congress has created a subcommittee about educating the youth on the topic of decolonization.
- Vice Chair – there is a resolution regarding the funding of war claims. It hasn't had a public hearing yet. There is a bill banning any kind of political signs on public property. It is in front of the governor for his action. It might affect the task forces. There is a bill pending for the tribal status.
- Executive Director – we have several people interested in becoming part of the different task forces and I will be sending them your ways. Be expecting emails in the next couple of days.

XI. Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn – Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero. Seconded by Adrian Cruz.**
- **Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.**