



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
Commission Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 3:05

I. Roll Call

- Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo
- Tristan Quintanilla, Guam Youth Congress
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association
- Mayor Hoffman, Mayors' Council
- Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-at-Large
- Victoria Leon Guerrero, Independence Task Force
- Also in Attendance:
 - Trini Torres, Independence Task Force
- Excused Absences:
 - Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman (Session)
 - Sen. Fernando Esteves (Session)
 - Sen. Telenia Nelson (Session)
 - Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-Large

II. Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2018

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

III. Old Business

- ***Gi Fino' Chamoru Panel***
 - We had a Chamorro Language panel for the three task forces. Thank you to the task forces for participating and to UOG for organizing the event.
- ***United Nations Voting Record RE: Guam Resolution***
 - I want to thank the member states. There was some pressure placed on individual nations about the approval of this resolution. Every one of



those who voted for us were able to vote for our cause despite some pressures.

- o Adrian – Will we be sending letters?
- o Executive Director – Yes we working on thank you letters. Prior to the vote we sent out letters to ambassadors and their parent countries requesting for their support for that resolution. We are keeping up correspondence, especially for our sister countries in the Pacific. Every time their independence day, we have been sending congratulations. We continue to interact with them in preparation for the regional seminar and then the committee in October, where a resolution will be voted on again.

IV. Continuing Business

- ***Self-Determination Study***

- o Executive Director - As of March 6, there have been edits which have been highlighted in yellow. It was put on Google Docs for efficiency in editing. We have only received 3 or 4 edits. There were concerns about knowing which lines were discussed so we did add line numbers as well.

- o ***Recommendations to Study*** – by Vice Chairwoman Terlaje

- Adrian Cruz - She put that she wants to put the three political status models on hold. That is the whole point of the study - so that the task forces have something to pull from this. We don't agree. We already voted on this and are in motion. I think we need to continue. Motion to continue.

- Dr. Baza – I believe some of her recommendation points have already been included in the MOU. My motion is that recommendations 1,2,3 – that they also be included. I'd like to adopt her language.

- Executive Director – Military presence is mentioned in line 104. The Natural Resources is on line 103. Tax changes is on line 93. Those three aspects are mentioned on line 93, 103, and 104. If there's a need to add anything else, I could add them if the Commission would like.

- Adrian Cruz – Instead of looking at three status options, we can also look at the baseline of the current status quo. I think that's what she wanted to get at. The whole purpose is so that we can pull



from it. Giving us information about where we're at now won't be helpful.

– Executive Director – line 57 states that RCPP will compare the models to what Guam currently has in terms of resources and advantages.

– Dr. Baza – We need a point of contact. Could you just forward us any communication for the record?

– Executive Director – for the self-determination study, we will start an email log as well. Any communication we have will be included so everyone's aware. I can make that communication log open and available.

– Adrian Cruz – You don't necessarily have to send us the information. Just as long as it's accessible.

– Executive Director – we can add that to the website as well.

– Chairman – I think we've established that items 1, 2, and 3 are contained within.

– **Adrian – Motion to move on with the study. No objection. Motion passes.**

- **Bill 247**

- o Executive Director – Last week I sent a copy of Bill 247, introduced by Frank Aguon, to all Commission members and anyone on our Commission listing. Bill 247 gives the Governor the ability to reorganize the government. Decolonization was given a priority number of 307, so any given higher than 300, the Governor has the ability to abolish. Commission members have reached out about sending out a resolution or statement to the legislature. I put it on Google Docs. There have been no edits.

- o Dr. Baza – I reviewed it. I think we should include that a large part of our funding is federal from the Department of Interior – so our costs are very low. As commissioners, we don't receive a stipend, that's a non-issue.

- o Dr. Baza - I think the resolution is fine.

- o Adrian Cruz – I think that the language in the last *whereas* can be a lot stronger. A big chunk of our problems right now is because we are a colony. This is the issue that goes to the heart of a lot of other issues.



o Victoria L.G. – We can enhance and move up the *whereas* saying this situation because of Guam’s colonization and is indicative of the need to decolonize. In times like this, we should actually enhance its priority status. If we were not a colony, we would not be going through what we are going through right now. I can respond to the email to help with the language.

o Chairman – There’s a little complication. There’s currently a bill that deals with a 2% sales tax to make up for the revenues. I think the amendment was incorporated into this bill that is currently on the session floor. We’re going to raise taxes here, but that means you guys need to reorganize. If this thing passes, I’ll sign it into law to stabilize the government. As far as im concerned, I agree with you. Rev and Tax is important because it’s bringing everything in. As far as im concerned, the COD will be up there. If I need to reorganize and put it in a higher position, I’ll do it. You have my commitment. I’m not going to have this Commission go away or allow its role to be minimized. If this bill comes into law, you have my word that we will keep the sanctity of this Commission.

o Executive Director – There is an amendment which mirrors Sen. Aguon’s bill right now. I don’t know if the Commission would like to send this out immediately after the meeting as it’s being discussed right now.

o Chairman – we had no consultation on this thing.

o Dr. Baza – can I propose that we forward this?

o Victoria Leon Guerrero – Maybe it will be appropriate for the COD to do a statement about these tax cuts and how it is indicative of Guam’s current colonial situation and the need for decolonization. Perhaps a press release as well saying something along those lines. This is very much what it’s like to be an unincorporated territory. Things that are applied to a community like ours, it is very devastating to our community.

o Executive Director – I recommend we finalize the resolution after this meeting. I will send it to the Speaker, Vice Speaker, Sen. Aguon and CC all Commission members. After, I will send it out to media, and make an official statement to go with it.



- ***Financial Report***
 - Executive Director - The financial report shows funds available as of March 12, 2018. Previous fiscal year accounts have an asterisk because they have been placed on reserve to assist with cost containment this fiscal year. We did speak to the task forces and update them.
 - FY16 and FY17 rolled over because it was part of the language in the bill that became law. FY18 funds do not carry over because the language was not present in the budget law.
 - Trini Torres – Why are the amounts for independence FY16, FY17 are very low compared to the other accounts?
 - Executive Director –Yes, Independence has engaged in the most procurement so far. Prior to it being put in reserves, those were also used for the procurement of your printing and other needs.
 - Victoria Leon Guerrero – it is lower because we spent the most.
 - Chairman – they all have the same amount in the beginning; they just have different spending levels.

- ***Task Force Updates***
 - *Free Association*, Adrian Cruz
 - We were all there at the CHamoru Language Forum, which was great. We have our website being built. We have to look for a new place to hold our monthly meetings because a lot of the public places are going to be discontinued for use. We might look into Chamorro Village. Our current place is a public area.

 - *Independence*, Victoria Leon Guerrero
 - We have a few things coming up. We’ve got our General Assembly march 29. This month we want to focus on CHamoru identity and pride, similar to our discussion. When we’re struggling fiscally, a lot of the cuts come to agencies like COD and CHamoru affairs, which should be priorities for the community. We are looking at the social and psychological benefits of prioritizing culture and language. We are looking at what ways could help instill pride in our community. We would like to honor Tony Palomo who really stressed the value of the CHamoru perspective. We are going to do a teach-in about how we can learn CHamoru even as adults.



We are going to do a second Ayuda Manainata event, exactly a month before war claims are due. It is scheduled May 19 at UOG. We are appealing to everyone in the Commission to see if anyone would want to volunteer. Last year we had two notaries, and we are also looking for other volunteers and people who would like to donate food.

- o *Statehood*, Eloy Hara
 - Senator Duenas has had a major surgery and has been out for the last month or so. We are ahead in our studies and plans. We had some setbacks in terms of asking the Director if we could rent a container to put someplace and pass out all the information we have. We may not be able to do that. We’ve been through our educational process through every village on island. We’ve found out that we don’t reach enough people like that. The media is probably our best bet. We are saving our money to go out in mass media promotion through a media campaign

V. **New Business**

- ***Social Marketing Plan***

- o Dr. Baza- Dr. Natividad proposes that the class submit a proposal for a social media marketing for the Commission to look at. I think independence has been effective in that regard, but to have students create a plan for other people their age is a great idea. Dr. Natividad is proposing this with Dr. Rivera at UOG. Once we approve it, they could work on their proposal. I thought it was a great idea, especially coming from that generation. I’m interested to see what they have to say. There were students at UOG asked about self-determination and decolonization. The response that they got was that they weren’t very interested. I’m wondering if this is because we are not getting the message across. The proposal is not to approve anything – it is only for them to submit a proposal and a cost estimate. If we are in agreement, then we can adopt it.
- o Eloy Hara – It is very exciting to see what they might do. When we go out, there doesn’t seem to be enough interest.
- o Dr. Baza – I think Youth Congress would be great to work with them as well.



- o Tristan Quintanilla – Is the CHamoru studies program involved with this at all?

- o Dr. Baza – I think it is just the public administration and public policy students, I believe it is a cohort of Dr. Rivera’s. **My motion is just to allow them to submit a proposal. No objections. Motion passes.**

- **“One Guam” Project**

- o Executive Director - We’d like to invite the UOG MPA Practicum class to the table to present.

- o Amanda Shelton – we are here to present our final class project, called One Guam. It is going to be a gubernatorial candidate debate on the topic of decolonization. We are here to seek the Commission’s support. We’d like to meet with the different task forces to develop the material and put together our research project.

- o Marge – We just got confirmation from the 5 candidates. It is a two-part debate. The first round, each candidate will have a 2 minute opening statement, and then each will answer a question for 2 minutes, and others can rebut for 1 minute. A 20 minute intermission will take place, and then the second round will be identical to the first with the exception of a one minute closing statement. We will also be conducting a candidate briefing to cover all the housekeeping rules. It is also to ensure the order formation by lot – to give them the opportunity to position themselves with candidate staging, and the introduction position, and the order of candidates’ questions and responses.

- o Amanda Shelton – This is a pivotal point in the islands history. We as a class are not subject matter experts on self-determination. That is why we are here to seek your support to make sure we put on an impactful event that will help to educate the public. We are looking for your support in the planning stages as well as financial support, perhaps the purchasing of tickets to give out to the community however you deem appropriate (schoolchildren or members of task forces).

- o Chairman- In hindsight, the emphasis on the discussion of decolonization has never been high on list of issues in many debates. I think there is a heightened sense with the gubernatorial campaigns to discuss the issue. I see the need for this. Then it becomes part of the discussion.



- o Amanda Shelton – Thank you Governor. With your leadership and with the commission now working and all the events the task forces are putting on, it's becoming something we are very interested in and want other people to know more about.
- o Victoria L.G. – I think it is really appropriate that you are doing this and that self-determination becomes a priority and a point of discussion for this election. You have our support.
- o Adrian Cruz- my task force is also willing to help and extend some financial assistance.

VI. Work Session/Subcommittee Schedule

- Executive Director – Instead of making a work session, we could turn it into a subcommittee meeting which would follow open government law, but decisions can be made. That is one alternative. We just would need to know how many members would be part of that subcommittee. Members have mentioned that discussing the self-determination study during the meeting has the meetings very lengthy. If we move to a sub-committee meeting, we have to know who is a member in order to make sure we meet quorum for every meeting.
- **Dr. Baza – Motion for the official members to be the three task force representatives. Seconded by Adrian cruz. No objection.**
- Executive Director – I will send out the notice and explanation in another email so everyone is aware.
- **Work Session: Self-Determination Study (Tuesday, March 20, 2018)**
- **Work Session: DOE Curriculum Framework / United Nations (Tuesday, March 27, 2018)**

VII. Open Discussion

VIII. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn – Adrian Cruz. No objection.**
- **Meeting adjourned at 3:48**