MINA' BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2008 (Second) Regular Session

Executive Committee Resolution No. 157

Introduced by:

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Relative to recognizing Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, for paying the ultimate sacrifice for her advocacy for democracy and against terrorism, and recognizing her life-long struggle for political reform.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the late Benazir Bhutto was born in Karachi, Pakistan on June 21, 1953 to a prominent political family; and

WHEREAS, she was the eldest of four children of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a Pakistani of Sindhi descent and Shia Muslim faith, and Begum Nusrat Bhutto, a Pakistani of Iranian-Kurdish descent, and of Shia Muslim by faith; and

WHEREAS, at age 16, after completing her early education in Pakistan, she left her homeland to study at Harvard's Radcliffe College, and after completing her undergraduate degree in political science continued her studies at England's Oxford University, where she was awarded a masters in philosophy in 1973; and

WHEREAS, during her college years she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and was elected president of the prestigious Oxford Union; and

WHEREAS, she also held degrees in Economics, International Law and Diplomacy, and authored, "Foreign Policy in Perspective," (1978), her

- autobiography, "Daughter of the East" (1989), and several collections of her speeches and works have been compiled, including "The Way Out" (1988); and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, three books about Benazir have been published in India:
- 22 "Benazir's Pakistan (1989), "The Trial of Benazir" (1989) and "Benazir
- 23 Bhutto: Opportunities and Challenges" (1989); and
- 24 WHEREAS, she received the Bruno Kreisky Award for Human
- 25 Rights in 1988 and the Honorary Phi Beta Kappa Award from Radcliffe
- 26 College in 1989; and
- WHEREAS, she was known as a woman of courage and conviction
- and was honored with the International Leadership Award; and
- WHEREAS, along with her mother she campaigned for her
- 30 imprisoned father in 1977-1979, and suffered long periods of detention
- 31 from 1977-1984; and
- WHEREAS, she struggled for years in opposition to the established
- 33 government and pledged to transform Pakistani society by focusing
- 34 attention on programs for health, social welfare, and education for the
- 35 underprivileged; and
- WHEREAS, free election was held in 1988, she was elected co-
- 37 chairwoman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) along with her mother
- 38 who was the chairwoman; and
- WHEREAS, the Late Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as Prime Minister
- 40 of Pakistan, becoming the first woman to head the government of an
- 41 Islamic State on December 2, 1988; and
- 42 **WHEREAS,** she initiated an anti-corruption campaign, and in 1993
- was re-elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan, and while in office, brought
- electricity to the countryside and built schools all over the country; and
- WHEREAS, she made hunger, housing and health care her top

priorities, and looked forward to continuing to modernize Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, she lost her bid for reelection in 1997 and was forced to leave her homeland, and for nine years she and her children lived in exile in London where she continued to advocate the restoration of democracy in Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, vowing to help return democracy to Pakistan, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto ended nine years of self-imposed exile and returned in October 2007 to her native country to seek a third term as Prime Minister in the January 2008 elections; and

WHEREAS, On December 27th 2007, the people of Pakistan suffered a great loss, when the former Prime Minister was brutally assassinated by extremists after addressing political reforms and advocating against terrorism at a rally in Rawalpindi; and

WHEREAS, in her death she has left behind her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, daughters Bakhtwar and Aseefa, and son Bilawal Zardari to mourn her, and is also survived by her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto who is bed-ridden and is currently living in Dubai; and

WHEREAS, The loss of Pakistan's most popular democratic leader has plunged the country into turmoil, intensifying the dangerous instability of a nuclear-armed nation in a highly volatile region; and

WHEREAS, the people of Guam have their very own men and women serving in harm's way in the Middle East, to fight against terrorism and for democracy and some have also paid the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the people of Guam mourn the loss of all sons and daughters who have given their all in the fight against terrorism, just as the late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, her father, and brothers have given their lives for Pakistan, and the people of Guam share in the mourning the loss of Benazir Bhutto in the fight for democracy; and

WHEREAS, like the people of Pakistan, the people of Guam recognize the importance of equality, justice and democracy in all societies; and

WHEREAS, the people of Guam would like to encourage the people of Pakistan around the world to remember what Benazir Bhutto died for and to encourage them to continue to carry on her vision of freedom and world peace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guåhan extend condolences and sympathy to the family of the late Benazir Bhutto, to the entire Pakistani community, and to other groups in Guam and around the world who mourn the loss of a great leader who fought and died for democracy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest the adoption hereof, and copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of the late Benazir Bhutto; to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz of Pakistan; to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; to acting Imam Muni Abdullah of the Muslim Community of Guam; to the United States Ambassador to Pakistan Anne Patterson; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.