



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 3
Monday, August 1, 2016

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 3
Monday, August 1, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:01 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” L. Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay led the prayer, to wit:

Panginoon,

Nagpapasalamat po kami sa oportunidad na maging Inyong instrumento para sa pagbabagong inaasam ng buong sam-bayanan. Nawa'y magsimula po sa aming mga halal na pinuno ng bansa ang pag-unawa, pagmamahal at pagkakaisa na kinakailangan upang maisakatuparan ang Inyong plano para sa aming bayan.

Kami po ay dumudulog sa Inyo na bigyan kami ng lakas para sa bawat hakbang na tatahakin na ikauunlad ng bayang sabik na makaatim ng kapayapaan at kaunlaran.

Gabayan po sana Ninyo kaming mga lingkod-bayan sa pagsisimula ng aming paglalakbay tungo sa minimithing tunay na pagbabago.

Ang lahat ng ito'y idinadalangin namin sa Inyo, Panginoon.

Siya nawa.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Cabanatuan Christian Church Choir led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled “*Tagumpay Nating Lahat.*”

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Legarda, L.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
De Lima, L. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Recto, R. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gordon, R. J.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Honasan, G. B.	Villanueva, J.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, C. A.
Laason, P. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

Put

With 22 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Gatchalian arrived after the roll call.

Senator Cayetano was on official business as indicated in the August 1, 2016 letter of the Senator's chief of staff.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 2 (July 26, 2016) and considered it approved.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

On behalf of the Body, Senator Sotto wished Senator Cynthia Villar a very happy birthday which she celebrated last Friday, July 29, 2016.

Senate President Pimentel joined Senator Sotto in greeting Senator Villar.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended to enable the members of the Chamber to greet Senator Villar a happy birthday.

It was 3:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Upon resumption, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence of the following guests of the office of Senator Hontiveros:

- Members of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) sectoral council representatives led by its vice chairperson for the basic sector, Ruperto Aleroza;
- Members of housing cooperatives from Kilos Maralita (KM);
- Members and affiliates of Akbayan Citizens' Action Party;
- Members of Arya Progresibo headed by its secretary general, Edmund Landrito; and

- Representatives from the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD).

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following Senate bills which the Chair referred to the committees hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 101, entitled

AN ACT REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER SECTIONS 118, 119, 121, 122, AND 123 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, AS AMENDED, ON FREE PATENTS ISSUED UNDER SECTION 44 THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 102, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF RAYS OF THE SUN ON THE PHILIPPINE FLAG FROM EIGHT TO NINE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 103, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAY CORPORATION TO ESTABLISH THE MINDANAO RAILWAY SYSTEM, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 104, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT-ISSUED CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO PROVIDE THE CORRECT BLOOD TYPE OF THE PERSON THEREIN, AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 105, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS IN MOBILE PHONES

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 106, entitled

AN ACT PUNISHING THE WILLFUL FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 107, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING THE ESTATE TAX UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OR THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 108, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY OF LAPU-LAPU AND HIS MEN OVER THE SPANIARDS LED BY FERDINAND MAGELLAN IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN ON APRIL 27, 1521, TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU DAY OR ADLAW NI LAPU-LAPU

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 109, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Senate Bill No. 110, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SHARE IN THE NATIONAL TAXES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 111, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK

FOR THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE
FOOD

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 112, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO
RAILWAYS CORPORATION PRES-
CRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNC-
TIONS, AND DUTIES, AND PROVID-
ING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS
FOR ITS OPERATION

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Government
Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public
Services; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 113, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
PREVENTION OF TORTURE (NCPT),
THE NATIONAL PREVENTIVE
MECHANISM AGAINST TORTURE
AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN,
OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR
PUNISHMENT IN THE PHILIP-
PINES, PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK
FOR IMPLEMENTING OBLIGA-
TIONS UNDER THE OPTIONAL
PROTOCOL TO THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST
TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL,
INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
(OPCAT), AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 114, entitled

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE ROAD
BOARD CREATED BY VIRTUE OF

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794 AND
TRANSFERRING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS AND TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 8794

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Public Works; and
Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 115, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 OF
THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE LAW ON SECRECY OF
BANK DEPOSITS

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial
Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 116, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 53 (B)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERN-
IZATION STANDARDIZATION
AND REGULATION OF THE
PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT" AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 117, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
PROHIBITION AGAINST LABOR-
ONLY CONTRACTING, AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF
THE PHILIPPINES AS AMENDED

Pmk

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 118, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 365
OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 119, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE
OF PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
OFFICIALS IN THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Civil Service, Govern-
ment Reorganization and Professional Regula-
tion; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 120, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO
RAILWAYS AUTHORITY (MRA), PRES-
CRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS
AND DUTIES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4156
ENTITLED "AN ACT CREATING THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS,
PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS,
FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND
PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY
FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION" AS
AMENDED BY R.A. NO. 6366,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Government Corpora-
tions and Public Enterprises; Public Services;
Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 121, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 24(A)(2)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 122, entitled

AN ACT ABOLISHING IRRIGATION
SERVICE FEES AND SUCH OTHER
SIMILAR OR RELATED FEES FROM
BENEFICIARIES OF IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS FUNDED AND CONS-
TRUCTED BY, OR UNDER THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINIS-
TRATION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601,
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552
AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 1702

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Agriculture and
Food; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 123, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE
MEALS FOR STUDENTS OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM
PARTICULARLY SCHOOLCHILD-
REN FROM KINDERGARTEN TO
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FOLLOW-
ING THE K-12 POLICY, PROVIDING
FRAMEWORK FOR ITS IMPLE-
MENTATION, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Health and Demography; and Finance**

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Senate Bill No. 124, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE PERSONAL AND ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 35 (A) AND (B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 125, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE, AMENDING SECTIONS 27 AND 28 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 126, entitled

AN ACT CLASSIFYING THE SALE OR IMPORTATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RAW MATERIALS IN THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF AS VALUE-ADDED TAX EXEMPT TRANSACTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 (1) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Energy

Senate Bill No. 127, entitled

AN ACT RESTORING AND REHABI-

LITATING THE EXISTING LINES OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, EXTENDING FURTHER THE SOUTHERN LINE TO MATNOG, SORSOGON AND ESTABLISHING THE RAILWAY EXTENSION LINE FROM CALAMBA CITY TO BATANGAS CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4156 ENTITLED "AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION" AS AMENDED BY R. A. NO. 6366, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 128, entitled

AN ACT CONSTITUTING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO AMEND THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION, DEFINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR ITS DELEGATES WHO SHALL BE ELECTED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE OCTOBER 2016 BARANGAY ELECTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; and Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 129, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara



To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 130, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 131, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR FAMILY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING PAYMENTS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION TUITION AND ALLIED EXPENSES AS WELL AS INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR A FIRST HOME MORTGAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 34 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 132, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 3 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, ESTABLISHING A TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE SERVICE IN THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 133, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO ENABLE POOR FILIPINO FAMILIES TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE GRADUATE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED STUDENT GRANTS-IN-AID PROG-

RAM FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ESGP-PA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 134, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING DISCOUNTS ON BASIC AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS IN ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THOSE ENROLLED IN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL (TECH-VOC) INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 135, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE LEVEL OF TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO 19

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 136, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT FILIPINO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN FROM MALNUTRITION BY ESTABLISHING A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAM APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 137, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAYS CORPORATION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 138, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 139, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS AS A TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE TO DISPOSE THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 140, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE IRRIGATION SERVICES TO FARMERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 141, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROMOTE URBAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY'S METROPOLITAN AREAS, TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 142, entitled

AN ACT MERGING THE PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER AND THE NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY INTO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAIRY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE GREATER FOCUS ON THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AND TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF DAIRY ANIMALS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING A RUMINANT DEVELOPMENT FUND THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 143, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CROP PROTECTION PROGRAM, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CROP PROTECTION AGENCY BY CONSOLIDATING THE DISPARATE CROP PROTECTION, QUARANTINE AND PEST MANAGEMENT EFFORTS, ACTIVITIES, AND AGENCIES, INTO A HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED SERVICE TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABILITY AND GREATER PRODUCTIVITY OF THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

pm

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 144, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMALS, HEREBY CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 145, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING A TWO THOUSAND PESO ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY PENSION WITH CORRESPONDING ADJUSTMENT OF THE MINIMUM MONTHLY PENSION UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 146, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Foreign Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 147, entitled

AN ACT ADJUSTING THE INCOME BRACKETS AND RATES OF TAX IMPOSED ON TAXABLE INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 148, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LAS PIÑAS – PARAÑAQUE CRITICAL HABITAT AND ECOTOURISM AREA AS A WETLAND, ENSURING THE PROTECTION THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Tourism; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 149, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO INFORMATION HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

Senate Bill No. 150, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING PENSIONS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, OTHERWISE KNOWN

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AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 151, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 24 & 35
OF NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 152, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE REVITALIZATION, REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 4156 ENTITLED AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 153, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF
ROBBERY OF TRAIN IMPLE-

MENTS, CLASSIFYING THE ACT AS
HEINOUS CRIME AND IMPOSING
PENALTY THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 154, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES SPECIAL
POWERS, PRESCRIBING URGENT
AND RELATED MEASURES NECES-
SARY AND PROPER TO EFFECT-
IVELY ADDRESS THE CRISIS IN
THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Public Services; Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 155, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF WATERSHEDS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (NIS) TO GUARANTEE CONTINUING SUPPLY OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF FARMERS TO SUSTAIN FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND PROVIDING THE FUNDING THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Public Works; Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 156, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY

REFORM ACT OF 2001," AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Energy; and Public
Services**

Senate Bill No. 157, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE USE OF
THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND
OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF
1995," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development; Foreign
Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 158, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FULL
TUITION SUBSIDY FOR STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVER-
SITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs),
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 159, entitled

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE
PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO INFORM-
ATION AND THE CONSTITU-
TIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN
THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**To the Committees on Public Information
and Mass Media; Civil Service, Government**

**Reorganization and Professional Regulation;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 160, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A FREE NUTRI-
MEALS PROGRAM TO CHILDREN
ENROLLED IN ALL ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS INCLUDING KINDER-
GARTEN AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN
THE K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION
SECTOR, PROVIDING FRAME-
WORK FOR ITS MEANINGFUL
IMPLEMENTATION, APPROPRIAT-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Health and Demography; Ways and
Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 161, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT FILIPINO
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN FROM
MALNUTRITION BY ESTABLISH-
ING A MATERNAL AND CHILD
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Women, Children, Family Relations
and Gender Equality; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 162, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE COST-
EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR
THE TRANSPORT SECTOR AND
COMMUTING PUBLIC, PROVID-
ING FOR THE CREATION OF A
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY BOARD, PRESCRIBING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe



To the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Public Services; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 163, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF ETHNICITY, RACE, RELIGION OR BELIEF, SEX OR GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LANGUAGE, DISABILITY, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Cultural Communities; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 164, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR FILM AND TELEVISION TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES, MARKETING THE INDUSTRY GLOBALLY AND PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; Tourism; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 165, entitled

AN ACT SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILMS BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO FILMMAKERS WHO ARE GIVEN HONORS IN NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 166, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE AND TO PROMOTE QUALITY DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES IN BARANGAYS, ENACTING THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND SERVICES REFORM ACT OF 2016

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 167, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CREDIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 168, entitled

AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF WATERSHEDS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM (NIS) TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Public Works; Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 169, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SIMPLIFIED TAX REGIME FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 170, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, "AN ACT
ENHANCING THE PHILIPPINE
BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY
STRENGTHENING ITS CURRI-
CULUM AND INCREASING THE
NUMBER OF YEARS FOR BASIC
EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES," OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ENHANCED BASIC
EDUCATION ACT OF 2013

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Labor, Employment and Human
Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 171, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS
IN DATA TRANSMISSION, PROVID-
ING ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICA-
TIONS COMMISSION, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committees on Public Services; and
Science and Technology**

Senate Bill No. 172, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
ABOT ALAM PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Youth; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 173, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A
FULL SUBSIDY PROGRAM IN
STATE UNIVERSITIES FOR
CHILDREN OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 174, entitled

AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING THE
CONTRACTING AND SUBCON-
TRACTING INDUSTRY, REQUIR-
ING A TRANSITION SUPPORT
PROGRAM, AND PROHIBIT-
ING OPPRESSIVE PRACTICES,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE
ARTICLES 106 TO 109 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIP-
PINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 175, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE INNOVA-
TION COUNCIL AND PROVIDING
BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO
STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND
DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE
STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam"
Aquino IV

**To the Committees on Trade, Commerce
and Entrepreneurship; Science and Techno-
logy; Ways and Means; and Finance**



Senate Bill No. 176, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES WITH THE POOR AS PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 177, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FULL TUITION FEE SUBSIDY FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 178, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 179, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 180, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OR E-VAW, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Science and Technology

Senate Bill No. 181, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

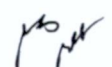
To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 182, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULARIZATION OF PUNONG BARANGAY, SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY MEMBERS, SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMAN, BARANGAY SECRETARY AND BARANGAY TREASURER

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To The Committees On Local Government; And Civil Service, Government Reorganization And Professional Regulation



Senate Bill No. 183, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 184, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION DESIGNED TO HELP ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT WITH ILLEGAL DRUGS

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 185, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY AND INCREASED PENALTIES ON CERTAIN HEINOUS CRIMES INVOLVING DANGEROUS DRUGS, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE OTHER SPECIAL PENAL LAWS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 186, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY ON THE HEINOUS CRIME OF KIDNAPPING, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE REVISED PENAL LAWS, AS

AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 187, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY ON THE HEINOUS CRIME OF AGGRAVATED RAPE, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE REVISED PENAL LAWS, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 188, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER IN EVERY BARANGAY NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 189, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF MANDATORY MILITARY TRAINING FOR ALL GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12 STUDENTS BY REINSTATING SECTIONS 38 AND 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT*

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao



To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and National Defense and Security

Senate Bill No. 190, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM IN ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 191, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S STANDING IN BOXING SPORTS, ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 192, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA) TO PUBLISH, DISSEMINATE AND UPDATE A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Foreign Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 193, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE COMPOSITION OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 194, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING MATERNITY LEAVE BENEFITS EQUIVALENT TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) DAYS OR SIX (6) MONTHS TO ALL WOMEN WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 195, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR ALL CRIMES INVOLVING THEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Leila M. de Lima

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 196, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405, ALSO KNOWN AS THE BANK SECRECY LAW, AS AMENDED, BY REMOVING FROM ITS COVERAGE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

PNR

Introduced by Senator Leila M. de Lima

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 197, entitled

AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT IN LIBEL CASES, TO MAKE ANY DISCUSSION OF ANY MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN, OR CRITICISM OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT PRIVILEGED, AND TO PROPERLY DETERMINE THE VENUE OF CASES AND PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIBEL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 354, 355, 357, 360 AND 361 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND SECTION 4(c) (4), CHAPTER II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS CYBER-CRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Leila M. de Lima

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 198, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FULL TUITION SUBSIDY IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 199, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 200, entitled

AN ACT TO RE-INSTITUTIONALIZE THE MANDATORY MILITARY AND CIVIC RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) FOR STUDENTS IN ALL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and National Defense and Security

**SECOND ADDITIONAL
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 19, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EFFECTIVE DRUG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION FOR THE YOUTH

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Youth

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 20, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 21, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BMBE ACT OF 2002 IN SUPPORT OF MICRO ENTERPRISES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Local Government; and Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 22, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENABLING CLOSER COORDINATION AND CONVERGENCE TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINE ENTERPRISES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Local Government

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 23, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON GOVERNMENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 24, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO RESPONSIVE FINANCING FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; And Banks, Financial Institutions And Currencies

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 25, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF E-COMMERCE ADOPTION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE E-COMMERCE ROADMAP

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 26, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE NEED TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND FORMULATE PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF YOUNG FILIPINOS, INCLUDING THE UNEMPLOYED

pp

YOUTH, WORKERS IN VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT AND YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Youth; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 27, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REFORM ACT OF 2015 AND PLANNING FOR THE CONDUCT OF SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS THIS YEAR

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Local Government; and Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 28, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF E-GOVERNMENT SERVICES"

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 29, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EDUCATION OF YOUTH

REGARDING THE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES UNDER THE MARCOS REGIME WITH THE END VIEW OF PRESERVING MEMORY THROUGH HISTORICAL TRUTH-TELLING, PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY, AND PROMOTING A SENSE OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG YOUNG FILIPINOS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Youth

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 30, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE TO ADJUST ANEW THE THRESHOLD AMOUNTS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 109 (1)(P), (Q) AND (W) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE (NIRC) OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AS MANDATORILY REQUIRED BY THE SAID LAW

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 31, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT AMID THE WORSENING TRAFFIC GRIDLOCKS WHERE PRECIOUS RESOURCES AND MAN-HOURS ARE WASTED, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING IF SUCH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN WOULD ACTUALLY EASE CONGESTION IN MAJOR URBAN CENTERS AND SPEED UP THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 32, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS AND VIABILITY OF THE APPROVED FLOOD MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN FOR METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING AREAS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING PROBLEM AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING RELIEF TO THE PUBLIC

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Works

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 33, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASS TRANSIT ROAD-MAP OF THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING ITS VIABILITY AND ENSURING A SAFE, RELIABLE, EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 34, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REGULAR RECRUITMENT

PROGRAM WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE IDEAL POLICE TO POPULATION RATIO OF ONE POLICEMAN FOR EVERY FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE AND TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY IN THE UTILIZATION OF THE ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR ITS PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 35, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BIDDING PROCESS OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROJECTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT FROM QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES AT THE LEAST POSSIBLE COST

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Works

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 36, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT; AND ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE JOB GENERATION PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF THE HIGH UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE AND PERVASIVE IN-WORK POVERTY DESPITE THE STRONG GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH IN THE LAST TEN YEARS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Labor, Employment



**and Human Resources Development; and
Economic Affairs**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 37, entitled

A RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 OR THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF AMENDING THE LAW IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE IN LOWERING ELECTRICITY RATES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Energy; and Public
Services**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 38, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINGENT LIABILITIES ARISING FROM PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROJECTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTIONALIZING FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT MECHANISMS TO ENFORCE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OVER THE UTILIZATION AND REPORTING OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 39, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONFLICTING DATA OF THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ON REVENUES COLLECTED FROM

THE MALAMPAYA NATIONAL GAS PROJECT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECONCILING ALL BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS PERTAINING TO THE MALAMPAYA FUND AND COLLECTING THE CORRECT ROYALTIES DUE TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
and Energy**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 40, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERVICE CONTRACTS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO THE ENERGY EXPLORATION COMPANIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT SUCH CONTRACTS ARE NOT DISADVANTAGEOUS TO GOVERNMENT AND TO OUR INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 41, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LA NIÑA PHENOMENON AND TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING THE MANDATES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Climate Change;
and National Defense and Security**



Proposed Senate Resolution No. 42, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF ALL MASS TRANSIT PROJECTS IN THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) CENTER PROJECT PIPELINE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LOWERING THE RISK OF DELAYS AND FOSTERING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Works

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 43, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUBMISSION OF A POST BUDGET STATUS REPORT OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LEGISLATING MORE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS AND STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT MECHANISMS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OVER THE UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 44, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA; AND ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, AND LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DISTRIBUTION OF AMUSEMENT TAX COLLECTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

(LGUs) IN METRO MANILA AND IN SUCH OTHER PLACES WHERE ALL OR ANY FILM FESTIVAL ENTRY IS EXHIBITED SIMULTANEOUSLY DURING THE FILM FESTIVAL PERIOD STARTING FROM 2002 UP TO THE PRESENT

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, AND LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE NEW RULES OF SELECTION IMPOSED BY THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL"

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 46, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS; AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERS 7432 AND 9994 BENEFITING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE HURDLES LEADING TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND COMPLIANCE TO SAID LAWS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FORMULATING A UNIFORM SET OF RULES OR GUIDELINES FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development



Proposed Senate Resolution No. 47, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE AN IMPROVED 24/7 DEDICATED DIRECT NATIONAL EMERGENCY HOTLINE TO ADDRESS CRIME SITUATIONS AND ASSISTANCE, AN AVENUE FOR CITIZENS' PREDICAMENTS AND SIMILAR OTHER PEACE AND ORDER ISSUES ON A REAL TIME, PRO-ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 48, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE DESIGN CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND OTHER CONCERNED STATE AGENCIES TO CONDUCT STRATEGIC STUDIES TO PROMOTE THE CREATIVE SERVICES INDUSTRY LIKE ANIMATION, SMARTPHONE APPLICATION AND GAME DEVELOPMENT, GAMING SOLUTIONS AND MOBILE AND INTERNET START-UP OPERATIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF TAPPING POTENTIAL INVESTMENTS AND CREATING NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTHUSIASTS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL AND THE FILIPINO YOUTH

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 49, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON YOUTH; AND ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON YOUTH JOBLESSNESS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE RECENT GOVERNMENT STATISTICS OF 1.190 MILLION YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY 2016, WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF STRENGTHENING POLICIES AND INTRODUCING DYNAMIC MEASURES AIMED AT GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE UNEMPLOYED

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Youth; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 50, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENTS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND ENERGY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE TO CONDUCT SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SCIENTIFIC/MARINE RESEARCH STUDIES AND EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES ON THE BENHAM RISE, A 13-MILLION-HECTARE UNDERWATER TERRITORY OFF EASTERN LUZON, AND SUBMIT TO THE SENATE RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS INDICATING FULL POSSESSION AND OWNERSHIP

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Energy; and Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 51, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE STATUS OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE IN



THE COUNTRY, WITH THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORP.'S (PHILHEALTH) "*TAMANG SERBISYO PARA SA KALUSUGAN NG PAMILYA*" (*TSEKAP*) PROGRAM AS BACKDROP, AIMED AT UTILIZING THE SAID PROGRAM AS A MODEL FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE, AND FURTHER STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONALIZING ITS IMPLEMENTATION AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND RELEVANT OFFICES TO STUDY AND TO CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ADHERENCE AND ACQUIESCENCE THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR), AS A STRONG AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT ABOUT THE VALUE OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 53, entitled

URGING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO EVALUATE THE GOVERNMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM IN THE LIGHT OF THE DISMAL RANKING OF THE PHILIPPINES IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2013-2014 AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO REVAMP THE

COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Public Works

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 54, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT A RELEVANT STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VARIOUS LAWS AND POLICIES GOVERNING APPLICATION FOR LICENSES, PERMITS AND CLEARANCES INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-COMMERCE LAW WITH THE INTENTION OF SIMPLIFYING BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES, ERADICATING RED TAPE AND PROMOTING PHILIPPINE COMPETITIVENESS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 55, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING A REVIEW OF EXISTING GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENTS IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REALIZING THE FULL POTENTIALS OF THE INDUSTRY, ADDRESSING THE SLOW INTERNET SPEED IN THE COUNTRY AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 56, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING TREAT CONRAD

HUEY FOR HIS INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO PHILIPPINE SPORTS AS THE FIRST FILIPINO WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE SEMIFINAL ROUND OF A GRAND SLAM TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 57, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF THE PREVAILING PENSION PROGRAMS OF THE MILITARY AND OTHER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL ORGANIZATIONS, WITH THE INTENT OF ENSURING EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES, ADEQUATE BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO PENSIONERS, AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF GOVERNMENT PENSION PROGRAMS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 58, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF PORTIONS OF METRO MANILA MILITARY CAMPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1991," AS AMENDED, WITH THE END IN

VIEW OF ENSURING THAT SAID PROCEEDS WERE REMITTED BY THE BCDA AND WERE UTILIZED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS**

Availing herself of the privilege hour and on a matter of personal and collective privilege, Senator Hontiveros delivered the following speech:

Mga kasamang senador at mga kasama mula sa kilusang masa na nandito ngayong hapon sa gallery, magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

What great honor it is for me to rise before this Body today to deliver the first privilege speech of the 17th Congress, and my first privilege speech as senator of this republic. To be honest, this still feels surreal to me, and I stand in this Chamber perhaps with a little disbelief, but also with a heart that is both grateful and ready. I am eager to learn from all of you, and to learn with all of you, for the next six years.

Ours is the Centennial Senate. I stand in this Chamber cognizant of the weight of collective history that we bear on our shoulders as members of the Senate that has, for 100 years, accompanied this country from its fragile beginnings as a young republic, through the ravages of war, amidst the atrocities of Martial Law, and throughout the painstaking process of rebuilding democracy piece by piece, institution by institution.

I stand in this Chamber too, cognizant of my own privilege, of which I am constantly aware and for which I am immeasurably grateful. I know that since 1947, there have only been 22 women senators of the republic—an astounding gender governance gap in a country where women are more educated than our male counterparts. I am also humbly aware that I stand small in the footsteps of the first Filipino senator from the Philippine Left, the great trade unionist and socialist, Isabelo de los Reyes. After 90 years, this country has once more decided to elect a senator from the Democratic Left. Don Belong, *gabayan niyo po ako. Handa na po ako.*

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My victory in 2016 – after a seven-year grand adventure defying gravity – is a victory that I cannot claim only for myself. It is a victory of my comrades and allies who steadfastly believed that the Senate, this Chamber of 24, was within reach of someone from the Democratic Left. There were many who said, “*tama na, magpahinga muna,*” but there were many more who said to keep on going. They said, and I quote, “*sadyang may mga laban na hindi dapat binibitawan.*” And so with these people I kept on going, heartbreak after heartbreak, because we believed that the Senate can be a platform to continue the struggles that are important to us: fighting inequality, defending the marginalized, protecting participatory democracy, upholding human rights, and interfacing human rights with women’s dignity and health care; in short, the Senate as a force for good and a means towards transformative change. *Ito po ang dahilan kung bakit hindi ako sumuko, ito po ang dahilan kung bakit patuloy na tumataya.*

This is also why I stand before this Chamber this afternoon.

We are standing on the precipice of history, and it is my belief that how we act within the next three years, or even the next year, can rewrite the destiny of our country. Dramatic decisions are being made by the day that will have lasting impacts on our institutions, on our laws, on the Constitution as we live and know it. These lasting impacts can create either structural improvements leading to durable effects or wreak massive damage that – like the 20-year Marcos dictatorship – will take several decades to undo. Now, more than ever, our role as senators is crucial in preserving that which is good, and protecting this country from all that is damaging.

I have three points.

Firstly, let us work to reduce inequality through legislation that is humane and people-centered, and commit to fight legislation that is anti-poor. The President himself has given his word to support the implementation of the Reproductive Health Law, which, for me, empowers women by providing us access to critical reproductive health information and services. He has also committed to expand the coverage of PhilHealth, continuing what we started in the areas of health and human development. Let us partner RH law implementation and PhilHealth coverage expansion with the passage of other laws that will support and uphold universal health. It is scandalous that six out of ten Filipinos still die without even having seen a doctor. Our urgent task moving forward

towards universal health care is to approach truly universal coverage, and ensure access to quality, affordable health care.

The fight for universal health is indeed a fight for social justice. But since criminal justice appears to be the *lingua franca* of the hour, it is important to highlight that it is also a fight against the social ills that lead to crime. Several scientific studies have already linked prenatal and perinatal health problems to later delinquent or criminal behavior. There are even studies showing a connection between pregnancy complications and violence. Yet, instead of creating laws that lead to more welfare-enhancing outcomes for our children, we aggressively push for laws that label them criminals, younger and younger, that punish them instead of trying to rehabilitate them. Instead of showing that there is a way out of the cycle of violence, we teach them that there is no redemption for crime and no hope in sight for going astray by passing a law that allows the State to take a life. And instead of treating drugs as a public health problem also as is increasingly being done all over the world, we view drug addiction only through the lens of criminal justice and encourage the vigilante killings of suspected drug addicts.

Let us be the Senate that will stand on the side of social justice and on the side of the poor. Let us make clear our bias for the marginalized, and our regard for those who have less in life. As President Duterte himself said during his SONA, “enduring peace can only be attained if we meet the fundamental needs of every man, woman and child.” *Napakarami nang nasimulan natin sa larangang ito, partikular sa kalusugan.* These include Republic Act No. 10606, or the National Health Insurance Act of 2013; RA 10645, which provides mandatory coverage to senior citizens; RA 10351, or the Sin Tax Law, which finances universal health programs through excise taxes from cigarettes, liquor and gambling; and RA 10643, or the Graphic Health Warning Law.

The President said change is coming. But change had been coming. And change takes time because it is generational. So we must be indefatigable in sustaining and continuing to build on the seeds that have already been planted. It can only be possible through a sure-footed, reform-oriented Senate committed to the needs of the weak and vulnerable, and understanding that sometimes we do need to regulate the rich to protect and promote the interests of the poor.

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Secondly, let us be the Senate that will protect the Constitution and protect democracy from authoritarian excesses. This administration has not been mum about its desire to amend the Constitution to shift to a federal system. My beloved party Akbayan and I support opening conversations on federalism and the good that it can do for the country. But we also believe that constitutional amendments can be best done through a Constitutional Convention rather than a Constituent Assembly or even at this time a Constitutional Commission. This is a position we have held consistently since the founding of our party in 1998. While the latter might indeed be more cost-efficient, we believe there is a greater need to protect the sacrosanct process of amending the Charter from self-interest or perceptions of self-interest. Further and more importantly, in the process of changing the highest law of the land, I am ready to listen to new arguments and participate in debates and caucuses, and I will support a process that is pluralist and inclusive. *Isang mapanlahok na proseso lamang ang makasisiguro na ang bagong Saligang Batas ay mananatiling tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng ating sambayanan.*

Let us continue our tradition of independence and checks and balances towards the deepening of democracy. Let us be the Senate that can balance the imperatives of the here and now, with wider considerations of protecting institutions and protecting the democratic foundations that we have painstakingly built over the years. Yes, we need to disperse resources from the center to the fringes; yes, we need strong solutions to the wide gamut of challenges and problems that confront modern daily life; yes, we need to streamline and simplify access to government services, but let us not use a sledgehammer to crack a nut, especially if that sledgehammer can hit us on the head and cause us to hemorrhage to death.

Let us continue to be the Senate that can say no, that can say enough is enough, that can say not on our watch.

Thirdly, let us be the Senate that preserves the values that make us who we are, that defines us as a people. We are not bloodthirsty spectators in a Roman coliseum or a savage mob cheering the burning of witches at the stake. We are a strong, brave, compassionate people: we weather the hardest typhoons that the planet has ever known, we defeat dictators through people power, we come from a lineage of heroes – they who die in the battlefield or write poems that stoke a revolution. Ours is a history of

fighting against oppressors to claim and fight for our human rights.

Contrary to recent averments, human rights have never been used as a shield or an excuse to destroy the country. On the contrary, human rights have built this nation, and an unflagging, relentless commitment to asserting them has over time led to better labor standards, the right to vote, the right to form unions, the right to free expression of ideas, the right of women to be in public office. The notion of human rights has given birth to the principle that health care should be universal, that woman should have a voice in policy-making. *Naniniwala po ako na ito ang dapat ipaglaban ng ating Senado dahil ang karapatang pantao ay parehong binhi at punla ng isang mayamang demokrasya.*

These are the values that we need to preserve for our children. These are also the values that are our legacy from the past and will carry into the future as a modern democracy: where rules work for all, where government is accountable, where human rights are valued, where cardboard signs are school projects and not markers of death.

Let us be the Senate that will be remembered in history as the Senate of the brave.

Maraming pong salamat at mabuhay ang sambayanan!

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

At the outset, Senator Angara congratulated Senator Hontiveros for making known her legislative priorities as well as for being consistent since their terms at the House of Representatives where they fought side by side for the many important pieces of legislation like the Reproductive Health Law, the Universal Health Care law, the Magna Carta of Women, and the Cheaper Medicine Law.

Asked how to deal with the tremendous health service gap in the rural areas where six out of 10 Filipinos do not have access to medical doctors, whose first-line access is through a barangay health worker or day care worker or midwife, Senator Hontiveros stated that statistics confirmed by Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial indeed show that out of the 46,000 barangays in the Philippines, only 20,000 barangays have health stations, while more than half of the total barangays that do not have barangay health stations are located in rural areas; thus, there is urgency to stress the rural health agenda in the Senate.

Senator Hontiveros also pointed out that in most rural areas where farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples live, the front-line health service providers are the barangay health workers or BHW. She opined that one of the ways to move towards a universal health care (UHC) system in the rural areas is to strengthen one of its six pillars, which is the health service providers. The BHWs, according to her, are the heroes of health service providers, adding that she has filed a bill increasing their compensation, not just to motivate them to continue their lifetime sacrifice and service but to enable them to provide their families a more decent quality of life.

Senator Hontiveros also underscored the need to increase public health facilities in the rural areas, and she informed the Body that part of her legislative agenda during the campaign is to establish super barangay health centers, as well as to amend Republic Act No. 8344, or the Anti-Hospital Deposit Law, to give emphasis also on rural hospitals ensure that the rights of patients, especially pregnant women, not to be turned away simply because they cannot pay the deposit or downpayment; to increase penalties for non-compliance; to enable private hospitals to partner with public hospitals to close the public health care gap in rural areas; and to provide incentives for full compliance with the provisions of RA 8344.

On whether it is feasible to meet the shortfall of 26,000 barangays that are without health centers, Senator Hontiveros admitted that addressing this shortfall has a lot to do with monies that Congress appropriates for the Executive to implement its programs. She disclosed that during her courtesy call to Secretary Ubial, she was informed that in order to meet the gap, the government could cluster four to five barangays or cluster contiguous municipalities to ensure that there is an adequate complement of health service providers such as doctors, nurses, midwives and barangay health workers who would monitor the health status and needs of the other barangays where they are not physically based by conducting monthly service and monitoring missions.

Senator Angara opined that one of the challenges in public health is to attract qualified medical practitioners to serve in provincial hospitals. He recalled that the Aquino administration went on a hiring binge of doctors and nurses.

Asked for the current status of medical practitioners in the provinces, Senator Hontiveros

stated that she does not have the current data at the moment as to the number of health service providers (HSPs) per barangay up to the tertiary hospitals. She agreed that it remains a legacy of the previous administration that the current administration should sustain in order to fulfill the requirement for a universal health care system. She noted that the World Health Organization's standard is a ratio of 24 HSPs of whatever type from doctors to BHW per 10,000 population; on the other hand, the Philippines has a ratio of 2.3 per 10,000 population. Thus, she underscored the urgent need for the government to address this gap.

Senator Hontiveros said that one way of attracting HSPs to serve in public hospitals, from the barangay health stations up to the tertiary level hospitals, is to provide for more scholarships to students in SUCs offering health science courses with the condition that once they graduate, they would serve in the country for at least two years, especially in the rural areas, before heading on to their preferred specialized field or going abroad. She stated that in the long term, government, through Congress, should also increase the salaries and benefits of not only BHWs but also doctors, nurses and midwives in order to give their families a decent standard of living.

Noting how PhilHealth attained great strides in its health coverage because of the Sin Tax Law which gave P97 billion in terms of PhilHealth coverage, Senator Angara asked Senator Hontiveros, who served in the Board of Trustees of PhilHealth, what other improvements in terms of priorities could be done.

In reply, Senator Hontiveros reported that there was indeed an increase of PhilHealth share from the sin tax collection from late 2014 to late 2015. She stated that improvements in terms of priorities could include, among others, Congress earmarking the sin taxes for additional specific health measures such as appropriating sin tax funds for the establishment of a health promotion institute, and the expansion of PhilHealth coverage for persons with disabilities.

Asked if there were any statistics to support the statement that the Philippines is a country where men are less educated than women, Senator Hontiveros replied that she did not have the data at the moment but she recalled an essay indicating that, in fact, there was a higher complement of girls who finished certain levels of formal education –



elementary, secondary or tertiary; and that somewhere between high school and college, there was a certain drop but would rise again in the tertiary levels. She then apologized for not giving a satisfying reply in terms of statistical data and reiterated that she would report to the Body as soon as she receives the data.

Asked why she prefers a constitutional convention instead of Congress constituting itself as a constituent assembly, Senator Hontiveros stated that it was an affirmation of the position of the Akbayan party on constitutional reforms that she would bring to the caucus in the hope that it would contribute towards a final position.

As an example, Senator Hontiveros noted that it has been mentioned in public that the cost of a constitutional convention would far outweigh that of a constituent assembly based on the figures from how much the 1986 Constitutional Commission cost. She stated that the estimated operational expense of a constitutional convention would be around P90 million, just for the convention proper and not including the election of the delegates and the ratification of the proposed constitutional amendments. She said that if it would be synchronized with either the general elections or the barangay SK elections, the cost involved could be mitigated. She added that according to former Comelec Chairman Brillantes, a constitutional convention would cost a total of P14 billion; on the other hand, Representative Fariñas estimated that a constituent assembly would be more practical because it would cost more than P2 billion as compared to P7 billion for a constitutional convention. She said that she would bring up the figures during the caucus but she believed that in terms of cost, a constitutional convention may cost more but in terms of quality of the process, especially in terms of people participation, it would probably worth the greater expense.

Moreover, Senator Hontiveros pointed out that a constitutional convention is nonpartisan and that it is the position of the Akbayan party that a constitutional convention could avoid conflict of interest because sensitive provisions of the Constitution such as the anti-dynasty clause, party-list system and the economic provisions could be studied and amended accordingly by objective constitutional experts instead of some whose personal interest may be at stake.

Asked if she knew who was the "Benjamin" of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, Senator Hontiveros replied that it was Senator Gordon.

Senator Angara expressed the hope that Senator Gordon would enlighten the Body with the differences between a constitutional convention and a constituent assembly. He mentioned that his father, Sen. Edgardo Angara, was also a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

Asked what particular area must be prioritized, Senator Hontiveros stated that she and Akbayan are concerned with only one: the shift in the form of government, from presidential to a federal parliamentary form of government that is appropriate to the Philippines.

Senator Angara believed that the Committee on Health and Demography is in good hands with Senator Hontiveros as the committee chair, for certainly, when the time comes, she would stand up for the poor, the marginalized and for social justice.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 4:38 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

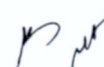
INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR AQUINO

At the outset, Senator Aquino commended Senator Hontiveros for her speech as he expressed his support to her pet bills, particularly the measure that seeks to ensure that members of the PWD sector get PhilHealth coverage. He said that he too filed a counterpart bill in keeping his advocacy to support the PWDs.

Senator Hontiveros also commended Senator Aquino for his sustained efforts for the different sectors to enjoy universal health care.

Senator Aquino stated that the effort for the PWDs to be exempted from VAT was successful and he hoped that the second initiative, that is for the PWD to enjoy PhiHealth coverage, will follow suit as it will be a big help for them.

Senator Aquino noted that in her speech, she mentioned drug addiction as a public health matter



aside from its being a criminal justice matter. He then asked how drug addiction was treated in other countries as a public health issue. Senator Hontiveros replied that there are models of health care approach to drug use in other countries that the Philippines could consider to complement the country's criminal justice approach to the problem. She cited Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand in the Asian region as well as countries in Latin America, such as Mexico, Colombia and Argentina which have suffered that scourge called narcopolitics, and a few others like Portugal, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands in Europe.

She noted that the two most interesting models which made a policy statement about the relationship between drug problem and health, and which could be used to analyze and to respond effectively to the drug problem, would be that of Vietnam in the Asian region and Colombia, in Latin America. In Vietnam, she said that its government made a series of revisions to its drug control law in 2008 and its Penal Code in 2009. She explained that the drug control law of 2008 acknowledges drug use as social problem and that drug use should be treated instead of being punished. Also, she said that the Colombian Constitutional Court made a historic ruling in 2012 and it was followed by a passage of a new law that made drug addiction a matter of public health and obliges the state to provide or to guarantee comprehensive treatment for those who seek it voluntarily.

Asked if there is a guarantee that when one asks for treatment or rehabilitation in the country he sets it, Senator Hontiveros replied that there have been reports that the government is committed to providing rehabilitation services. However, she noted a dearth of a sufficient number of institutions, both public and private, in order to respond to the number of persons who in recent months have been turning themselves in for various reasons, with one compelling reason being the current anti-drug campaign. She said that there is a guarantee in principle that government and society want to rehabilitate drug dependents but it is a matter of capacity. She suggested that public health issue, if added to the criminal justice system in analysing and responding to the drug problem, would actually increase the effectiveness in rehabilitating drug dependents who voluntarily turn themselves in for rehabilitation.

At this juncture, replying to the query of Senator Aquino, Senator Sotto pointed out that Article VIII, Sections 54, 55, 56 and 57 of Republic Act No. 9165

already cover voluntary submission, and that it is just a matter of implementing these provisions.

Senator Aquino took note of the reply of Senator Hontiveros to his query that Philippine laws provided for treatment and rehabilitation of those who surrendered voluntarily, but he pointed out that in practice, there is lack of facilities. He suggested that Senator Hontiveros, being the chair of the Committee on Health and Demography, look into the matter by making sure that the rehabilitation facilities can accept all of those who surrendered so as to complement the war against drugs.

Asked whether PhilHealth offers benefits or covers payment for rehabilitation of its members, Senator Hontiveros replied that PhilHealth has listed more than 1,300 so-called case rates but drug dependency rehabilitation was not among them. She agreed that suggestions to include drug rehabilitation on among those covered by PhilHealth, are worth exploring. She opined that not only PhilHealth but other agencies of government as well should also be capacitated or mandated to spend for the program. Senator Aquino agreed and suggested that Congress find a way to actually pay for the cost that needs to be shouldered by the government.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon confirmed that he was indeed the youngest member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention and he mentioned as his colleagues former Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the late Raul Roco, as well as former Senators Heherson Alvarez, Teofisto Guingona and Edgardo Angara. He said that while listening to the interpellation, his attention was caught by the query of Senator Angara regarding the issue on constitutional convention.

Asked whether she was representing the views of Akbayan which prefers a constitutional convention rather than a constituent assembly, Senator Hontiveros answered in the affirmative.

Senator Gordon disclosed that during the election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention, he was then with the UP student council, and together with the late Ed Jopson of Ateneo, they clamored for a non-partisan convention, but what actually transpired was that the elections were interfered, and a number of delegates elected were from political parties.



Asked whether she would agree that it is actually very hard to remove partisanship or partisan politics in any deliberative body in the country, Senator Hontiveros answered in the affirmative, but she indicated that she intends to explore other options to possibly come up with the best mode to reform the Constitution, that which could insulate or mitigate partisanship and enhance citizens' participation, citizens who would be counted as the constituents in a ConCon.

Senator Gordon asked if Senator Hontiveros would accept the fact that the absence of ideology or platform in most political parties has really been the bane of the country. Recalling his college days, he disclosed that along with Raul Manglapus, they clamored for ideological parties and that the term "turncoatism" became very fashionable at that time. He also pointed out the fact the former Sen. Edgardo Angara wanted the government to fund political parties, as suggested by certain NGOs, like the Conrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany, to nurture the growth of political parties by making sure that they are part of the budget provided they do not overspend. According to him, to say that the constitutional convention will not be partisanship is an elusive goal. However, he assumed that everyone is aware of the fact that when elected, the people ought to know that any senator or congressman is imbued by the Constitution with a privilege of being allowed to amend the Constitution either by calling for a constitutional convention or by constituting itself into a constituent assembly.

Senator Hontiveros thanked Senator Gordon for citing the campaign-finance reform. She said that she was looking at models from other countries where the state gives subsidy to each political party depending on the number of votes it earned in the previous election; and how the parties can still raise from the private sector counterpart contribution equal to the fund given by the government, after which they will submit a liquidation report to the Comelec. Senator Gordon added that such would be subject to the insurance that there would be no irregularities in the collections that they make from the private sector.

Senator Gordon said that being the author of the Automated Election Law, he had wanted to head the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation, but he acceded to the request of Senator De Lima who was gracious enough to make him vice chairman.

Senator Gordon pointed out the fact that the 1971 Constitutional Convention attained a life of its own and that it even took the delegate about four to six months to approve its rules and elect the officials of the convention. He disclosed that since it took a long time for the convention to finish, President Marcos decided to intervene in the fashioning of the 1971 Constitution.

Senator Hontiveros believed that President Marcos intervened for reasons other than his belief that the ConCon was taking too much time. Senator Gordon said that one of the reasons for the intervention was that President Marcos wanted to declare Martial Law which he himself opposed and that he even voted to ban President Marcos from extending his term. He said that even with the intervention of President Marcos, the Constitution was ratified because the delegates were promised seats in the Assembly. The delegates, he said, later found out that they were deceived, the Congress was abolished, and an Interim Batasang Pambansa was set up.

Notwithstanding the cost and trouble in the process of instituting constitutional reforms, Senator Hontiveros maintained that if by wisdom of the Senate and of the government they find the convening of a constitutional commission as the better option, then it would be worth the greater expense and trouble since the Constitution is for posterity, a basic law that would be followed for many generations.

Senator Gordon stated that the 1935 Constitution was a race to who would become the first President of the Commonwealth; on the other hand, the 1986 Constitution was a response to the possibility of a revolutionary government which prompted Pres. Corazon Aquino to appoint members of the Constitutional Commission.

Senator Hontiveros agreed, saying that the 1987 Constitution as a people power constitution was a response to the trauma of the Martial Law dictatorship and an attempt to enshrine the idealism of human rights in the basic law of the land. She believed that one of the most attractive and interesting features of the ConCon process is that during the education campaign following the drafting of the Constitution until its ratification, there would be consultations from various sectors as well as citizen participation.

Senator Gordon disclosed that together with Senators Rene Cayetano, Juan Ponce Enrile and Francisco Tatad, he opposed and campaigned all over the country against the 1987 Constitution because they did not believe that the people, in a plebiscite, would comprehend a Constitution that was too verbose. Stating that direct democracy is not exactly the best form of consultation, he said that he personally favors abiding by what was done with the American Constitution by having first, second and third amendments that would be subject to debate and that, although costly, people would nevertheless own and respect it because they understand it.

Senator Gordon said that notwithstanding his objection to President Marcos' declaration of Martial Law, the rest of the 1971 Constitution merited very good response because it was unicameral and presidential which he believed was what President Duterte aims to realize — a presidency with a parliamentary form of government just like in France. He emphasized that it is important to tarry a little and discuss the Constitution at every opportunity because it is not just a document, and that it should not be readily adopted unless ample time is given to study a lot of considerations, such as the imposition of taxes, ownership of natural resources and the like so that people would not have second thoughts on the reform.

He added that the provisions must be presented piece by piece, Congress must determine the base-lines before going into the form so that people would know what they are getting into since the constitutional change is not only for posterity but for the safety and security of the country.

Senator Hontiveros said that 1987 Constitution was not just a reaction to the trauma of Martial Law; it enshrined the Filipinos' aspiration for democracy and broadened the objectives of political change to include economic and social change.

Senator Gordon noted that the Philippine legislature has been previously inclined to contradict itself, for instance, when the foreign military bases were no longer allowed in Philippine territory yet the Supreme Court recently held that the EDCA was legitimate. He further lamented that the legislature cannot tie the hands of the country in terms of flexibility especially for reasons of national security.

Senator Hontiveros stated that the discussions and education and information campaigns vis-à-vis

constitutional reforms mentioned by Senator Gordon are the type of people's participation which she looks forward to while the possibility of a Concon is being considered.

Reiterating his call for the Senate to tarry a little to consider all matters towards Concon, Senator Gordon thanked Senator Hontiveros for discussing such option as he hoped that the Chamber could have preliminary discourses on the matter as it is of vital importance to the country.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Acting on the request of Senator Hontiveros, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the speech of Senator Hontiveros was referred to the Committee on Health and Demography.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68, entitled

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 13 (35) RULE X OF THE SENATE RULES BY DIVIDING INTO TWO SEPARATE STANDING COMMIT- TEES THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its text into the Record of the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto stated that Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68 would amend Section 13 (35) Rule X of the Senate Rules by dividing the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports into two separate standing committees: the Committee on Games and Amusement and the Committee on Amateur Sport Competitiveness, with each committee comprising nine members. He explained that the former chairpersons of the committee in the 15th and 16th Congresses have maintained that there were really two different and separate aspects handled in the committee, thus, it is deemed best to divide the same.



MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon gave a cautionary advice against splitting committees as it might become a precedent.

Senator Sotto assured Senator Gordon that the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports is the only committee which would be divided at the moment and that if there are any other matter that would be discussed, it would be brought to a caucus.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68 was adopted by the Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 5:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

**RECONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION
OF SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the adoption of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68, entitled

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION
13(35) RULE X OF THE SENATE
RULES BY DIVIDING INTO TWO
SEPARATE STANDING COM-
MITTEES THE COMMITTEE ON
GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS.

As a consequence, the Body proceeded to the period of amendments.

SOTTO AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

1. Amend Section 13(35) as follows:

35) COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND
AMUSEMENT. NINE (9) MEMBERS.

ALL MATTERS RELATING TO GAMES
AND AMUSEMENT, SUCH AS
LOTTERIES, JAI-ALAI AND HORSE-
RACING; and

2. As further amended by Senator Drilon,
reword Section 13(36) as follows:

36) COMMITTEE ON SPORTS. NINE (9)
MEMBERS. ALL MATTERS RELAT-
ING TO THE PROMOTION OF
PHYSICAL FITNESS, PROFESSIONAL
AND AMATEUR SPORTS DEVE-
LOPMENT.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 68**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68, as amended.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

(Continuation)

Upon nomination by Senator Sotto for the Majority/ Senator Recto for the Minority, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

***Committee on Government Corporations
and Public Enterprises***

Chairperson : Gordon

Vice Chairperson : Pangilinan

Members :

Majority

Zubiri	Binay
Hontiveros	Villar
Villanueva	Pacquiao

Minority

Escudero

Committee on Science and Technology

Chairperson : Aquino

Members :

Majority

Angara	Pangilinan
Ejercito	Zubiri
Villar	

Minority

Trillanes

Committee on Climate Change*Chairperson* : Legarda*Vice Chairperson* : Zubiri*Members* :*Majority*

Aquino	Binay
Hontiveros	Honasan
Villar	

Minority

Escudero	Trillanes
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Committee on Games and Amusement*Chairperson* : Lacson*Vice Chairperson* : Hontiveros*Members* :*Majority*

Ejercito	Pacquiao
Legarda	Binay
Honasan	Gordon

Minority

Escudero	
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Committee on Sports*Chairperson* : Pacquiao*Members* :*Majority*

Honasan	Ejercito
Angara	Gatchalian
Lacson	Zubiri
Villanueva	

Minority

Trillanes	
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Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies*Chairperson* : Escudero*Members* :*Majority*

Binay	Poe
Aquino	Gatchalian
Lacson	Villanueva

Minority

Trillanes	
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Committee on Youth*Chairperson* : Villanueva*Vice Chairperson* : Aquino*Members* :*Majority*

Angara	Binay
Pacquiao	Ejercito

Minority

Trillanes	
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Committee on Economic Affairs*Chairperson* : Gatchalian*Vice Chairpersons*: Zubiri
Villanueva*Members* :*Majority*

Ejercito	Pangilinan
Gordon	Binay

Minority

Trillanes	Escudero
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Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*Chairperson* : De Lima*Vice Chairperson* : Gordon*Members* :*Majority*

Pangilinan	Poe
Hontiveros	Aquino
Legarda	Villar
Pacquiao	

Minority

Escudero	Trillanes
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SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 5:57 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:02 p.m., the session was resumed.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the adoption of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68, entitled.

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 13(35) RULE X OF THE SENATE RULES BY DIVIDING INTO TWO SEPARATE STANDING COMMITTEES THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS.

As a consequence, the Body proceeded to the period of amendments.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR RECTO

Asked by Senator Recto how many times should a resolution be amended, Senator Sotto replied that there is no limit.

As to when the splitting of the committee into two committees was decided upon, Senator Sotto explained that the resolution was discussed in a caucus when there was still no member of the Minority. He said that the Rules Committee merely copied the old composition of the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports and split it into two committees.

Senator Sotto further clarified that any measure may be reconsidered even after three days upon its passage.

SOTTO AMENDMENT

As proposed by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendment on page 2, Section 13(35) as follows:

COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENT. — NINE (9) MEMBERS. ALL MATTERS RELATING TO GAMES AND AMUSEMENT, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO CASINOS, LOTTERIES, JAI ALAI AND HORSE-RACING.

The Chair pointed out that the paragraphs should also be re-numbered accordingly since there was already a paragraph 36 in the Rules.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 68 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Continuation)

Upon nomination by Senator Sotto for the Majority/Senator Recto for Minority, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

Committee on Cooperatives

Chairperson : Zubiri

Vice Chairperson : Hontiveros

Members :

Majority

Gordon	Legarda
Villar	Pacquiao
Angara	Villanueva

Minority:

Escudero

Committee on Local Government

Chairperson : Angara

Vice Chairperson : Hontiveros

Members :

Majority

Honasan	Zubiri
Ejercito	Gatchalian
Villanueva	Legarda
Aquino	Binay
Villar	

Minority

Escudero
Trillanes

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*Committee on Public Information
and Mass Media*

Chairperson : Poe

Members :

Majority

De Lima	Ejercito
Honasan	Pangilinan
Hontiveros	Legarda
Gordon	

Minority


Escudero

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, August 2, 2016.

It was 6: 11 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate
Done this 8/2 12:12 p.m.

Approved on August 2, 2016