



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 4
Tuesday, August 2, 2016

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 4
Tuesday, August 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:13 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” L. Pimentel, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Alan Peter “Companero” S. Cayetano led the prayer, to wit:

Lord, Father God, as we assemble here today in session and come before You and humble ourselves, we pray for the leaders of our country, from our president to the barangay *kagawads*.

Lord, we pray for wisdom, for obedience to You.

We pray, Lord, for unity for our country.

We pray that the planners will be able to move swiftly and be able to implement.

We pray, Lord, for unity among diversity, among the senators and for us all to be able to fulfill our roles.

As we pray for the leadership of the whole country, we also pray for the leadership of the Senate and the House of Representatives as we pray for the right

form of government that we are discerning for our people.

We lift these up to You, in Jesus mighty Name.

Amen.

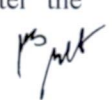
ROLL CALL

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

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

Senators Poe and Trillanes arrived after the roll call.



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. 3 (August 1, 2016) and considered it approved.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

On behalf of the Senate, Senator Sotto greeted Senator Villanueva on the occasion of his birthday.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended to allow the senators to greet Senator Villanueva on the occasion of his birthday.

It was 3:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:17 p.m., the session was resumed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Upon resumption, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Municipal Council of Gumaca headed by Mayor Erwin Caralian and Vice Mayor Elchor Caralian;
- Members of the Duterte-Cayetano Communications Team; namely, Andrei Natabio, Sahad Andal and Ken Sumbilon, owner and founder of the CinEmotion Digital Films of the Duterte Campaign;
- Commissioner Chito Gascon of the Commission on Human Rights;
- Members of the In Defense of Dignity Movement (IDefend) Coalition, namely, PhilRights, PAHRA, CATWAP, and other human rights organizations;
- University of the Philippines Institute of Human Rights, represented by Atty. Daniel Lising;
- Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC), represented by Atty. Jaymie Reyes and Ms. Claire Laison;

- The Balay Rehabilitation Center;
- NoBox;
- Akbayan Parañaque;
- Children's Legal Advocacy Network (CLAN);
- World March of Women;
- SENTRO; and
- Students from the Asian Institute of Maritime Studies.

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. 201, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN METRO MANILA BY REQUIRING A PROOF-OF-PARKING SPACE OR FACILITY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE BUYERS AS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND REGISTRATION WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 202, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS AND OFFICES, PARKS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, STREETS OR ALLEYS, AND OTHER PLACES OF PUBLIC CONGREGATION TO INSTALL CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) CAMERAS AS A MEANS TO DETER THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES

Pnt

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 203, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL USERS OF PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 204, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION NUTRITION AND PERFORMANCE ACCELERATION PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 205, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM OF EDUCATION FOR ADULTS, OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, MEMBERS OF CULTURAL MINORITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 206, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A PROGRAM FOR THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION OF TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY AND SECON-

DARY LEVELS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 207, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committees on Local Government; and Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 208, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) IN THE PHILIPPINES BY INCORPORATING APPRENTICESHIP AND DUAL TRAINING AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF THE UNEMPLOYED AND EXPANDING THE PROVISION OF ENTERPRISE-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 209, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL TECH-VOC DAY

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva



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

Senate Bill No. 210, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL
LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEUR-
SHIP PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development; Trade,
Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 211, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK (PQF) AND ESTAB-
LISHING THE NATIONAL COORDI-
NATING COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 212, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING
JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO INMATES
IN DETENTION FACILITIES, APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 213, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REVISED
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE
CHAPTERS I AND II OF TITLE II OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 214, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE COMMUNITY
HEALTH WORKER EDUCATION
AND TRAINING PROGRAM,
INCREASING COMPENSATION
AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR
BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS
(BHWs), APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 215, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY
LEAVE PERIOD TO ONE HUNDRED
TWENTY (120) DAYS FOR FEMALE
EMPLOYEES, MARRIED OR UN-
MARRIED, IN THE GOVERNMENT
SERVICE AND IN THE PRIVATE
SECTOR, AND GRANTING AN
ADDITIONAL THIRTY (30) DAYS
FOR SOLO MOTHERS, AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT 1161, AS AMENDED, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

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

Senate Bill No. 216, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES
FOR THE REFUSAL OF HOSPITALS
AND MEDICAL CLINICS TO
ADMINISTER APPROPRIATE
INITIAL MEDICAL TREATMENT
AND SUPPORT IN EMERGENCY OR
SERIOUS CASES, AMENDING FOR



THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 702, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEMAND OF DEPOSITS OR ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR THE CONFINEMENT OR TREATMENT OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS IN CERTAIN CASES" AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8344, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Health and Demography; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 217, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF WORKERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 248, 279, 280, 281 AND 288, AND INTRODUCING NEW ARTICLES 106, 106-A, 106-B, 106-C, 106-D, 106-E, 280-A AND 280-B TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 218, entitled

AN ACT BANNING THE USE OF FIRE-CRACKERS EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS DONE BY PROFESSIONALS

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 219, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENTS OF ALL MEMBERS

OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

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

Senate Bill No. 220, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A SCHOOL NOURISHMENT AND DIETARY PROGRAM TO ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

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

Senate Bill No. 221, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING BACKRIDERS ON TWO-WHEELED MOTORCYCLES/SCOOTERS AND EXCEPTIONS THERETO

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 222, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 150 OF

REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERN-
MENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

**To the Committees on Local Government;
and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 223, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 4 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049, OTHER-
WISE KNOWN AS AN ACT REGU-
LATING HAZING AND OTHER
FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN
FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

**To the Committees on Public Order and
Dangerous Drugs; and Constitutional Amend-
ments and Revision of Codes**

Senate Bill No. 224, entitled

ISANG BATAS NA NAGTATAKDA NA
ANG KATAWAGAN SA ATING BANSA
AY REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS O SA
MAIKLING SALITA AY PILIPINAS

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and
Culture**

Senate Bill No. 225, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL
REGIME AND REVENUE SHARING
ARRANGEMENT FOR LARGE-
SCALE METALLIC MINING

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 226, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committees on Electoral Reforms
and People's Participation; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 227, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING TELECOM-
MUNICATIONS SERVICE STAND-
ARDS

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 228, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND
STRENGTHENING PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS, AND APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committees on Public Works; Econo-
mic Affairs; Ways and Means and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 229, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE GRANT
AND ADMINISTRATION OF FISCAL
INCENTIVES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
and Economic Affairs**

Senate Bill No. 230, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF POLITICAL DYNASTIES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committee on Electoral Reforms
and People's Participation**

Senate Bill No. 231, entitled

AN ACT REVISING THE CORPORA-
TION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES



Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 232, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 233, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE POPULATION AND THE LAND AREA REQUIREMENTS THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P250,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 234, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INCOME CLASSIFICATION OF PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 235, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, ENTITLED, AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE PHILIPPINES OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 236, entitled

AN ACT TO INCREASE TO FIVE MILLION PESOS THE APPROVING AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO RESTRUCTURE OR CONDONE THE UNPAID INTERESTS, PENALTIES AND/OR SURCHARGES ON AGRICULTURAL LOANS OF FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 237, entitled

AGUS-PULANGUI PRIVATIZATION EXEMPTION ACT OF 2016

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committees on Energy; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 238, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 239, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TOTAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES, FOR OTHER PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF LANDMINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE A PHILIPPINE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON LANDMINES, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 240, entitled

AN ACT TO GIVE JURIDICAL PERSONALITY TO THE PRESENT VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER (VMMC) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 241, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DIRECT REMITTANCE TO THE HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF ITS FORTY PERCENT (40%) SHARE OF THE GROSS COLLECTION DERIVED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FROM NATIONAL WEALTH TAXES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 293 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 242, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPART-

MENT OF FISHERIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 243, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2010, PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS ON BASIC COMMODITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 244, entitled


AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 245, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE USE OF THE COUNTRY'S WATER RESOURCES THROUGH THE RATIONALIZATION OF SERVICE AREAS, PROVISION OF INCENTIVES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OR CLEAN AND EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES, AND REORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN LAWS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES



Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on Public Services;
Public Works; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 246, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A THREE
THOUSAND PESO (PHP3,000.00)
INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY
PENSION OF WAR VETERANS AND
THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIAT-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on National Defense
and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 247, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE BANK
DEPOSITS OF SENIOR CITIZENS
FROM THE 20% WITHHOLDING
TAX ON INTEREST INCOME,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on Ways and Means; and
Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 248, entitled

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT
OF THE PEOPLE TO INFORMATION
ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN
GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION
SEVEN, ARTICLE THREE OF THE
1987 CONSTITUTION AND THE
STATE POLICY OF FULL PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS TRAN-
SACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC
INTEREST UNDER SECTION
TWENTY EIGHT, ARTICLE TWO OF
THE 1987 CONSTITUTION, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

**Reorganization and Professional Regulation;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 249, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING MANDATORY
PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL
PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
(PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY,"
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural
Development**

Senate Bill No. 250, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA
CARTA OF THE POOR

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on Social Justice,
Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and
Means; and Finance**

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin
B. Bellen, read the following Senate bills and resolu-
tions which the Chair referred to the committees
hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 251, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE A LOW
CARBON ECONOMY ESTABLISH-
ING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE
EMISSION CAP-AND-TRADE
SYSTEM IN THE INDUSTRY SECTOR
TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS AND PROTECT THE
CLIMATE

Introduced by Senator Legarda



**To the Committees on Climate Change;
Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 252, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF
PREPAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY
MODULE (SIM) CARDS, PROVID-
ING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To The Committees on Public Services;
and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 253, entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARTICLES 180,
183 AND 184 OF SECTION TWO,
CHAPTER TWO, TITLE FOUR OF
ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE,
AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committee on Justice and Human
Rights**

Senate Bill No. 254, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL
INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARA-
NGAY CHAIRMEN, PROVIDING
FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS
PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committees on Government Corpo-
rations and Public Enterprises; Local Govern-
ment; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 255, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE BENEFITS
AND INCENTIVES OF BARANGAY
TANOD MEMBERS WHO HAVE
RENDERED AT LEAST ONE YEAR

**OF SERVICE IN THE BARANGAY
GOVERNMENT**

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committees on Local Government;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 256, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN
LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committees on Environment and
Natural Resources; Civil Service, Government
Reorganization and Professional Regulation;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 257, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PARENT
SUPPORT, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committees on Social Justice,
Welfare and Rural Development; and Women,
Children, Family Relations and Gender
Equality**

Senate Bill No. 258, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTEC-
TION, SECURITY AND BENEFITS
OF WHISTLEBLOWERS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 259, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIP-
PINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY
(PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lacson



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

Senate Bill No. 260, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6963, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE FAMILY OR BENEFICIARY OF ANY POLICE OR MILITARY PERSONNEL OR FIREMAN KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY OR BY REASON OF HIS OFFICE OR POSITION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 261, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A DOCTORATE DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO ENTRY LEVEL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER ELIGIBILITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 262, entitled

AN ACT CONDONING UNPAID AMORTIZATIONS OF LANDS AWARDED TO COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 263, entitled

AN ACT PRIORITIZING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE GRANT OF LOANS BY THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 264, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS TO FURTHER PROTECT AND DEVELOP MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 81, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE 1986 REVISED CHARTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 265, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ACADEMY, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 266, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE SPECIAL MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM SUPPORT

FUND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7 AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MOTOR VEHICLE USER'S CHARGE ACT OF 2000

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Public Works; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 267, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING INCOME TAX REFORM FOR INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 24(A)(2), 27(A) AND 35(A) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 268, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES BY PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND OFFICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 269, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DELIVER A MINIMUM STANDARD FOR INTERNET CONNECTION SPEED

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Public Services; and Science and Technology

Senate Bill No. 270, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD FOR CERTAIN NON-VAT TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 109 AND 236 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 271, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 272, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1096, THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, BY MANDATING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONWIDE INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS AND IMPOSING STIFF PENALTIES AGAINST BUILDING OFFICIALS WHO VIOLATE THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THE SAID CODE

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Public Works; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 273, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING CERTAIN ACTS

IN THE IMPOSITION OF EXCESSIVE PLACEMENT FEES AGAINST OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 274, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 275, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 276, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR, INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 7160 AND 8282

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 277, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A CIVIL ACTION FOR A MINOR INJURED BY EXPOSURE TO AN ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCT CONTAIN-

ING MATERIAL THAT IS HARMFUL TO MINORS

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 278, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL, BY RE-DEFINING, EXPANDING, STRENGTHENING, RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights*; Civil Service, Government Reorganization, and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 279, entitled

AN ACT TO GRANT MONTHLY PENSION TO GOVERNMENT RETIREES UNDER R.A. 1616 WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SEVENTY (70) YEARS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 280, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATION TRUST FUND FOR GRANTEES OF GSIS AND SSS MEMBERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Escudero

* As corrected by Senator Sotto on behalf of Senate President Pimentel on August 3, 2016

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Education, Arts and Culture; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 281, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING ALTERNATIVE CARE OF CHILDREN, PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO AGENCIES PROVIDING THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 282, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE COMBAT DUTY PAY OF ALL COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) FROM THE CURRENT VALUE THEY ARE RECEIVING TO TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM (25%) OF THEIR BASE PAY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 283, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF TENURE FOR ALL CASUAL AND CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE RENDERED THE PRESCRIBED YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

Senate Bill No. 284, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE AND BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AND PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD WHO ARE KILLED, WOUNDED OR INJURED IN LINE OF DUTY, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUMS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 285, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional

Regulation; Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 286, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA) FOR ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 287, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA), AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 10121, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 288, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR THE POOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways And Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 289, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RELIEF TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENTS, SUPPORTING AGING PARENTS AND DISABLED PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 290, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION, SECURITY AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 291, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS ON ACCOUNT OF ETHNIC ORIGIN AND/OR RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 292, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE AND PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 293, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A ONE-TIME AMNESTY ON ESTATE TAX, INCLUSIVE OF FINES, INTEREST, AND SURCHARGE PENALTIES, AND OTHER ADDITIONS THERETO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 294, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 84 OF

CHAPTER I, TITLE III OF THE
NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1997 AS AMENDED, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 295, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 99(B),
100, AND 101 OF CHAPTER II, TITLE
III, ESTATE AND DONOR'S TAXES,
OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE OF 1997 AS
AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 296, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING A UNIFORM TAX
FOR EXCESS CAMPAIGN CON-
TRIBUTIONS, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE SECTION 24
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS NATIONAL INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committees on Ways and Means; and
Electoral Reforms and People's Participation**

Senate Bill No. 297, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THREE ADDITIONAL
BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL
TRIAL COURT WITH SEATS AT
CALAMBA, LAGUNA IN THE
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 14 (E) OF BATAS
PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,
AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIAT-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 298, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL
BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL
TRIAL COURT WITH SEAT AT IBA,
ZAMBALES IN THE THIRD
JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(C)
OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION
ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 299, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL
BRANCHES OF THE METRO-
POLITAN TRIAL COURT WITH
SEATS AT MALABON CITY,
METRO MANILA IN THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL
REGION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 27 OF BATAS
PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,
AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIAT-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 300, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL
BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL
TRIAL COURT WITH SEATS AT
ORMOC, LEYTE IN THE EIGHTH
JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(I)

OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

**SECOND ADDITIONAL
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 59, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPRIETY OF GRANTING SPECIAL OR EMERGENCY POWERS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO IMMEDIATELY SOLVE THE WORSENING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 60, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO INCLUDE BOTTOM-UP BUDGETING (BUB) ALLOTMENTS IN THE PROPOSED 2017, AND SUBSEQUENT, GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGETING PROCESS AND STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE, THUS LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR FEDERALISM

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committee on Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 61, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO SURFER PHILMAR ALIPAYO FOR WINNING IN THE WEST SUMBAWA OPEN PRO FINALS 2016 SURFING TOURNAMENT HELD LAST 20TH OF JULY 2016 IN WEST SUMBAWA, INDONESIA

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 62, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING MARESTELLA TORRES-SUNANG FOR WINNING GOLD IN THE WOMEN'S LONG JUMP EVENT IN THE KAZAKHSTAN OPEN HELD LAST JULY 4, 2016 AND BREAKING THE PHILIPPINE RECORD IN LONG JUMP

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 63, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISTRESSING AIR TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN NINYOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA) CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO THE TRAVELERS, NEGATIVELY AFFECTING PHILIPPINE TOURISM AND HUGE BUSINESS LOSSES WITH THE END VIEW OF CRAFTING MEASURES AND PROVIDING REMEDY TO ADDRESS THE NAIA AIR TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Public Services



Proposed Senate Resolution No. 64, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 102nd FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO AND COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP OF KA EDUARDO V. MANALO

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To The Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 65, entitled

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL IN THE HAGUE FOR THEIR EXPERT AND EXEMPLARY WORK LEADING TO THE FAVORABLE RULING FOR THE PHILIPPINES IN ITS HISTORIC CASE AGAINST CHINA OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 66, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FAILURE TO COMPLY OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE WITH REPUBLIC ACT 9520 OR THE PHILIPPINE COOPERATIVE CODE OF 2008 BY IMPOSING UNREASONABLE REQUIREMENTS ANENT THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF TAX EXEMPTION IN FAVOR OF COOPERATIVES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Cooperatives; and Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 67, entitled

A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLANNED ABOLITION OF THE PEOPLE'S CREDIT AND FINANCE CORPORATION (PCFC) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS ARE STREAMLINED AND EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICES ARE EXTENDED TO MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies 4

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 69, Entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE FEASIBILITY FOR BANKS TO ACCEPT A NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (NC) ISSUED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) AS A COLLATERAL FOR BUSINESS START-UP FINANCE FOR INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 70, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN THE EXERCISE OF THE CONGRESS' OVERSIGHT FUNCTION, AS REGARDS THE REASONS FOR THE CONTINUED NON-IMPLEMENT-

ATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) NO. 8551, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998," PARTICULARLY ON THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE (IAS) OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), WITH THE END GOAL OF ENACTING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED CIVILIAN HEAD OF THE IAS AND TO STRENGTHEN THE INDEPENDENCE AND OBJECTIVITY OF THE IAS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 71, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MIGHTY SPORTS PHILIPPINES FOR TOPPING THE 38TH JONES CUP IN AN EIGHT-GAME SWEEP HELD FROM JULY 23-31, 2016 IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Rules

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto informed the Body that Senator De Lima would avail herself of the privilege hour.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator De Lima for her privilege speech.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator De Lima, the session was suspended.

It was 3:57 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:03 p.m., the session was resumed.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR DE LIMA**

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

**THE REAL CRISIS WE FACE:
STOP THE KILLINGS NOW!**

Mr. President, my fellow senators, *mga minamahal kong kababayan: Magandang araw po sa inyong lahat.*

I feel privileged that I am the second member, next only to another lady senator, to deliver the privilege speech in this Seventeenth Congress and in this Centennial Year of the Senate. I just hope that our male counterparts would not take it grudgingly.

I rise on matters of personal and collective privilege concerning a number of issues that now dominate the news and divide our people.

Our nation is in crisis. This crisis is the real and present danger posed by the illegal drug trade overwhelming our national fabric. Drug addiction, drug-pushing and drug-related crimes, including bribery and corruption of our public officials and the penetration of our institutions by powerful drug syndicates, threaten our government, our people and our society.

Any person undergoing a deep and profound personal crisis defends himself from the threat that brought the crisis into his life. In the same way, this nation must defend itself against the threat of the illegal drug trade lording over every aspect of our everyday lives. For so long we have been complacent about the magnitude of the problem. We have been indifferent to the number of drug pushers that have invaded our communities. We stayed silent as our impoverished youth succumbed to the promise of temporary escape from their harsh and brutish life in the urban and rural areas and became drug dependents.

This was the state of a nation in crisis under the threat of illegal drugs, until the overwhelming voice of the people voted to office the anti-drug crusader and mayor of Davao City as President of the republic, none other than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

The President carried a clear and distinct, almost one-track message that reverberated in the consciousness of our people. It cascaded down to the smallest communities that are the victims of drug pushers and drug addicts.



Finally, it was channeled back to the national level in the form of a resonating mandate that said: *"Yes, Mayor Digong, rid us of this drug menace any which way you can. We are giving you the mandate to clean our city's streets of drugs and, if need be, dispose of all drug lords and pushers the best way you see fit, hogtied and lifeless not being an exception."*

I agree. The nation is confronted with a drug crisis that has been ignored in focus for so many years. The nation must be saved. The people must be defended. War has been declared upon us, and so the war must be waged.

I am with President Duterte every step of the way in his war on drugs. I myself started the war on drugs at the National Bilibid Prison. On December 15, 2014, I personally led the raid on the drug lords' dens and took away their power over the rest of the prisoners. I isolated them in Building 14 of the national penitentiary. This raid started at different entry points of the prison compound in order to catch the drug lords literally with their pants down. It can be described as systematically executed simultaneous raids on each and every drug lord's luxury *kubol*.

I praise the President's determination to make this campaign the centerpiece of his administration, when he essentially said: *"Kahit wala na akong ibang gawin hanggang sa katapusan ng aking termino, kung hindi wakasan ang salot ng droga sa bansang ito."* I myself continued cleaning up the National Bilibid Prison of drugs in follow-up operations before I resigned as Secretary of Justice. This anti-drug campaign at the Bilibid eventually culminated with *OPLAN Galugad*. Together with this is the confirmation that there is no shabu laboratory inside the national penitentiary.

Yes, there is no shabu laboratory inside the Bilibid Prison, not even in the tunnels under it. Those who will search the tunnels will get a whiff, not of the smell of cooking methamphetamine, but of methane that comes from the human waste of the prisoners above.

Sa termino ko lang po bilang Justice Secretary nag-umpisang maglinis sa Bilibid. Sa termino ko lang po giniba ang mga mararang-yang kubol ng drug lords at naitapon sila sa Building 14, hiwalay sa mga ordinaryong preso. But, of course, all of these has been sorely forgotten in the face of a formidable demolition campaign against me in the social media.

This is where I raise the matter of personal privilege.

I have been vilified and attacked, not only in social media but also by the President's men, as a drug lord coddler and protector. I have been ridiculed and called names in social media. Photos are photoshopped, videos are spliced, lies are manufactured. The magnitude of the propaganda and misinformation is mind-boggling, considering that this is all directed at me. The lies are intended to show me as protector of the Bilibid drug lords. But the truth is, I was the only justice secretary who dared to eradicate the dominion of the drug lords inside Bilibid.

I was put to task by no less than the Speaker of the House, as a sitting senator of the same Congress that he leads. According to him, a resolution will be filed for an investigation on my alleged role in the proliferation of drugs inside the National Bilibid Prison. This not only goes against inter-parliamentary courtesy, where the House of Representatives investigates a specific member of its co-equal Senate. It is an affront to the Senate as an institution committed by none other than the leader of its co-equal body in Congress.

But I will not use that time-honored principle as my primary defense.

My first defense is common sense. The Speaker of the House promised the investigation of the former justice secretary, the secretary who has been sued and brought to court by the same drug lords subjected to a raid and then secluded inside NBP Bldg. 14. The Speaker intends to investigate me who, like the President and PNP Chief Bato dela Rosa, also received death threats from drug lords, for my success in isolating them from the rest of the prisoners, and for preventing them from further conducting their drug trade operations from within the walls of the national penitentiary.

My defense against the Speaker's call for my investigation in the House is not inter-parliamentary courtesy. That is your defense, Mr. President, when you defend me as a senator of the Republic and this Senate as an institution from this blatant break of tradition in courtesy between the two Houses, and whenever you decide to demand an end to all this foolishness, before it blows up in our faces. As I so respectfully request now.

My defense against all this vilification is my untarnished record and reputation as a public servant, before this demolition job was launched against me both in the social media and by the Solicitor General. My defense is my selfless dedication as the chairperson of the Commission

on Human Rights, as the Secretary of Justice and now as a senator of the Republic.

Unlike the well-oiled social media operation that has been singularly organized to cause my vilification, I have no money, I have no resources. My friends consider it a blessing that I was elected senator through sheer determination and the generosity of relatives, friends and supporters.

Last Friday, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre claimed that high-ranking DOJ officials from the previous administration were in the payroll of the NBP drug lords. Secretary Aguirre did not mention any name or my name, but going by the previous statements of the Solicitor General and the Speaker, one does not have to be a genius to guess who he is referring to. I am outraged that he has qualified this matter-of-fact statement with the actual truth that he has yet to create a task force that will yet conduct an actual investigation on his foregone conclusion that indeed there were pay-offs to DOJ officials. This is the justice secretary confused about his law school memory on how due process works: Accuse only after you investigate.

In so many ways, and in all sense of the phrase, the President's men have stood up the world on its head. It is time to put the world back on its feet. *Binaligtad na po nila lahat ng kuwento tungkol sa maganda nating nagawa sa DOJ, ni wala pa palang imbestigasyon.*

But despite this, I am still giving the Solicitor General, the Speaker, and the Secretary of Justice the benefit of the doubt. It is possible that they are merely being peddled these lies about me by agents of vengeance. *Pakiusap ko lamang sana ay bago nila paniwalaan ang mga kasinungalingan ng mga nasagasaan ko noon, ay suriin muna nila ang mga karakter at motibasyon ng mga taong ito. Huwag naman sana nilang basta-basta na lamang humusga, at patungan ako ng cardboard at balutin ng packaging tape.*

My only defense is my honor and my integrity.

This well-oiled social media operation intends to take that away from me. In the eyes of the people, they have already succeeded to a great extent. They project me as an enemy of this administration; that I am calling for an investigation on the drug killings because I am a drug coddler; that I am against the war on drugs because I am protecting the drug trade.

I cannot stay silent in the face of all these blatant lies created in the backroom of a media

strategy office suite. I will not fall without a fight. I will not go into that good night without nary a whimper, while all these misguided men use the President's war against drugs as their platform to destroy any elected public official who dares question the methods by which this war is waged. I will not surrender my mandate as senator of the Republic to these unelected and unaccountable personalities whose own motivation in the demolition of my person is highly questionable and utterly despicable. I cannot let these men run this demolition outfit only for them to accomplish their own personal and political agendas, to curry favor with the President, and to get a larger share of the spoils of executive power.

Napagsasamantalahan nila ang bawat pagkakataon sa ngalan ng ambisyon at pansariling interes. Hindi natin puwedeng hayaan na magpatuloy ang grupong ito sa hangarin nilang siraan ang lahat ng balakid sa kanilang ambisyon sa kapangyarihan, gamit ang kanilang pagkamalapit sa Pangulo ng ating bansa. Ang tanong lamang naman nila ay "What are we in power for?" They generate acclamation, or forment fear, whichever works for them.

They are doing this to a sitting senator. This is not only an attack against me, but against any senator who dares to be outspoken. *Pagkatapos ko, sino po ang susunod sa inyo na mangahas na tumiwalag sa kanilang marisa, na hindi sasayaw sa kanilang musika?* That is why, ultimately, this is an attack on the Senate as an independent institution.

We cannot let anyone use the misfortune of this nation in this drug crisis to advance personal or political agendas. We cannot let anyone use the drug crisis we are now facing to silence all dissenting voices. If we let anyone do these, there will be no single voice left to warn us of our backslide to the depths of barbarity. We do not want a situation where not a single dissenter is left to remind the people that they have just traded the drug crisis with another one: **the crisis of our failed humanity as a nation.**

We cannot go on being indifferent to the daily executions, without ultimately becoming a nation bound by a collective sociopathy. The day has already come when we can no longer tell who is morally wrong among us: the nine-year old street child sniffing rugby, or the policeman who shoots the child in the head for sniffing rugby. This is our descent as a nation into the darkness that these men have created for us.

Of course, we must face this drug crisis as a nation. So many have already fallen as victims, both in the number of drug users, and in the number of ruined families.

Yes, indeed, we must wage this war against drugs.

But there must be another way. There has to be another way. There must be a way other than this method that brings us to our collective descent into impunity, fear and, ultimately, utter and complete inhumanity. We cannot wage the war against drugs with blood. We will only be trading drug addiction with another more malevolent kind of addiction. This is the compulsion for more killings, killings that have now included even the innocent. There are now more mistaken identities and collateral damage, and the proportion is rising. And why is the proportion of collateral damage rising?

Impunity, once unleashed, has no boundaries. It does not care who dies. It does not care who suffers. It does not care who the victims are. Impunity has no sense of right or wrong. It is amoral as it is immoral.

As a human rights advocate and human being, I plead to the government, this Administration, and to the President. There must be another way. There has to be another way. We must find another way.

I fully support the war on drugs, and I sincerely desire its success. I am one with the President in his relentless and sustained campaign to rid our country of the drug menace. *Nais ko lamang na ang ating mga pulis at iba pang law enforcement agents ay maging totoong alagad ng batas, na sumusunod sila sa batas habang pinaiiral ito, na tumatalima sa mga patakaran at pamantayan sa pagsugpo ng krimen at pagdakip sa mga nagkasala, na isinasaalang-alang nila ang pangingibabaw ng batas sa kanilang pagtupad sa tungkulin.*

My concern is not only the killings tallied by the PNP as the formal law enforcement agency. At least we can put PNP to task in our official legislative investigations. My gravest concern lies with the vigilantes of the night now operating almost all over the country, those harbingers of death spreading the apocalypse of our dehumanization. They match with vigor the killings carried out by the official PNP. These people we cannot serve with the summons of the Senate. They are faceless, they are unaccountable.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) reported 395 alleged offenders killed in alleged

police operations from July to August 1. The daily average is as high as 13 dead during the past one month of the current administration. Higher figures are even reported by certain media outlets. The figures are now being flashed on the screen. I am not saying that all of the killings are summary executions. But there are telltale signs that several are. A number of complaints were already filed with the Commission on Human Rights.

On top of these are the vigilantes carrying out an ersatz kind of justice: CARDBOARD JUSTICE. It is reported that as of July 29, 2016, 259 human beings were killed in the hands of these assassins, several of them bystanders or victims of mistaken identity.

Let us see some specific cases.

At late night of July 21, in a Malabon City public cemetery, shot dead were five including a mother and her son who were then celebrating his birthday. The unidentified men who sprayed bullets on the group left a cardboard sign that tagged them collectively as "drug pushers." The local police, whose outpost stood only about 30 meters from the massacre site, later came up with an incident report linking only two and not five of the victims to the drug trade.

On July 19, an 18-year old student was just in front of his house in Pangasinan, feeding his dog, when motorcycle-riding gunmen approached him and asked for his father. When he was unable to reply, they just shot him dead.

On July 9, anti-drug operations had turned Barangay Purok Islam, in Matalam, North Cotabato, into a virtual ghost town, as many residents have left for their safety. One raid produced eight deaths. At 2:00 a.m., heavily-armed policemen barged into a house of drug suspects while they were asleep. Some residents claimed that these victims were summarily executed in their bedrooms. A mother of the two victims said: "It was an overkill. My sons were unarmed. We were treated like animals."

From July 8 to 9, three bodies were found separately in Manila with cardboards attached to them saying, "Pusher, holdaper ako. Huwag tularan." The first body was found under a bridge in Sta. Cruz; the second in front of the Metropolitan Theater; the third in front of a golf course on Bonifacio Drive. Their bodies were wrapped in packing tape and bore stab wounds.

On July 6, two women and a man were found dead at an irrigation canal in Llanera, Nueva Ecija. They were found floating in the waterway,

put

blindfolded and hogtied. They were claimed to be part of the municipal drug watch list.

At around three o'clock in the morning of July 5, in Muntinlupa City, two brothers were killed by the police. They were on their way to a hospital for a medical exam following their arrest when they allegedly tried to grab the gun of their police escort. While their mother admitted that his older son was a small-time drug pusher, her younger son was innocent and was never involved in illegal drugs.

On July 3, five men were shot dead in what the police said was a follow-up anti-drug operation in the Golden Mosque compound in Quiapo, Manila. The wife of one of the five deceased claimed there was no shootout. "My husband was only trying to fix our water supply that morning when he was shot. He was unarmed," the wife explained. "We are so poor that we can barely afford to buy food. How can we even buy a gun?"

And so the gorefest continues.

The fact that our attention span has waned as I enumerated only a fraction of these killings already shows how desensitized we have grown to the killings as mere numbers and statistics. We now casually eat our breakfast watching human beings wrapped in packing tape, or lying in pools of blood. *Sa araw-araw na lang na ginawa ng Diyos mula nang maging malinaw ang resulta ng nakaraang eleksyon, nasanay na tayo na ang ating almusal ay suman na bangkay at dinuguan.*

The killings have become so common the mass media has settled for fill-in-the-blank template news reports, differing only in the place, time and name of the victim. If the victim even has a name. The "What" and the "How" remain the same. News write-ups carry the standard explanation for cardboard justice. But how are we exactly to know if the killings were simply cover-ups for the involvement of the members of the police in the drug trade, or just simple cases of personal vendetta?

Truth now, in this country, are lines of acrylic marker on a cardboard. *Kahit ano na lang ang isulat sa cardboard ay pinapaniwalan na kaagad.* This is just a variation of the meme in social media. Get a photo, get a cardboard, write words, and the people will believe anything. Both the vigilantes and the social media operators take this nation as a nation of meme believers.

Tama na po ang mga meme. Tama na po ang cardboard. Mas malalim po ang katotohanan.

While the social media operators introduced to us DIY (Do It Yourself) Truth, the vigilantes have introduced to us DIY Justice. Never mind the police investigation, never mind the public prosecutor, never mind the courts and the judges. This is DO-IT-YOURSELF justice at work. All you need is an acrylic marker, a cardboard, some packing tape and, of course, something to stab or shoot the victim with. And there is no filing fee.

As for the killings carried out supposedly in pursuit of police work, there is the usual explanation that the executions were done in the course of legitimate law enforcement operations. *Nanlaban daw. Nakipagbarilan daw. Nangagaw raw ng baril habang naka-posas. Pero alam naman po natin na minsan style bulok na iyang mga paliwanag na iyan.* We are aware of incidents of police rubouts. We know about the shortcuts taken by some law enforcers in the guise of self-defense. The use of force, it appears in some cases, may not be necessary or, if necessary, was not proportional.

We still have a system of law that processes and punishes wrongdoers. We have our Bill of Rights that accord the right to be presumed innocent. What is worrisome in this situation is that the war on drugs is becoming a convenient pretext for misguided or utterly corrupt law enforcers to kill just anyone. *Ang magagandang layunin ng giyera sa droga ay nasisira nitong mga karumal-dumal na pagpatay. Tandaan natin na ang pagpatay na walang katwiran o walang legal na basehan ay krimeng malinaw. Ito ay ilegal. Ito ay imoral.*

I must admit, the public reaction to these executions is not in favor of those who oppose it. A 91% approval rating for the President and what he stands for is formidable record. But we cannot base our reactions to these killings on the popularity of the President. Popular or not, MURDER MUST STOP. S-T-O-P. Stop the killings now.

There might not be a manifest public outcry, but there is definitely a seething undercurrent of remonstrance against this disregard for human life.

Students armed with nothing but courage and conviction have started to act. They are protesting with cardboards in their chests, telling us that no one is safe. If these students, who do

not have the protection of position or power, raise their voice against these daily assassinations and rubouts, what does that make of me, an elected senator, if I keep silent?

Last Friday, the Ateneo de Manila University, through its president, Fr. Jet Villarin, issued a statement condemning the nation's acceptance of these killings as the new normal. Before that, De La Salle University president, Br. Jose Mari Jimenez, urged the La Sallian community in a pastoral letter to make a stand against the culture of death.

Ateneo has reason to cry. Its Math teacher, Emmanuel Jose Pavia, was killed while on his way home. The motive for his murder is lost in the hundreds of street assassinations now taking place. Impunity, once unleashed, has no limits. It simply does not care about the nuances of who gets killed, and why.

The message is this: Let us not wait until another Atenean on his way home is killed. Let us not wait until a La Sallian is killed. Let us not wait until another student or teacher from any other school, or a worker or commuter or motorist is killed.

The statement of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines reminds us that the murder of drug suspects is still murder under the rule of law. My own former office, the Commission on Human Rights led by Chairperson Chito Gascon, has already taken steps to investigate cases of mistaken identity and collateral damage, aside from cases where families of drug suspects had enough courage to file complaints. The relatives of the collateral damage victims are the indignant voices that tell us of the extent this bloody purge has spilled over to the innocent commuter and ordinary civilian.

The Sunday before the State of the Nation Address, the *Inquirer's* headline was God's Fifth Commandment: THOU SHALL NOT KILL. The Church is speaking to us. "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end; no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

These are the voices trying to wake up a person sound asleep while his house is burning. But he is in a hallucinating dream of a country's redemption by bloodletting. It is just that the fire has not yet seared his flesh, and the blood has not yet reached his doorsteps. The Roman poet

Dante said: "[t]he hottest place in hell is reserved to those who, in times of moral crisis, refuse to take a stand."

If we are to shirk from our natural, moral and legal duty to condemn the abuses of power, to condemn any and all wrongdoings, the victims of our silence are not only the summarily killed, but values that are sacred and universal: the very right to life, the rule of law, due process, and justice for all.

Drugs destroy lives, but we need not destroy lives to destroy drugs.

Ang paggalang sa buhay ay hindi balakid sa pagsugpo ng droga at mga krimen. May mga paraan at mekanismo sa ilalim ng ating mga batas upang maisagawa ang giyera laban sa droga habang itinataguyod ang panginibabaw ng batas at pag-iral ng karapatang pantao. Our legal arsenal is equipped. It should simply be strengthened to carry out the objective of this war on drugs. The war on drugs can be waged without sacrificing the sacredness of life, obedience to the rule of law, and adherence to human rights.

Freddie Aguilar once sang: "*Higit sa lahat ay tao.*"

This is the biggest truth: "*Higit sa lahat ay tao. Higit sa lahat ay buhay.*"

The right to life is the most ancient and basic of all human rights. It is the source of all human rights. The UN Declaration on Human Rights proclaims that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) declares that "every human being has the inherent right to life" and that "this right shall be protected by law." "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life." Our Bill of Rights commands that "no person shall be deprived of life... without due process of law." Section 11 of Article II of our Constitution proclaims that "[t]he State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights."

The international community declares the inviolability of the right to life, of whatever race, color, creed, religion, age, status, gender or circumstance. The civilized nations of the world keep watch on any country that shows a disregard for the right to life, especially systemic violations that indicate government inaction or, worse, state-sanctioned abuses. We have to show the world that the Philippines continues to stand with the rest of humanity in condemning and putting a stop to any and all forms of

systemic and widespread extra-judicial killings, whether perpetrated by the State or non-State actors.

In this light, I filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 9, calling for a congressional inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the spate of extrajudicial killings and summary executions.

Ito po ang aking pakay. Palakasin ang giyera laban sa droga at kriminalidad sa pamamagitan ng pagsawata sa mga iligal na pagpatay. Magpanukala ng mga nararapat na batas at alituntunin upang tulungan ang ating kapulisan sa kanilang tamang pagtupad ng tungkulin. At higit sa lahat, palakasin pa ang sistema ng ating mga batas para matiyak ang pag-iral ng batas at paggalang sa karapatang pantao.

Malinaw po na ang laban na ito ay hindi lamang sa pansariling laban ni Leila de Lima. Ito ay laban ng mga karaniwang Pilipino para sa pagbabago, para sa pagyabong ng buhay, para sa kaginhawaan ng pamilya, para sa katiwasayan ng pamayanan, para sa kaayusan ng pamahalaan, at para sa kabutihan ng lahat.

If this Administration is sincerely concerned about the spate of killings of suspected criminals, as it pronounced before the media, then it should welcome this Senate inquiry. However, even before any Senate resolution was filed, the Solicitor General and the PNP Chief have already made pronouncements that they will not attend any Senate inquiry, even when invited or summoned. This premature position of some Administration officials is regrettable.

The bloody drug war advocates are fomenting a hate campaign against those in the media, civil society, the religious and private sectors, and the academe. Despite this hate campaign, we have to continue opposing the murder of the innocents as well as that of the suspects. We must call for the accountability of state actors responsible for this terrifying trend in law enforcement, and the investigation of killings perpetrated by the vigilante assassins.

In the campaign against criminality, we cannot applaud criminal methods merely because we are unaffected. Life has more value than accusation written on a piece of cardboard, whether you are rich, or a scum of the earth.

Needless to say, all lives matter.

Katulad po ng pagmamahal ko sa aking dalawang anak at sa dalawa kong apo, mahal ko po ang bayang ito. Katulad po ninyo, kapwa ko senador, mga kababayan, mahal ko

ang bayang ito. Katulad po ninyo, mahal na Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, mahal ko po ang bayang ito.

Hayaan ninyo akong mahalin ang bayan natin sa pamamaraan na naaayon sa aking damdamin at sa aking tungkulin. Hayaan ninyo akong maging boses ng mga hampaslupang walang kapangyarihan, dahil marami na sa atin ang boses ng mga nasa kapangyarihan.

It is the powerless and the helpless who most need our love and protection, not the powerful.

My fellow senators, that is what we are in power for.

Kaya po tayo binigyan ng kapangyarihan bilang mga senador, para mahalin ang mga walang kapangyarihan at tulungan sila na sagipin ang kanilang sarili, mula man sa pag-abuso ng droga, o sa pangkalahatang paghihirap sa buhay. Ang ating kapangyarihan ay para sa mga walang kapangyarihan. Ang ating pag-aruga ay para sa mga nanga-gailangan ng ating tulong at pag-unawa.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO

Senator Cayetano manifested his desire to interpellate Senator De Lima, if she so wishes.

Senator De Lima manifested that as a privilege speaker whose speech was not a sponsorship of any bill or resolution, she was invoking her right to decline an interpellation.

Senator Cayetano admitted that it is the right of any senator or speaker to decline an interpellation. He noted, however, that in his 18 years in Congress, that was only the third time that someone who delivered a privilege speech declined an interpellation.

In view thereof, Senator Cayetano asked that he be allowed instead to rise on a question of personal privilege.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Cayetano on a question of personal and collective privilege.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR CAYETANO

Rising to a question of personal and collective privilege, Senator Cayetano noted how Senator De

But

Lima talked about a "new normal" in her speech, but he asked the Body to first consider the "old normal."

According to Senator Cayetano, before the President's campaign against drug lords, drug pushers and even drug users, what was normal in Taguig where he resides, for instance, is the presence of an abusive drug pusher who has a policeman as bodyguard; the preponderance of street crimes against innocent persons committed by drunks or drug addicts or both; and incidents of rapes committed by drug abusers even on their own family members.

He also noted the following:

- In any barangay in Metro Manila and in many highly-urbanized cities around the country, the crimes of robberies and rapes were normal;
- In Taguig City, where his wife was the mayor, there were these drug pushers, all with the same family name, who were jailed at the Southern Police District but were all released at different stages through influential people from the Judiciary and Legislature.

Still, Senator Cayetano said that his belief that life is valuable never wavered, and so he started many projects in many jails, like a computer school in Taguig City Jail, in Metro Manila Integrated Jail and in Cebu City Jail. He reported that 42% to 60% of those who are imprisoned are involved in drug-related cases. He pointed out that some drug pushers before enjoyed the amenities and perks of VIPs in jail, while others were released because of the influence of prominent people. He noted that the problem was too big for the Aquino administration, that even the former justice secretary said so in her speech. He pointed out that President Duterte took the problem head on, but he never heard the President ordered the killing of those who are helpless and unarmed.

Senator Cayetano said that he sympathized with Senator De Lima for the baseless accusations and suspicions thrown against her.

On her mention about the case of a seven-year old boy who sniffed rugby and was killed by a police officer, Senator Cayetano said that he never heard of such a case, nor the case of the other nine-year old child; and neither did he hear the President said that if ever there is a summary killing, it will not go

unpunished. In fact, he pointed out that President Duterte expressed that he would not tolerate the abuses of law enforcers and that he would strengthen their internal checks to make sure that they would not kill people and are not involved in drugs as he was also aware of the reality that some elements of the PNP are also being used by the drug pushers.

Senator Cayetano noted that Senator De Lima readily jumped to conclusion that many drug pushers were victims of rubouts and that she even invoked presumption of innocence. But he asked if the PNP should also be accorded the presumption of regularity in the performance of their duty.

Senator Cayetano recalled that before, when a pusher or a kidnapper resisted arrest, the law enforcers retaliated by simply maiming the suspect but the reality at present, he pointed out, is that most drug pushers are determined to fight it out. He said that normally the law enforcers have to identify themselves first before a raid or a buy-bust operation to give the pushers the opportunity to surrender, but many times, these pushers resisted and when they were gunned down, the arresting officers ended up charged with murder and they were left to defend themselves while the pushers availed of lawyers because they can afford it.

Senator Cayetano stated that standing up against vigilantism or summary killings is the right thing to do, and that police officers are expected to follow the rules. However, he lamented that if it is erroneous to accuse without basis the former justice secretary of wrongdoing, similarly it is also wrong to accuse the police of committing summary killings without any basis or absent any investigation.

He explained that if there are three million addicts, and if there is one pusher for every one thousand addicts, then there would be 300,000 pushers. He stated that more than half the number of drug pushers are also drug users, and that most of the time drug users are armed. He added that if a gun is pointed at a person high on drugs, he/she would not know if the person holding the gun is a police or not.

Senator Cayetano recalled that during the campaign, there was a story that came out about a person high on *shabu* who killed his own father because he mistook the latter for the devil; in another instance, another person who was high on drugs shot and killed his father who was a policeman.

Senator Cayetano stated that during the inauguration, President Duterte advised the CHR and Congress to do their job and that he would do his job. He clarified that the President did not stop the CHR from investigating human rights violations; the President even urged the CHR to investigate thoroughly before giving conclusions to the media.

He averred that at present, emotions are high and people are making conclusions. He stated that while he does not know the facts surrounding the death of the Ateneo professor, all that he heard was that there was an element of robbery behind it. He expressed hope that the killer would be put to justice. However, he lamented that the issue was being blended and weaved by the media and some human rights group as an extrajudicial killing, as if it was ordered by the President.

Senator Cayetano pointed out that when an all-out war against drugs was conducted by the Colombian government, drug cartels turned in themselves and that there were vigilante killings committed by the drug lords themselves because they had evidence against each other; in some instances, police protectors would kill drug lords for fear of being turned in. He stated that drug enforcement agencies sowing intrigue among drug lords is an internationally known strategy in getting rid of drug cartels. He said that extrajudicial killing is still murder that needs to be investigated, but he maintained that the present administration and the law enforcement agencies should not be blamed. He asked if it was the President's or the police's fault that drug lords are killing each other.

Senator Cayetano lamented never hearing the peculiar statistic of a 13% drop in crime rate. He supposed that all that mattered were the human rights or bleeding hearts of the relatives of those who were killed. He noted that among the cases that were out of CHR's radar was the death of a 16-year old child of an OFW who died of drug overdose; a group of friends who died in a car crash because the driver was high on drugs. He said that these cases are not summary killings but equally upsetting because they involved drug abuse.

Agreeing with Senator De Lima, Senator Cayetano stated that the Senate should invite the Chief PNP to shed light on how the agency is monitoring and investigating the alleged extrajudicial killings. He informed the Body that the PNP will soon be inaugurating the second crime laboratory in the

country. He stated that he had been pushing for the crime laboratory since the time of President Arroyo.

Nonetheless, he questioned why the Senate would be conducting an inquiry on extrajudicial killings when it should instead conduct hearings on increasing the police wages and protecting prosecutors so that they do not have to be at the mercy of drug lords. He stated that there should be hearings to find out how the police could be given additional allowances or be adequately equipped; how the prosecutors should be secured in their offices; and the creation of crime laboratories.

Senator Cayetano stated that in a democracy, a call by an administration official for a stop to an investigation should not be misconstrued as an attack on the Senate – it is freedom of speech. He said that the country is plagued with bigger problems, the CHR can do its oversight function, but similar to Senator De Lima's appeal, investigate first before passing judgment. He then appealed to the Body to consider the plight of the POIs across the country first: their P15,000 salary when the cost of living is P25,000 to P30,000 in major cities; those who take orders; those who come home in caskets; and those who are being suspended for fighting crime. He said that he would rather that the Chamber choose its priority.

He then urged Senator De Lima to come up with facts and not speculations on the killings. He inquired if Senator De Lima wanted to investigate on every extrajudicial case or if she was implying that the police was not investigating on the matter. He said that if it was the latter and the facts are incomplete, then the proper committee should conduct hearings. However, he urged the Body to evaluate the matter if it is urgent or not. He said that not only are the police, NBI, PDEA and OFWs interested in the issue but the drug lords as well. He believed that the statement of the new justice secretary on Senator De Lima was an unintended attack on her and the Senate. He cautioned the Body to be careful and not to think that there is a hate campaign against human rights advocates. He urged everyone to consider the situation of the President, the law enforcement agencies and Congress. He noted that while Congress has the power and resources for image building, the police do not have it.

Thereafter, he welcomed Senator De Lima to the Senate, saying that he too would not allow



anyone to attack or destroy the Senate nor stop any senator from conducting an investigation or from attending an investigation. He averred that it is up to the Senate to decide what is important; how it will use its time; and it is up to every senator to make sure that the unintended consequence of telling the police to stop does not happen.

Senator Cayetano recalled that three months ago, he, along with Senators Sotto, Recto and Gordon, was discussing about having more rehabilitation centers built for surrendering drug users. He said that the President was amazed that more than 100,000 people were surrendering. He warned that if these dependents do not have a place to go to, they would have no recourse but to go back to drugs.

He informed the Body that nowadays, *shabu* costs 200% to 400% more than it was a month ago, in some places 1000% more, and drug users will stop buying because they do not have the money, but the downside, he said, is that violent addicts would resort to robbery or steal to get money to feed the habit; thus, the urgent need for rehabilitation centers.

In conclusion, Senator Cayetano stated that the Senate should stand up for human rights; it should not allow unjustified killings; it should not accuse falsely or accuse without factual background; and it should not accuse the police or the PNP as an organization of rubouts until there is evidence.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

At this juncture, Senator Hontiveros expressed her intention speak in response to Senator Cayetano's speech.

Senator Sotto stated that he wanted to interpellate Senator Cayetano as he was interested in the topic. However, he said that he would give in to Senator Hontiveros if she was to give a rejoinder to Senator Cayetano's remarks.

Senator Cayetano reminded the Body that once a senator who spoke on a matter of personal and collective privilege sits down or yields the floor, his/her time is deemed expired and anyone could stand on a different topic. He said that for orderly proceedings, he would answer questions if anyone would interpellate on the speech, otherwise, he would yield the floor to Senator Hontiveros.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 5:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

At the outset, Senator Sotto stated that he was about to make a motion to refer the speech of Senator De Lima to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs. However, he said that he was curious about some issues that were raised by both Senators De Lima and Cayetano.

Asked by Senator Sotto to comment on the quote, "A person has lost his human right when he destroyed the lives of many people," Senator Cayetano replied that a person, whether dead or alive, still has human rights, the reason why there is libel. He explained that even a dead person, if maligned, can still demand for human rights through his family or whoever is taking care of his body. He presumed that the query of Senator Sotto was part of political rhetoric. As regards the pushers' claim for human rights which destroys the life of other people, he stated that it has always been explained and clarified during the Duterte-Cayetano campaign that pushers could only be killed if they resist arrest and that the Administration would deal with the drug problem within the confines of the Constitution. He believed that in the act of committing a crime, a pusher loses some rights. He said that if he and his security guard had apprehended someone who was caught opening the drawer in his office, the person could not immediately be called a thief as it is the court of law that would decide. He said that the burden of proof resides on both him and his guard to prove that the person was stealing some documents in the office.

He noted that the anti-drug law was amended successfully several times, even when Senator Sotto was still vice mayor of Quezon City until he won a seat to the Senate, and yet there were still questions, for instance, on whether or not to include the barangay in the operation against drugs because precisely pushers are protected by the barangay. He stressed

that persons, even how bad they are, still have human rights, the reason why the law does not prescribe death penalty by hanging or firing squad but by lethal injection because of the belief in humanity. He pointed out that even the Constitution abhors cruel and inhuman punishment in respect for human rights, regardless of the gravity of the crime. He clarified, however, that if the rights of other persons are affected, for instance, when a pusher during a raid would point a gun at a police officer, then he is giving up his right not to be shot because of his resistance.

Senator Cayetano said that persons who have committed unlawful acts still have rights — right to counsel, right to remain silent, and right to trial; however, if found guilty, that person loses his freedom and his political rights. He explained that there are alienable rights which can only be lost if the person threatens the life of another.

Agreeing to the point made by Senator De Lima, Senator Cayetano maintained that one cannot go around shooting anybody who has committed lapses in the law. He lamented the impression being made by the international community on alleged extrajudicial killings of members of media, as echoed by no less than UN Secretary General Ban Ki Mon. He expressed dismay over the actuation of the country's representative to the UN who did not even defend the President-elect. He said that the UN Secretary General has no right nor the powers to issue such a statement. He added that the President-elect is not a tyrant and that the Secretary General does not know the context of the issue. He believed that there are people who are trying to smudge the reputation of the country and of the President by making it appear that the country is one wild, wild west. On the contrary, he pointed out that in some barangays in Quezon City, for example, the people there already feel safe and are not afraid anymore of roaming the streets at night. He said that media reports about killings are utterly false although they still need to be investigated. He stated that the PNP should be congratulated for their successful campaign.

Adverting to the speech of Senator De Lima, Senator Sotto said that he was puzzled by one quote attributed to President Duterte, which says "Go ahead and kill drug addicts." He said that he never heard the President say such a statement, except to declare: "Kill the pushers." He wondered how the statement found its way to the headlines.

Senator Cayetano said that he also wanted to clarify the matter with Senator De Lima because it was clarified many times and the President even talked of the rehabilitation center that he built in Davao. He said that drug addicts or users, numbering three million in the country, are themselves victims. He said that while the victims are crying for investigation, rumors are amplified as regards the order to kill the pushers and the users. He said that a look at the crime index would reveal that those who were killed were those who already have record in the past but were able to evade the law. For instance, he said that in Tondo, the kids are used as couriers because they know that in the law, they cannot be arrested. He clarified that he was not pointing fingers but that as mentioned by Senator De Lima, there must be a better way to address the problem on drugs. He suggested that congressional hearings be held in order to come up with suggestions on how to better combat the problem rather than to investigate. While anyone can say that there must be a better way, he asked what better way there was to apprehend a drug addict, an ordinary criminal, or a pusher who points a gun at an officer during a buy-bust operation. He reiterated that what is currently happening is the better way as nobody ever thought that the nationwide Davao-style anti-drug campaign would work.

Senator Sotto, citing also the statement of Senator De Lima, said that there must also be other ways like knowing who and how the illegal drugs came about. He said that one of the issues that should be looked into by the Committee would be to find out how Section 92 of Republic Act No. 9165, (delay and bungling in the prosecution of drug cases) was being implemented. He surmised that if drug cases have been prosecuted well, then the problem would have been solved. He said that almost 80% of the drug cases were dismissed last year.* He suggested that during the hearing, the Department of Justice be asked to submit the number of cases it has investigated under Section 92, and the Supreme Court for the number of cases dismissed, as well as the names of the judges who were responsible for the dismissal of the cases.

Lastly, Senator Sotto pointed out that the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, Justice and Human Rights, and Health and Demography, should favorably consider the bill which proposes that PhilHealth cover drug rehabilitation of members, including their relatives.

* As corrected by Senator Sotto on August 3, 2016



Senator Cayetano concurred with Senator Sotto that there must be other ways. He said that the measure to include the rehabilitation of drug dependents coverage of PhilHealth must be considered.

Senator Cayetano said that before, national security only referred to national defense, but it has since evolved to include food security, the health of the people, electricity, and even cyber security. He stated that even President Duterte has often quoted President Arroyo that the problem on drugs is a national security problem because drug lords are running for top positions in the government, when they are supposed to be running away.

Regarding the Commission on Human Rights, Senator Cayetano acknowledged Chairman Gascon for being a real advocate who has dedicated his life to human rights. However, he wondered why the people feel aloof or indifferent to the CHR, and why the PNP, military, NBI, PDEA and BJMP consider the Commission as an adversary instead of protector of everyone's rights.

He also expressed admiration for Senator Sotto—whose proposal has already been approved by the President in principle—to not only include drug rehabilitation in PhilHealth but also the introduction to the curriculum in the elementary and secondary level the teachings of anti-drug addiction and its prevention. He opined that all proposals could be very productive because illegal drugs are a problem. He said that even senators, though their speeches or press releases, could increase awareness that the problem concerns not only drugs but human rights and summary killings. He said that while others would say that one impunity is being replaced with another, there actually is no impunity as no one is saying that one can go around the country and kill people. He said that the government will jail anyone who murders, and stressed the need to give the police force a higher pay, equipment and training to go after law violators. He informed that Body that only one-third (1/3) of the investigators in the country have formal training and that it is the duty of Congress to provide the equipment, instead of finger pointing, because President Duterte does not want finger pointing as it could keep people from getting things done.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Prefatorily, Senator Pangilinan stated that he wanted to react to Senator Cayetano's remark about finding better ways to address the issue of criminality

in the country. He then asked Senator Cayetano if he believes that the root of criminality is the inability of the justice system to punish the guilty in a fair and speedy process.

Senator Cayetano replied that such statement is applicable in a philosophical manner inasmuch as some believe that humans are basically good while others think that humans become bad and they are suppressed by external law. He said that he would completely agree with the statement if the Philippines would have a justice system like Singapore where offenders could be apprehended and jailed in a matter of hours.

Senator Pangilinan maintained that if the country's justice system is modern and efficient so that the guilty is punished and the innocent is freed, there would no longer be a debate regarding extrajudicial killings and vigilantism.

Senator Cayetano agreed that there is a problem in the justice system; otherwise, there would have been no longer a need for a President Duterte as the voters might have been attracted to a different platform by another presidential candidate other than the eradication of illegal drugs.

Asked by Senator Pangilinan how the issue of criminality would be resolved without disregarding the rule of law and how to achieve a modern, efficient and effective justice system in the country, Senator Cayetano answered that while other countries address white- and blue-collar crimes, poverty or murder, the Philippines is nearing narco-state wherein drug lords have already penetrated the justice system.

Senator Pangilinan pointed out that if indeed there is an effective justice system, the country would not have reached a near narco-state status and the government could have eventually been able to address not only drugs, smuggling and corruption but also other cases.

Senator Cayetano said that while there is no need for a catharsis in a non-narco state, it is complicated in a semi-narco state because there is a need for a reset. For instance, he cited President Mikhail Saakashvili of Georgia who fired the entire traffic police force due to corruption, and that in order for them to get back to their jobs, he demanded that they should prove that they are not corrupt nor are into drugs.

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Senator Pangilinan agreed, saying that the government should practice out-of-the-box approaches such as being more creative to find ways and means to grapple the problem of criminality, and shift paradigms to achieve a modern justice system.

Senator Pangilinan stated that with slow justice comes frustration and people resort to shortcuts; thus, he proposed that the shelf life of criminal cases prosecuted in first-level courts must be reduced; vacant positions in the prosecution service must be filled up to speed up disposition of cases; the budget of the judiciary, which was only 0.8% of the entire national budget while only 0.2% goes to the justice system itself, must be increased. He also expressed the need to focus on addressing criminality and the strengthening of the rule of law, saying that the Philippines has a conviction rate for corruption cases of 30%, way below Hong Kong and Japan where at least 80% of corruption cases ended up in conviction.*

As regards the Judicial Executive Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council (JELACC), Senator Pangilinan said that the body was created in 2008 under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and had its members the leaders of the three branches of government then, namely, House Speaker Prospero Nograles, Senate President Manuel Villar and Chief Justice Reynato Puno. He disclosed that in the two times that JELACC convened, it was able to make necessary recommendations and successfully had the judiciary budget reaching 1% of the entire budget, or a 20% increase in budgetary support which strengthened the rule of law and modernized the justice system. Strategically, he said that if the vacancies in the prosecution service would be addressed, along with the reduction of the shelf life of cases prosecuted in first-level courts, then there would be a swift and efficient system of justice and shortcuts would be a thing of the past. Eventually, he said that there would be respect for the rule of law, not out of fear but out of trusting the justice system wherein the guilty is punished and the innocent will have his or her day in court.

Senator Cayetano believed that it is never a process nor a penalty but a certainty that the guilty should be punished. The problem with drugs, he said, was that those involved think that they can get away with it until President Duterte came to power. Thereupon, he enjoined his colleagues to

consider the suggestions made by Senators Sotto and Pangilinan to come up with a holistic approach toward improving the program in order to capture the people involved in drugs, uphold victims' rights and punish those who abuse their positions in the military or the police.

Senator Cayetano said that to make sweeping statements that the police were remiss in their duties or that they have abused their authority would result in confusion. He stressed that human rights of drug victims have similarly been violated every day until President Duterte made it a priority. Saying that the anti-drug campaign is a worthy endeavor, he proposed that the Senate ensure its implementation instead of unwittingly smearing the program to make it appear that the policy of the new government is towards extrajudicial killings. He believed that the Duterte administration is serious in effecting the full force of the law against drug lords, drug pushers and drug users.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon recalled that when he was in the United States lobbying for veterans' rights together with Senators Daniel Inouye and Patrick Leahy, he was told that the U.S. would not give any aid to the Philippines because of extrajudicial killings. He said that it is a sad truth that there has been a long history of extrajudicial killings in the country.

Asked by Senator Gordon if something was done to put a stop to extrajudicial killings, Senator Cayetano answered that little has been done.

Senator Gordon stated that the country is reacting to a phenomenon not seen in the country for a long time — a president elected by a majority of 16 million votes and who spoke of impunity against drug proliferation and corruption and, with his shoe on the other foot, is being accused of tolerating extrajudicial killings. He said that even as he did not want to participate in the debate, he was troubled with the solution suggested by Senator Pangilinan.

He lamented that the problem persisted due to apathy and negligence and that even the senators are expected to come up with a remedy for it. Moreover, he noted that the accessibility to illegal drugs could be traced to the fact that airports and shorelines are "porous" to the point that another power could even

* As corrected by Senator Pangilinan on August 3, 2016

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destabilize the government just by shipping drugs into the country. He said that he was shocked over how the national penitentiary has not only become a den for the illegal drug trade but that even criminals incarcerated within are not only allowed to have weapons, money, women and other special privileges but are even allowed to escape from jail to kill people.

As an example, Senator Gordon recalled how he was involved in the investigation of an imprisoned drug lord in Congress who was linked to the killing of a judge. This, he said, shows how corruption has infected even law enforcement authorities and members of the judiciary, prompting a previous President to say that there are "hoodlums in robes." He feared that the prayers made by the members during the start of each session day end up falling on deaf ears because the situation remains the same.

To Senator De Lima's claim that she started the investigation, Senator Gordon maintained that it remains a command responsibility from the President of the previous administrations to the present, for failing to stop the proliferation of drug lords, abuses in the penitentiary and the extrajudicial killings. He noted that no drug lord has yet been captured or killed since the body count only includes drug pushers. He warned that such extrajudicial killings have put the integrity of law enforcement authorities in question particularly in cases where the suspected drug pushers were already in the custody of the police when the deaths took place.

Moreover, Senator Gordon stated that evidence must be presented before any accusations against the police are made, and he believed that Republic Act No. 8551, which provides that an investigation is automatically conducted by the Internal Affairs Service whenever a policeman is involved in such incidents, must be allowed to take its course and properly implemented. He urged PNP Chief Dela Rosa to show transparency in the course of the PNP's investigation into these vigilante killings.


Having been a crime victim himself because of his own father's assassination by a person who had been allowed to get out of prison and later returned after accomplishing what was ordered of him to do, Senator Gordon said he understood why the people are willing to look the other way to get rid of the problem. He believed that despite the proposal to reimpose the death penalty, it is the Senate's duty to make the law – Republic Act No. 8551 – work. He

said that it was not for him to say that Senator De Lima's message was out of line but he stressed the importance of having evidence to back up one's accusations. But while he also agreed with Senator Cayetano that some policemen may just be doing their job or that some may be taking advantage of the situation in eliminating the drug pushers, he pointed out that the Senate has also the right to ask where the drug lords are. This, according to him, is what the people wanted to see—drug lords being prosecuted so that the people can actually believe. He stated that President Duterte was sincere in wanting to have peace and order in the country. However, he noted that the people fear for their safety and national desperation currently prevail. He then acknowledged that congratulations would be in order when the people are assured that the drug lords who are supposed to be in jail are indeed in jail.

Senator Gordon stated that the President, who was a mayor like himself, should be allowed to talk tough as this is merely part of psychological warfare. It does not mean, however, that killings will be condoned, he said.

He thanked Senators de Lima and Cayetano for representing both sides of the issue, but he emphasized that the Chamber should also be able to find solutions to fix the problem. He expressed his intention to propose a committee on duties and obligations of citizens and not merely a bill of rights in the next constitutional convention or constituent assembly.

For his part, Senator Cayetano assured Senator Gordon that the drug lords issue is being addressed, but he maintained that the crusade to get the illegal drugs out of the streets would be easier by going against the drug pushers, people who sell illegal drugs. He noted that as lawyers, they were taught that "it is better to see 1000 guilty people go free than to unjustly jail one innocent person or kill one innocent person." But according to him, that quote was first said when there was no synthetic drugs yet or *shabu*. He said that this famous quote is still valid but it ought to be changed as follows: "While we try to put the 1000 in jail and while we try to avoid that even one be falsely accused, every single day there is one innocent being sold drugs, whose mind is being destroyed... lives being destroyed." He pointed out that in the crime against drugs, every victim is an innocent victim that cannot be ignored.



Senator Gordon clarified that he was not a critic of the President who, according to him, has taken a huge step no other president has done by identifying five generals as being involved in drug-related anomalies. This, he said, is a signal that no one is exempted from the President's campaign against illegal drugs. He hoped that the move by the President to unmask the five top police generals, two of whom, according to the National Police Commission, would be charged, would continue to include other public officials involved in illegal drugs. Then it would be a great day in the country, Senator Gordon said.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the speeches of Senators De Lima and Cayetano as well as the interpellations thereon were referred primarily to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and secondarily to the Committee Public Order and Dangerous Drugs.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Hontiveros believed that Senator De Lima was not out of line in her privilege speech as she merely reminded the Body of several important matters that might have been forgotten in the heat of the moment. She said that the matters which people tend to overlook or forget in the heat of the moment are not at all premature especially in connection with the number of people killed in the process, which as of date have already reached a thousand.

She pointed out that the criminal justice system as detailed by Senator Cayetano, and the frustration of the Filipinos with the old "normal" in the criminal justice system which Senator Pangilinan wanted to reform through his pioneering work with the NGO "Bantay Katarungan," are precisely what Senator De Lima has referred to in her speech. She agreed with Senator De Lima's observation that there could still be other ways to go about the war against drugs without it being bloody and which respects human rights. She stressed the need to pay attention to the other areas of the criminal justice system to enable the law enforcers to perform their duties and responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

She said that the Philippine National Police, which is one of the pillars of the criminal justice

system, is close to her heart as she revealed that her late husband, Frank Baraquel, was a PNP officer and a "mistah" at the PMA of current PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa. She pointed out the need to support the PNP in its quest to perform its functions effectively despite the challenging and dangerous situation it is facing.

With regard to Senator Cayetano's observation that "proportionality" is already passé, Senator Hontiveros pointed out that under the International Humanitarian Law, proportionality is one of the last lines of defense during times of armed conflict to ensure that the worst crimes against humanity are not committed. She stressed the importance of proportionality in law enforcement as one of the pillars of the criminal justice system. She said that human rights is guaranteed and protected by the Constitution to ensure citizen's protection against abuses or excesses of the state and its instrumentalities and ensures human rights and due process.

In illustrating that proportionality is not passé, Senator Hontiveros cited cases of police brutality in the United States which she hoped the PNP would not encounter. Among the cases she cited was that of the Ferguson case where Michael Brown, an African-American, was shot for merely making a grunting sound even as his hands were already up in the air. She also cited the case, also in the U.S., of an 18-year old, unarmed black man named Paul O'Neal who was shot to death. She said that the number of young black men killed in the U.S. by the police has reached 1,134 deaths in 2015. She expressed hope that the same would not be the case in the Philippines.

Senator Hontiveros expressed alarm and dismay over Senator Cayetano's statement that the number of deaths was still relatively small. She said that the death toll statistics is already enough to be concerned about.

As regards Senator Cayetano's observation that the Commission on Human Rights is detached from the people, she said that such was not the case especially since the people are very much aware of their human rights and that criminal justice agencies, including the Senate, are around to remind the people about the existence and importance of the CHR to ensure citizen's human rights and due process.

On the matter of the internal affairs of the PNP, Senator Hontiveros said that it would be best if its

actions would be in parallel to the efforts of the CHR and the Senate especially in connection with its manual of operations to see to it that human rights are protected and guaranteed.

On Em-J Pavia,* she said that the family of the late Math teacher has tried their best to shield his death from speculations and politics and that they have encouraged people to pray for the nation even in the midst of their own grief and mourning.

Senator Hontiveros said that extrajudicial killings in Colombia is a bad model of anti-crime and anti-drugs campaign, and that countries like Vietnam, Malaysia, Mexico and Argentina have better and balanced models of law enforcement and methods of harm reduction strategies with regard to the war against crimes and drugs. She said that extrajudicial killings in Colombia has similarly increased, with the methods of crime prevention strengthening the drug cartels. She expressed hope that the country is still far from being a narco state.

On the matter of the 13% decrease in crimes, she said that there was a need to disaggregate the data and find out whether there was indeed a drop in crimes such as murders or killings.

In closing, Senator Hontiveros said that human rights are never used as a shield or excuse to destroy the nation. She hoped that the government would come up with better ways and with a multi-perspective approach to law enforcement to solve the menace and problem of illegal drugs, to include human rights and universal health care.

REFFERAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Hontiveros to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs.

CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senator Legarda was elected member of the Committee on Science and Technology in lieu of Senator Pangilinan.

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the membership of Senators Hontiveros and Escudero in the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs was considered withdrawn.

CHANGES OF COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senate Bill No. 175 primarily to the Committee on Science and Technology, and secondarily to the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship.

Likewise, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senate Bill No. 171 primarily to the Committee on Science and Technology and secondarily to Committee on Public Services.

CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senator Lacson was elected member of the Committee on Climate Change in lieu of Senator Aquino, and Senator Legarda as member of the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation in lieu of Senator Ejercito.

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 Foreign Relations

Chairperson : Cayetano

Members :

Majority

Villar	Zubiri
Angara	Gatchalian
Honasan	Ejercito
Gordon	Pangilinan
Villanueva	Hontiveros
Pacquiao	Aquino

Minority

Escudero	Trillanes
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* As corrected by Senator Hontiveros on August 3, 2016

***Committee on Peace, Unification
and Reconciliation****Chairperson* : Honasan*Members:**Majority*

Lacson	Pacquiao
Legarda	Zubiri
Binay	

Minority

Escudero

Committee on Cultural Communities*Chairperson* : Binay*Vice Chairperson* : Legarda*Members :**Majority*

Hontiveros	Villanueva
Pacquiao	Honasan

Minority

Trillanes

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 3, 2016.

It was 6:35 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO

*Secretary of the Senate**Quire
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Approved on August 3, 2016