



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 41

Monday, November 28, 2016

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 41
Monday, November 28, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:20 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

SILENT PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem.

ROLL CALL

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

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

With 19 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Angara and Zubiri arrived after the roll call.

Senator Cayetano was on “official business” as indicated in the November 28, 2016 letter of the Senator’s chief legislative staff.

Senator Ejercito was under preventive suspension.


Senator Recto was absent.

**DEFERMENT OF APPROVAL
OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration of the Journal of Session No. 40 (November 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22, 2016) as it is still being finalized.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests of Senator Hontiveros:

- Barangay Council of Amacalan, Gerona, Tarlac headed by its Barangay Captain, Mario L. Tiamson; and
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- Students from the PUP Circle of Public Administration and Governance.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the session to greet Senator Drilon a happy birthday.

It was 3:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 9 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 3408 (Committee Report No. 9), entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of committee amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Legarda, sponsor of the measure.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Legarda, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the session.

It was 3:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:30 p.m., the session was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no

objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1236, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING A TWO THOUSAND PESO (P2,000.00) ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY PENSION WITH CORRESPONDING ADJUSTMENT OF THE MINIMUM MONTHLY PENSION UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1237, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES TO PROVIDE NATIONWIDE MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY TO SUBSCRIBERS

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 1238, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 235, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DEDUCTION BY DSWD OFFICIALS FROM THE FIVE HUNDRED PESO (PHP 500) SOCIAL PENSION FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS, IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 236, entitled

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ONGOING PEACE PROCESS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES-NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY-NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (CPP-NPA-NDFP)

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 10, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, on Senate Bill No. 1239, with Senator Lacson as author thereof, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 35 B (4) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER A REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1052.

Sponsor: Senator Lacson

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 14 November 2016, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 416, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING HOME ECONOMICS GRADUATES TO TEACH HOME ECONOMICS SUBJECTS AND HOME ECONOMICS-RELATED TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, RESPECTIVELY, CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533 OR THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013

To The Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

and House Bill No. 4100, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC

COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1240, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE POSITION OF THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICER INTO THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE DIRECTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6959, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1241, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING BROADER PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS ADDING NEW PROVISIONS AND AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1242, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

ACT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3, 3(a), 3(b), 3(g), 3(i), 7, 7(2), 7(5), 7(6), 7(7), 9(a), 9(c), 10, 11, 14(f), 14(g), AND 16; AND REPEALING SECTION 20 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT OF 2001," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1243, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A PHILIPPINE POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTRY

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1244, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 1245, entitled

AN ACT BANNING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS AND RAYS OR ANY PART THEREOF IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Zubiri



To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 1246, entitled

AN ACT SEGREGATING PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI ALLOCATED FOR THE REMAINS OF FILIPINO HISTORICAL FIGURES TO BE KNOWN AS THE LIBINGAN NG MGA MAKASAYSAYANG PILIPINO

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1247, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING FOREIGN VESSELS TO ENGAGE IN COAST-WISE TRADE IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

Senate Bill No. 1248, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE HEROISM AND SACRIFICE OF THE FALLEN 44 OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL ACTION FORCE

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 1249, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE POSITIONS RESERVED FOR PERSONS WITH

DISABILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1250, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7877, OR THE ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OF 1995

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

Senate Bill No. 1251, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING GENDER-BASED ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

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

Senate Bill No. 1252, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8353, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RAPE ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 237, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE

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PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PERSISTENCE OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE APPARENT NEED TO AMEND EXISTING LAWS AND MAKE THEM MORE RESPONSIVE IN DETERRING AND PENALIZING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 238, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN THE NATION'S SERVICE (TOWNS) 2016 AWARDEES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 239, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING SENATOR LOREN B. LEGARDA FOR HER APPOINTMENT AS WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS GLOBAL FORUM AMBASSADOR FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 240, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MANDATE, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 OR THE

ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001 IN LIGHT OF THE ALLEGED SUICIDE OF ERC DIRECTOR ATTY. FRANCISCO "JUN" VILLA

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committee on Energy

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications from the Supreme Court of the Philippines, furnishing a copy of its Decision in the Case of *JERWIN DORADO vs. PEOPLE*, to Congress for their information and guidance in future legislation regarding children in conflict with the laws.

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Letters from the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, transmitting to the Senate copies of the following certified and authenticated BSP issuances in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act):

Circular Letter Nos. CL-2016-087 and 088 dated 28 October and 3 November 2016; and

Memorandum No. M-2016-014 dated 2 November 2016.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 11, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Foreign Relations, on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 241, entitled

RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT OF THE ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Senators Cayetano and Legarda

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Mayor Roberto Llamas Arcinue, represented by his son, Mayor John Rodney V. Arcinue, and barangay officials of Sual, Pangasinan.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the session.

It was 3:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 9 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3408 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 3408 (Committee Report No. 9), entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of committee amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized the sponsor, Senator Legarda who manifested that she would be introducing the committee amendments, as well as individual amendments that were submitted to and accepted by the Committee on Finance.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Legarda presented and submitted the following amendments which, upon her motion, were approved by the Body:

Department/ Agency/Fund	FY 2017 GAB HB No. 3408	FY 2017 Senate Version
Congress of the Philippines-Senate	3,974,450,000	4,186,450,000
Department of Agrarian Reform		
- Office of the Secretary	9,801,491,000	9,801,491,000
Department of Agriculture		
- Office of the Secretary	35,200,647,000	35,440,647,000
- Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority	258,457,000	358,457,000
Department of Education		
- Office of the Secretary	542,315,614,000	545,693,912,000
- National Book Development Board	36,044,000	41,044,000
- National Council for Children's Television	13,910,000	25,910,000
- National Museum	649,611,000	654,611,000

Senator Legarda stated that the increase in the budget of the Office of the Secretary was for site development of public schools, funding for the school feeding program, additional P1,000 cash allowance for all classroom teachers, and additional school buildings.

State Universities and Colleges	57,436,585,000	63,615,277,000
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Senator Legarda stated that the budget of the SUCs was increased by P6.18 billion to fund additional Capital Outlays of various SUCs, with a minimum increase of P50 million for each SUC. She added that additional funds were also provided for scholarships.

Department of Energy	1,098,786,000	1,100,786,000
Department of Environment and Natural Resources		
- Office of the Secretary	22,672,999,000	21,682,099,000
- Mines and Geo- Sciences Bureau	1,158,023	1,160,923

Senator Legarda explained that the increase in the budget of the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau was for the procurement of drones for aerial geo-hazard mapping and environment-related matters and training of aerial geo-hazard mapping specialists.

Department of Foreign Affairs		
- Office of the Secretary	16,506,616,000	16,511,616,000
Department of Health		
- Office of the Secretary	93,753,075,000	99,089,075,000

Senator Legarda stated that the additional allocation for the DOH was for the Doctors to the Barrio program in the amount of P1.620 billion; procurement of medicines, P3 billion; health facilities; and medical assistance, for a total increase of P5.3 billion.

Department of Information
and Communications
Technology

- Office of the Secretary	2,976,382,000	2,998,882,000
- Cybercrime Investigation and Coordination Center	6,225,000	13,744,000

Department of the Interior
and Local Government

- Office of the Secretary	8,140,506,000	8,240,506,000
- Bureau of Fire Protection	12,977,200,000	12,987,200,000
- Bureau of Jail Management and Penology	11,140,975,000	11,528,975,000
- Local Government Academy	232,492,000	262,492,000
- Philippine National Police	110,174,728,000	111,261,615,000

Senator Legarda stated that the increase in the budget of the Office of the Secretary was for the implementation of the People's Law Enforcement Board; the additional budget for the BJMP was for the additional subsistence allowance of prisoners; and the increase in the budget of the Philippine National Police was for the purchase of helicopters.

Department of Justice

- Office of the Secretary	5,213,450,000	5,223,450,000
- Bureau of Corrections	2,167,600,000	2,330,600,000
- National Bureau of Investigations	1,298,283,000	1,318,283,000
- Office of the Solicitor General	724,197,000	803,613,000

Senator Legarda stated that the increase in the budget of the Office of the Secretary was for the renovation/upgrading of the Judicial Academy, while the increase in the budget of the BuCor was for the additional subsistence allowance for prisoners.

Department of Labor
and Employment

- Office of the Secretary	8,398,727,000	8,538,727,000
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Department of
National Defense

- Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (Proper)	497,751,000	899,305,000
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- Armed Forces
of the Philippines
General Headquarters,
AFP and AFP Wide
Service Support Units
(AFPWSSUs)

34,033,053,000 34,368,078,000

Senator Legarda said that the increase in the budget of the PVAO was for the repair of the Veterans Center, administration and repair of the Balete Pass, Expanded Veterans' Hospitalization Program, implementation of the Master Development Plan of the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*, rehabilitation/improvement of the National Shrine of USAFIP and the Kiangnan National Shrine and the retrieval/preservation of Philippine historical records from the US archives.

Department of Public
Works and Highways

- Office of the Secretary	454,223,700,000	443,755,692,000
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Senator Legarda explained that the negative P7.8 billion is the net effect of the addition of P6.7 billion in infrastructure projects and the cut of P8.3 billion that was transferred to the ARMM. She stated that it was the gist of the interpellation of Senator Lacson.

Department of Science
and Technology

- Office of the Secretary	4,349,197,000	4,405,197,000
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Department of Social
Welfare and Development

- Office of the Secretary	127,838,504,000	128,078,504,000
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Senator Legarda said that P350 million of the DSWD-OSEC increase was provided for the centenarians and P1 billion for the supplemental feeding program.

Department of Tourism

- Office of the Secretary	2,270,475,000	2,275,475,000
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Department of Trade
and Industry

- Office of the Secretary	4,023,851,000	5,033,851,000
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Department of
Transportation

- Office of the Secretary	44,677,312,000	45,689,419,000
- Maritime Industry Authority	791,395,000	801,288,000
- Philippine Coast Guard	7,429,297,000	7,179,297,000

Senator Legarda pointed out that there was realignment of the budget in the Office of the Secretary because the DOTr will procure the Maritime Safety Improvement Project.

National Economic and Development Authority		
- Office of the Director General	1,576,012,000	1,692,312,000
Other Executive Offices		
- Anti-Money Laundering Council	29,410,000	34,410,000
- Climate Change Commission	86,361,000	62,946,000
- Commission on Higher Education	10,467,475,000	18,704,475,000
- Commission on the Filipino Language	58,601,000	68,601,000
- Energy Regulatory Commission	337,988,000	411,841,000
- Film Development Council of the Philippines	88,021,000	92,021,000
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts-Proper	29,626,000	177,626,000
- National Historical Commission of the Philippines	638,698,000	635,698,000
- National Archives of the Philippines	123,723,000	126,523,000
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples	1,122,331,000	1,125,331,000
- National Commission on Muslim Filipinos	551,832,000	530,702,000
- National Security Council	142,231,000	152,231,000
- National Youth Commission	141,501,000	142,501,000
- Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process	8,062,519,000	8,062,519,000
- Philippine Commission on Women	77,989,000	81,989,000
- Philippine Competition Commission	402,317,000	403,817,000
- Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	1,153,496,000	1,839,762,000
- Philippine Sports Commission	203,547,000	223,547,000
- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority	6,827,759,000	6,732,759,000

Senator Legarda said that P8 billion was set up in the budget of CHED for free tuition fees in all SUCs and additional funds for incentives and grants.

Regarding the budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, she said that the same amount was maintained but there was a realignment in the budget for confidential expenses and infrastructure outlay.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao		
- Autonomous Regional Government in Muslim Mindanao	32,256,846,000	40,573,946,000

Senator Legarda stated that the Senate version restored the previous cut in the GAB of P8.3 billion.

The Judiciary	31,642,623,000	31,813,674,000
Sandiganbayan	499,730,000	645,781,000
Court of Appeals	1,733,307,000	1,753,307,000
Court of Tax Appeals	304,433,000	309,433,000
Civil Service Commission	1,250,531,000	1,260,948,000
Commission on Elections	3,118,137,000	3,117,137,000
Commission on Human Rights	471,658,000	724,868,000

Senator Legarda remarked that there was an increase of P253 million for CHR in the Senate version.

Department of Agriculture		
National Dairy Authority	189,945,000	199,945,000
Department of Energy		
National Electrification Administration	1,817,100,000	1,824,100,000
Department of Health		
Lung Center of the Philippines	255,190,000	265,190,000
National Kidney and Transplant Institute	454,854,000	464,854,000
Philippine Children's Medical Center	539,163,000	544,163,000
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	50,221,221,000	53,221,221,000

Senator Legarda said that the Senate version increased the PhilHealth budget for the universal health coverage of all indigent Filipinos to ensure that no indigent would be turned away in any state-owned hospitals.

Philippine Heart Center	373,917,000	383,917,000
Department of Trade and Industry		
Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority	59,115,000	40,000,000
Department of Tourism		
Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority	0	20,000,000
National Housing Authority	12,635,748,000	12,655,748,000
National Irrigation Administration	36,357,941,000	38,376,441,000

Senator Legarda said that the Senate version allocated P2 billion for irrigation fee subsidy.

Philippine Center for Economic Development	34,745,000	44,745,000
Philippine Coconut Authority	1,423,772,000	1,423,772,000

Senator Legarda said that the same amount was maintained, except that there was an internal realignment from Coconut Fertilization Project to Kaanib Community Household Level Coconut Processing Project.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority	1,596,744,000	2,149,744,000
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority	2,128,020,000	2,178,020,000
Local Government Fund Support	39,484,341,000	39,686,341,000
Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund	96,101,603,000	86,355,856,000

Senator Legarda said that there was a realignment within the MPBF: P12 billion for combat pay and P221.927 million for the implementation of the National Budget Circular No. 461.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund	36,255,000,000	13,247,027,000
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Again, Senator Legarda explained that the funds within the NDRRMF budget was realigned to provide for the QRF for the National Electrification Administration. She said that a portion of the QRF of OCD was distributed to provide capital outlay and the cut in the NDRRM Fund was to provide support for the agencies that had augmentation. She noted that in 2015, only P5 billion was spent by the NDRRM fund.

Pension and Gratuity Fund	142,292,622,000	140,792,622,000
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Senator Legarda said that there was a realignment of P246,728,000 to fund the post-World War II veterans. On the other hand, she said that the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program Fund is a new appropriation of P1.5 billion to provide funding to government agencies that could not be accommodated by the NDRRM Fund.

Unprogrammed Appropriations	67,500,000,000	67,500,000,000
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Senator Legarda said that in the Senate version, there is an internal realignment for the Capability Enhancement Program of the Philippine National Police.

Energy Corporations National Electrification Administration	6,086,007,000	6,093,007,000
National Power Corporation	20,988,178,000	20,988,178,000
Philippine National Oil	965,009,000	965,009,000
Total New Appropriations	2,499,486,952,000	2,499,486,952,000
Programmed Funds	2,431,986,952,000	2,431,986,952,000
Unprogrammed Funds	67,500,000,000	67,500,000,000

As she ended her presentation of the committee and individual amendments, Senator Legarda recalled being infused during the *dayaw* presentation at the NCCA by the Kalingas who presented to her a *gangsá* that was specially made for the Senate by one of the national living treasures from Kalinga, Alonzo Saclag. The Kalingas, she said, were one of the recipients of the NCCA projects. She hoped that the gong will bring peace to the Senate as it brought peace to the warring tribes in the Cordilleras.

At this juncture, Senator Legarda banged the gong.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

At the instance of Senator Legarda and upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the committee amendments in the form of General and Special Provisions of the GAA were deemed read into the record and approved by the Body.

The General and Special Provisions were contained in a voluminous document, a copy of which is available at the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO).

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

There being no other committee amendment, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendment and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

There being no individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection,

MS

House Bill No. 3408 was approved on Second Reading.

PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

Upon direction of the Chair, Secretary Barbo read the presidential certification as to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 3408, as follows:

**MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA**

11 October 2016

SEN. AQUILINO "Koko" PIMENTEL III
Senate President
The Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Dear Senate President Pimentel:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 3408, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER
THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND
SEVENTEEN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in order to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year (FY), to expedite the funding of various programs, projects and activities for FY 2017, and to ensure budgetary preparedness that will enable the government to effectively perform its Constitutional mandate.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. DUTERTE

Copy furnished:

Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez
House Speaker
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Building
Malacañang, Manila

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408 ON THIRD READING

Pursuant to the presidential certification, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Secretary Barbo read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE
TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO
THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Secretary Barbo called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Lacson
Aquino	Legarda
Binay	Pacquiao
De Lima	Pangilinan
Drilon	Pimentel
Escudero	Poe
Gatchalian	Sotto
Gordon	Villanueva
Honasan	Villar
Hontiveros	Zubiri

Against

None

Abstention

None

With 20 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 3408 approved on Third Reading.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto manifested that Senator Recto has submitted a written explanation of his vote which he would have delivered had he been present during the voting, and requested that it be submitted into the record.

The Chair noted the manifestation.

Budget Delayed is Development Denied
"WHAT USE IS THE BUDGET
IF NOT SPENT ON TIME, IN FULL,
AND FOR THE RIGHT PROJECTS?"

In the opening remarks of my interpellation of this budget, I described this P3.35 trillion check we are about to co-sign as the first of "six annual installments" that this administration will be making to redeem its many promises.

I also called this the "15 percent downpayment" of what it intends to deliver by 2022. Not only are Filipinos acquiring things in 'gives', their government does it too.

But what I failed to mention is that this budget is an ad hoc budget, hastily assembled by a government which had just assumed power but has to dash to meet a constitutional deadline to submit next year's spending plan.

From Budget Call to the submission of the BESF, NEP and other principal documents to Congress, this is a period that normally takes six months.

But this year, it took just six weeks from the time the new president laid his hand on the Bible to the day the new budget secretary handed over the proposed 2017 national budget to congressional leaders.

Considering the time constraints, putting together 5,097 pages of budget documents was by no means a small feat.

This is not to say that the new team merely copy-pasted what the old had left behind because the budget bears the imprint - and the initiatives - of the new government.

But what cannot also be denied is that the budget seems to be a completely built unit, a CBU, left in the DBM garage by the past administration, and which the new tenants, for lack of time, merely tweaked, accessorized, and rebadged.

It may be sporting a new paint, but scratch the surface and a yellow car shines underneath.

And this is not to say that it is bad, because if there is one fatal mistake an incoming government can make, it is to try to reinvent the wheel.

While new kids on the block ride to power on cars with new bumper stickers, there are institutional things in governance that should not be changed. Leaders can be overthrown but not the entire system. We do not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

So if the proposed budget were a car, there was no time to put it through virtual simulated situations, much more road-test it.

So it was left to Congress—to the House and the Senate—to subject it to a stress test.

And in the Senate, I can say that the review, from the committee to the plenary, was rigorous. In this hall alone, the Chairperson probably logged 100 hours fielding questions in 10 days, a punishing mental aerobics which, as we can all see, shed her pounds but bulked up our budgeting knowledge.

And in the course of all our interpellations, what would have been the factory defects of the budget cropped up.

And that discovery process is the layman's definition of "budget authorization," which is to probe the budget for its weaknesses in order to prescribe the cure.

Congress will be remiss in its duties, if, after diagnosing the defects, it will not apply the remedy, for as long as-and this is an important caveat-it is not worse than the disease.

So on the part of the minority, we did our assigned role with vigor, and most of the observations we made were validated as true by the sponsors.

We will cite just a few because the points of agreement are too many to be catalogued.

We cited the fact that large swaths of the budget remain unitemized. Lump sums have not been unbundled, and this is obvious in many megabillion one-line item appropriations in the budgets of DPWH, DA, DepED, DENR, DOTr - projects with price tags teeming with zeros, but devoid of details.

We argued that itemization is the antidote to underspending. By knowing where funds will go, who will implement it, and details of what will be implemented, the projects will be delivered on time. To make the budget terrific, make it specific.

We recommended that projects be geo-tagged. If Waze can tell us where the congestions are, then government probably can have a GPS - Government Project Site - system which pinpoints the coordinates of a project.

We called for ironclad penalties against underspending - presidential invectives included - because what use is the budget if it will not be spent in full and in time. Trickle-down spending has no place in a country running a huge infrastructure backlog. Budget delayed is development denied.

ppr

In the case of DOTr, P38 billion worth of rail, air, maritime, road projects did not leave the station, take off, roll out, or leave the port.

The same delay plagued DepED. As I speak, accumulated backlogs from 2014 to 2016 have created a pile-up of 64,000 unfinished classrooms, 18,700 unhired teachers, 1,700 unconstructed tech-voc and computer labs, 91.7 million undelivered books, and 15,400 unpurchased Science and Math lab equipment. Budget delayed is education denied.

We called your attention to the emerging bad habit among agencies to transfer their expiring allocations to other agencies and then report them as fund utilization.

Unloading funds on another government agency is neither fund utilization, nor procurement. It is an accounting trick to clean up the books so it may submit a glowing report card. Agencies must spend the buck, not pass it.

We called for the reinstallation of the "rearview mirror" provision in the national budget so that policymakers and the public would know if projects funded in past general appropriations laws have indeed been implemented.

Budgeting is not just about looking forward. It also entails a great deal of looking back. While the budget documents show us the road ahead, it doesn't report on the road travelled.

We also advocated the installation of an employment odometer on the budget, so we will know that for a P3.35 trillion stimuli, how many jobs it will create in a nation requiring 12 million in six years.

We underscored the need for the restoration of the "Buy Philippine Made" provision in the budget, so that government's bulk-buying power can add muscle to the domestic manufacturing sector we are spending money to "revive and thrive."

What we can manufacture here, we don't have to import from abroad. One good example are the car plates. A small piece of tin we chose to source from the Netherlands. Yet here we are building megaton ships in Cebu.

While we perused the large-font thrusts of this budget, we also examined its fine print. A few examples:

We cited the incredulity of the 13-peso budget of the meals we serve to malnourished kids in schools and daycares.

Our prison's "17-peso preso value meals" are costlier than the 13-peso meals we feed our children. We respectfully recommended that it be

increased to 25 pesos, because anyone who can whip up a nutritious meal on 13 pesos should win the Magsaysay Award in kitchenomics.

Yes, costlier meals will cost us more because there are no free lunches. But the P2.5 billion additional budget is small compared to the P328 billion annual losses caused by childhood malnutrition.

We proposed a P1.6 billion increase in the budget of the Rural Health Practice Program of the DOH. This will end the looming "en-DOH" of 6,000 nurses deployed to towns too far and too poor to lure medical professionals.

We also pleaded that we add P3 billion to the Health department's drugs and medicines procurement budget, in order to stock up public pharmacies, because for the poor, a doctor's drug prescription remains as such, prescribed but never purchased.

We even bean-counted some unmet needs and unfunded mandate, the small items overlooked in a document swarming with billion peso signs. As it is true in life as it is in budgeting, the essentials are often invisible to human eye.

We discovered that the budget for incentives for centenarians is lacking, so we pushed that it be increased.

We drafted a proposed language in the DepEd budget so that unused funds can be used to increase the P1,500 chalk allowance of teachers. *Maliit na bagay*, but these are the bullets our soldiers in the war against illiteracy use.

We commiserated with the Philippine National Police when reports painted a picture of partially gunless, carless, communications-less police force. But Bato does not need a shoulder to cry on. He and his men need more equipment so there will be fewer mothers crying the loss of their sons, killed by hoodlums, in uniform or not.

So we proposed that P5 billion in the Unprogrammed Fund be earmarked for police equipment, firearms, cars, boats, offices, buildings. *Kung dito kinukuha ang mga utang sa PPP, bakit hindi para sa mas importanteng PPP - Palaban na Pulis na Pilipino.*

So that for those in distress, help is minutes away by text or phone call. And so that when these officers patrol our streets at night, a grateful citizenry secure in their homes, will say: "There, by the grace of our taxes, go the people who keep us safe."

And, yes, the minority, true to its promise, also viewed the budget from the prism of revenues.

We did not forget that it is taxation which makes appropriations possible. That every project carries a price tag, which will be shouldered by the taxpayer.

It is the realization that every peso this budget spends will be collected from the people, which tempered our tendency to act like a money mint. Budgeting is telling where money should go, and not to print 'unli' money.

So this is why we argued for a minimum 10 percent cut in the bureaucracy's cellphone, electricity, travel, gasoline, advertising, and other non-essential expenses in order to free billions for health and other social services.

We believe the budget peso can still be stretched by converting office overhead into medicines, school lunches, and other things poor people and communities need.

For example, next year's proposed P13.8 billion outlay for water, lighting and electricity, which could withstand a 10 percent cut without curtailing service and efficiency.

Another example of an expenditure which can be cut is the government's proposed P17.7 billion travelling expense. *Tutal, sinabi ni Presidente Digong na allergic siya sa mga adik sa lakbay aral.* Travel's cousin, which is training, should be pared down, too. Education need not be acquired through excursions.

Why did the minority propose this? Because by cutting expenses, we believe we could lighten the burden this budget will impose on our people.

The parliamentary tradition is that the minority votes against the budget. Honestly, I subscribe to that practice, and will honor it, if—and that's a big "If"—the minority's views were not heard and heeded.

But the records of this chamber over the past two weeks show a majority not only accommodating our views, but seconding and joining us in our many manifestations.

If this budget were a fabric, we were not barred from operating the loom, though not often, but frequent enough to qualify us as partners.

Which I think is a good policy, and I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for embracing it, for that should be the way a P3.35 trillion spending bill must be scrutinized, in a manner in which partisan lines dissolve.

To me, that is also the other meaning of open budgeting, which is to insulate it from partisan warfare, and in letting all contribute in the shared task of improving the budget so it evolves into a true instrument for peace, progress and prosperity.

Aside from the fair stance of the majority, there is another factor which influences my vote on this budget and this is about the provenance of this bill. As I've said, it is an ad hoc measure whose weaknesses I hope have been cured during the budget authorization phase.

It is also the maiden budget of the administration, and in my book, the honeymoon period it enjoys must extend to its first spending bill, more so if it is largely a CBU inherited from the past.

So, I vote "Yes" to this bill because one cannot have a hand in shaping it and then in effect deny and delete authorship of certain parts by voting later in the negative.

But I would like to stress that my "Yes" vote is only on this particular juncture of the process, this Senate stop.

If what will be returned to us from the bicameral conference is a mangled version beyond recognition, then I will vote "No".

And lastly, let us not lose sight of the fact that the budget remains a thick promissory note unless redeemed by fast, transparent and judicious spending. All our labors, all the taxes paid by the people, are for naught, if it is not properly and promptly spent.

SENATE CONFEREES


With the consent of Senator Legarda, upon nomination by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senate President Pimentel designated the following to constitute the Senate panel in the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 3408: Senator Legarda, as chairperson, and Senators Sotto, Binay, Angara, Villar, Lacson, Recto, Zubiri and Drilon as members.

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.

It was 5:37 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO
ami Secretary of the Senate

Approved on December 5, 2016