



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 53
Friday, February 8, 2019

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
THIRD REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 53
Friday, February 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:58 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Vicente C. Sotto III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Risa Hontiveros led the prayer, to wit:

For all of us, as we enter a campaign period and an election, with special intention for our colleagues in this Chamber.

Brave warriors, should fate find us in battle,

May our cause be just;

May our leaders have clear vision;

May our courage not falter;

May we be triumphant and earn victory
as we show mercy to our enemies;

May our efforts bring lasting peace;

May our sacrifice be always appreciated
by those we serve;

May we return to our loved ones
unharméd;

Should we be harmed, may our wounds heal.

And should we perish after this lifetime
struggle, may God embrace us and find
for us a place in His Kingdom.

Amen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 4:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

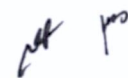
At 6:31 p.m., the session was resumed.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Myra Marie D. Villarica, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.
Binay, M. L. N. S.
Drilon, F. M.
Ejercito, J. V. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.
Gatchalian, W.
Gordon, R. J.
Honasan, G. B.
Hontiveros, R.
Lacson, P. M.

Legarda, L.
Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Pangilinan, F. N.
Pimentel III, A. K.
Poe, G.
Recto, R. G.
Sotto III, V. C.
Villanueva, J.
Villar, C.
Zubiri, J. M. F.



With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Trillanes was on official mission abroad.

Senator De Lima was unable to attend the session as she was under detention.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading and approval of the Journal of Session No. 51 (February 4, 2019) and considered it approved.

DEFERMENT OF APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration of the Journal of Session No. 52 (February 6, 2019) to a later day.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 4 February 2019, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate

House Bill No. 8919, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED;

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 8920, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(M) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED;

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

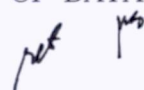
House Bills No. 8921, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SILANG, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED;

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 8922, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS



PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED;

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 8923, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIGBAUAN, PROVINCE OF ILOILO IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION, *AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR*

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 8924, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAUAG, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED;

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 8925, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF ESCALANTE, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY

REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 2580, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 16 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE SENDONG MEMORIAL AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DAY IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY AND ILIGAN CITY;

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5740, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIELD OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS TO BE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, LANAO DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Finance


House Bill No. 8864, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MODES OF DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITHIN TICA0 AND BURIAS ISLANDS, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, DECLARED AS SPECIAL ECOTOURISM ZONES OR TOURISM ENTERPRISE ZONES AND PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Tourism

House Bill No. 8872, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSALES, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;



To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

House Bill No. 8876, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BATANGAS MEDICAL CENTER IN BATANGAS CITY, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 8877, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE COTABATO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN COTABATO CITY FROM FOUR HUNDRED (400) BEDS TO SIX HUNDRED (600) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 8879, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

House Bill No. 8882, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF KIBUNGAN, PROVINCE OF BENGUET A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF;

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 8886, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANOLO FORTICH, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

House Bill No. 8887, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN CAUAYAN CITY, PROVINCE OF ISABELA INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

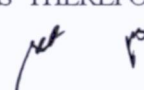
House Bill No. 8888, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF INITAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

House Bill No. 8889, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LICENSING CENTER IN THE CITY OF KORONADAL, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO TO BE KNOWN AS THE "LTO LICENSING CENTER OF KORONADAL CITY" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;



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

House Bill No. 8892, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE KALINGA SPORTS TRAINING CENTER IN THE CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

To the Committees on Sports; and Finance

and House Bill No. 8898, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING DAY.

To the Committee on Local Government

Letters from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 30 January 2019, the House of Representatives adopted Senate Bill No. 2121, as an amendment to House Bill No. 5811, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF THE POOR;

and Senate Bill No. 1917 as an amendment to House Bill No. 7820, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF A DECEASED RETIRED MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AND THE OMBUDSMAN, WHO IS A SOLO PARENT, OR THE SURVIVING PARENTS OR NOMINATED PERSONS OF SUCH DECEASED RETIREE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10084, ENTITLED, 'AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING LEGITIMATE SPOUSE OF A DECEASED RETIRED MEMBER OF

THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS AND THE OMBUDSMAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

To the Archives

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 30 January 2019, the House of Representatives ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 6621, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ADELA SERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN TANDAG CITY, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

To the Archives

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 30 January 2019, the House of Representatives ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8629, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM;

and Senate Bill No. 1531, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION, ENHANCING THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, GRANTING INCENTIVES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

To the Archives

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 4 February 2019, the House of Representatives ratified the Conference

Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8795, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1998", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

and Senate Bill No. 1529, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1998, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

To the Archives

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 4 February 2019, the House of Representatives ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7376, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (OSG) BY INCREASING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND REDEFINING, EXPANDING, AND RATIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9417, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2327, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 1 AND 2, S. 1986, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

and Senate Bill No. 1823, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL BY INCREASING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND AUGMENTING ITS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9417

AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

To the Archives

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 4 February 2019, the House of Representatives ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8715, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING INNOVATION AS VITAL COMPONENT OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

and Senate Bill No. 1355, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING INNOVATION AS VITAL COMPONENT OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

To the Archives

BILL ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2209, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF BICOL MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO ONE THOUSAND (1000) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1014, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT NOT TO PURSUE THE PLANNED LIBERALIZATION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SAFEGUARDING THE ECONOMY AND WELFARE OF SUGAR FARMERS AND INDUSTRY WORKERS IN TWENTY-EIGHT (28) PROVINCES IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senators Angara, Binay, Ejercito, Gatchalian, Gordon, Legarda, Pimentel III, Villanueva, Villar and Zubiri

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1015, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECT TO THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY OF THE UNABATED RAMPANT CORRUPTION IN THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, AND ITS INADEQUACY TO FULLY MAXIMIZE ITS POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT THE GOAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PURSUIT OF REVENUE GENERATION, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, AND TRADE FACILITATION

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1016, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE

REVENUE BASE FOR DETERMINING THE 'JUST SHARE IN THE NATIONAL TAXES' OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISIONS ON THE SAME, AND CONSIDERING THAT SUCH REVENUES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO FULFILL THEIR MANDATES UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To The Committee S On Finance; Local Government ; And Ways And Means

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 658, submitted jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance on House Bill No. 8725 introduced by Representative Gonzales (A.D.), *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE PASKUHAN VILLAGE IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA A NATIONAL TREASURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND A PROPERTY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN,

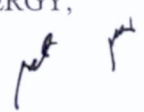
recommending its approval without amendment, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2161.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 659, submitted jointly by the Committees on Public Services; and Energy on House Bill No. 8179 introduced by Representative Yap (A.), *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING SOLAR PARA SA BAYAN CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTABLE POWER TECHNOLOGIES AND MINIGRID SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY,



recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Grace Poe

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LACSON

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Lacson spoke of what he described as “pork-ridden, cholesterol-rich” lump-sum appropriations in the 2019 national budget.

The full text of his privilege speech follows:

“See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.”

Put literally, this proverbial adage serves as an age-old directive for dealing with impropriety—by looking the other way, refusing to hear and speak out, and feigning ignorance when something wrong is unfolding.

To abide by this rule can only worsen the people’s lives in ways we could hardly imagine.

In all my years as a member of this institution, I have been at odds with an evil called “pork” and all that it represents.

Between you and me, I could have easily turned a blind eye, willfully shut my ears, and stayed silent as a grave. That would have made my life more simple, peaceful, and probably very prosperous and enjoyable.

However, to see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil to a system as grim as the undead pork barrel, no matter how much self-aggrandize-it offers, goes against my compunction and self-respect.

As the abolished pork barrel shows itself anew—dynamic and changeable—resounds in the halls of our country’s legislature, and speaks of the insatiability of corruption, how can one, in good conscience, not see, hear, and speak of it?

With your indulgence, let me detail to you what I view as a pork-ridden, cholesterol-rich 2019 budget, particularly those lodged in the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) set a P480-billion budget ceiling for the DPWH, even as the agency asked the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for consideration of the agency budget of P651 billion. The National Expenditure Program (NEP), meanwhile, proposed a P555-billion budget for the DPWH.

It takes basic arithmetic to know that there is a difference of P75 billion between the DBCC’s budget ceiling and that of the NEP’s—such an exorbitant additional amount unrecognized by the DPWH secretary and known to him only upon the release of the NEP, and which the DBM secretary simply refers to as “adjustment.”

Just very recently, during last Wednesday evening’s caucus, to be exact, a valid source had a word in our ears that the P75 billion had been earlier peddled to contractors across the country, region by region, at a 20% commission per project cost. That would be a sum of P15 billion worth of taxpayers’ money to the pockets of its proponents and cohorts. Records would reveal later, as we discovered during our diligent scrutiny of the proposed budget, that P11 billion out of the P75 billion was actually under Automatic Appropriations, specifically the notoriously corrupt Motor Vehicle User’s Charge (MVUC).

Albeit rather vaguely, then House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya made public under whose discretion and to which projects the P75 billion was allotted. Congressman Andaya asserted that many of his colleagues in the House of Representatives formerly aligned with then Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, “including some senators” (his words, not mine), were the proponents and beneficiaries of the P75 billion “insertion or adjustment” made by the DBM even when it was still under the National Expenditure Program. Hence, when the new leadership of the House of Representatives took over last July, in defiance of the established time-honored parliamentary rules, they disregarded their budget’s plenary approval on Second Reading, formed a small group committee, and mangled beyond recognition the DPWH-proposed budget, specifically those projects that they believed were part of the P75 billion.

Kanya-kanyang sipag at kayod sa paglilipat-lipat ng alokasyon sa “pork,” pero iisa pa rin ang patutunguhan — sa kani-kanilang mga “baboy kural.”

How the P75 billion transmogrified into pork of unconscionable form is mind-boggling. Hence, in the interest of our people, I reconstructed the trail to where the “pork” leads.

With your indulgence, let me reiterate our discovery:

We start off with the P51.792 billion budget, which was allegedly a big chunk of the P75 billion budget inserted or amended by the House of Representatives. Of this amount, P20 billion was distributed equally among the almost 300

congressmen, which translates into P60 million per congressman plus additional allocations to those close to the leadership of the House of Representatives. These are all embodied in the General Appropriations Bill (GAB) or the House version transmitted to the Senate.

Let me emphasize, however, that while the present leadership of the House of Representatives distributed P60 million per congressman from that P51.792 billion, each congressman has already a minimum allocation of P100 million under the NEP. With the new House of Representatives' leadership distributing P60 million more to each congressman, the total new "standard" reinvented pork per congressman is now a staggering P160 million, thus creating a "new normal" in the pork barrel system. With such amount of money, I do not need all of my brain's frontal lobe to get what is at stake for some designated "talking heads" from the House of Representatives leadership to take turns in vilifying my reputation, even ascribing ill motive to my intentions.

Kung ating susumahin, halos pantay-pantay ang partiha sa nakitang "pork." Hindi ba nakapagtataka na pare-pareho ang alokasyon sa bawat distrito — malaki man o maliit, mahirap man o mayaman — at walang pinagbatayan kung hindi ang diskarte ng liderato ng Kongreso sa pamamahagi ng budget?

This observation is not new as the Supreme Court itself observed in the PDAF case that "the gauge of PDAF and CDF allocation and/or division is based solely on the fact of office, without taking into account the specific interests and peculiarities of the district the legislator represents. In this regard, the allocation and/or division limits are clearly not based on genuine parameters of equality, wherein economic or geographic indicators have been taken into consideration."

Allowing legislators to identify projects of their discretion is unnerving. We dare ask: Is it not tantamount to the very definition of pork barrel where appropriations of public funds are arbitrarily identified by legislators for pet projects that serve the interests of local districts they represent?

Going back to this P51.792-billion chunk of the now infamous P75-billion "Diokno insertion," what was left after the distribution of P60 million per congressman was P31.792 billion, which were lodged in different government agencies and programs, to name a few, to the Local Government Support Fund, to the NDRRMF, DOLE, DSWD, DOH, and finally, to DPWH, which retained a mere P7 billion.

What is most appalling in this tale of horror was the allocation for farm-to-market (FMR) road projects that significantly bloated from the NEP to the House version.

If we look at the cursory level, there is a net increase from the NEP allocation for farm-to-market road projects to GAB of just P1.7 billion. However, as often said that the devil is in the details, our scrutiny of the farm-to-market road projects under the GAB reveals that the new leadership of the House of Representatives shuffled some budget items resulting in P6.1 billion of new farm-to-market road projects. Needless to say, these excessive reallocation and insertions are mere transfer of "farm-to-pocket roads" from some congressmen's pockets to the others. To sum it up in one phrase: from farm-to-market, to farm-to-pocket, to pocket-to-pocket.

Random sampling of local districts proves us right: in the 2nd legislative district of Pampanga, there are only five FMR projects worth P35 million under the NEP, but, lo and behold, it increased to 76 FMR projects amounting to P606 million under the House version, and which is now part of the bicameral committee report that we are about to vote on to ratify. Another remarkable example is the 1st district of Surigao, which budget for FMR projects ballooned to P283 million under the House version from zero FMR budget under the NEP.

Maitanong ko lang: Ilan po ba ang mga gulayan at palayan sa 2nd legislative district ng Pampanga, at ilan naman kaya ang pamilihang bayan sa naturang distrito para magtamasa ng katakot-takot na farm-to-market road projects?

There is no sense of propriety in partaking in unconstitutional "pork" allocations. What is worse than this is taking more slabs of "pork" by merit of power. Humor me, the much publicized rift among the members of the House of Representatives unlikely grew from "inequitable" pork allocations perpetrated by those in the higher ranks.

Is it not logical, conscionable, and self-redeeming that we, members of the legislative branch, present a united front against the evil reincarnate that is called pork?

We have heard disturbing revelations from the House of Representatives and in this very hall during the 2019 budget floor deliberations pertaining to the P75 billion worth of projects of some legislators and other government officials allegedly inserted into the original P480-billion submission of the DPWH without its knowledge. In light of this, we asked the DPWH to submit

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to us a list of projects that are part of their original submission of P480 billion. On January 15, 2019, the DPWH, with clear conscience on the “Diokno adjustment,” did submit the list of projects to the Chair of the Committee on Finance and copy furnished my office.

It consists of line-item infrastructure projects worth P465.510 billion. Pray tell, what does the difference between P480 billion and P465 billion suggest to us?

Once and for all, to eviscerate all pork allocations introduced in the 2019 DPWH budget, we proposed during the period of amendments, that the Senate adopt the DPWH original submission of the P465.510 billion budget, exclusive of the P11 billion automatic appropriations, as the agency’s budget for 2019. With the amendment, we were able to create a fiscal space of P50.957 billion.

In addition, as the DPWH conceded during my interpellations that they still have enough budget for Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisitions and would not need the full amount of P28.889 billion under the proposed 2019 budget, hence they offered and we proposed to reduce their ROW budget by P8.889 billion.

Thus, of the P60.937-billion total decrease made in the DPWH budget during the Second Reading of the Senate version, the P59.7 billion came from the above-mentioned amendments made by this Representation.

Unfortunately, the net change in the Second Reading version of the Senate for the DPWH budget is only P37.650 billion. This is because P23.286 billion worth of new projects were introduced in the DPWH budget during the Second Reading of the Senate version.

Now here lies the problem.

Currently, this Chamber has only 23 senators. To a suspicious public, we could all be complicit in introducing our own pork to the budget of the DPWH. If split up in metaphoric “*hating-kapatid*,” this will amount to more than P1 billion per senator. But since I am absolutely sure that I have not availed of any portion of the P23.286 billion, and I have knowledge that quite a number of our colleagues likewise did not partake of whatever slice there was from that P23.286 billion “pizza pie,” ergo, some members of this chamber must be smarter and luckier than the others. As to the recent claim of Congressman Andaya about the P3-billion pork allocation per senator, *huwag po natin siyang paniwalaan dahil sadyang napakalayo sa katotohanan ang kanyang komputasyon*.

In passing, insertions in the DPWH are only part and parcel of the bigger picture. In fact, a perusal of the Senate version will show us new projects whose proponents are easily identifiable, and which intentions are ludicrous. The illustrative sample shown herein which reads, “Additional Funding for Fuel Allocation and Intelligence Fund for the Province of xxxxx,” (deletion, mine) with P50-million appropriations lodged in the PNP/DILG budget, if released, it is surely a winning candidate for COA “red flag” for several reasons:

- First, accounting rules differ for Intelligence Funds and Regular Funds such as fuel allocation;
- Second, under the enumerated Object of Expenditures of the Philippine National Police, there is no such item that corresponds to “fuel allocation and intelligence fund”;
- Third, the release of intelligence fund is subject to the approval of the President, as stipulated under COA-DBM-DILG-GCG-DND Joint Circular No. 2015-01; and
- Finally, it raises policy questions on the use and utilization of intelligence funds.

The very intent of my amendments was to cleanse the DPWH budget of the stains of pork. Unwittingly, my amendment created a fiscal opportunity for some. And along with that, the Senate lost its opportunity to take the moral high ground. With a heavy heart, I submit that neither House has moral ascendancy over the other.

The DPWH budget has been a traditional prey to swine rushing to get more slabs of “pork” more than they can consume. But other agencies and budget items are not spared from the evils of pork.

Let me briefly discuss the equally compelling reasons of my dissent and disgust:

During the interpellations on the proposed 2019 budget, we showed photos, and even official communications from universities that prove how certain legislators actively participate in the implementation of the *Tulong Dunong* Program. Legislators utilize this program to further their brand of patronage politics and refuse to delete the same even when it had become redundant and superfluous due to the passage of the more comprehensive and inclusive Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.

For two years now, we have been seeking the transfer of the allocation for the *Tulong Dunong* Program to the Universal Access to

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Quality Tertiary Education. For the 2018 budget, our proposal was flatly rejected. For this year, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee agreed with our proposition during the budget deliberations. However, when the Second Reading was up for approval, *Tulong Dunong* program has been retained.

We did not seek the reduction of the budget for education. What we are up against is the use of a program as a source of pork for legislators and to advance patronage politics. *Tulong Dunong* program is nothing but a pork masquerading as a scholarship program.

In characterizing pork barrel, some legislators often hurl at us the definition stated in the Supreme Court's *Belgica vs. Executive Secretary* ruling that "the defining feature of all forms of Congressional Pork Barrel would be the authority of legislators to participate in the post-enactment phases of project implementation."

In an attempt not only to circumvent the law but even to mislead the public, some legislators would argue the *Belgica* ruling states that pork barrel is unconstitutional only insofar as it confers post-enactment identification authority to members of Congress.

However, I would like to over-emphasize the *Belgica* ruling, which defines, among others, the acts that are deemed unconstitutional, and I quote:

"(d) all informal practices of similar import and effect, which the Court similarly deems to be acts of grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction; xxx"

By subjecting a government program such as *Tulong Dunong* to informal practices such as implementation by legislators, we condone acts of grave abuse of discretion and puts the integrity of the program in question.

During the budget interpellations, I raised the exponential increase in the allocation for Other Financial Assistance to Local Government Units—Local Government Support Fund, under the Allocations to Local Government Units (ALGU), from P7 billion to P16 billion. The DBM, as the one managing the fund, explained, through the finance committee Chairperson, that they were not consulted with the increase nor did they have a list of municipalities for whom the amount will be allocated. In the same vein, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) expressed that they have no knowledge or participation in the implementation of the fund.

Without consultation and a list of LGUs, the P7-plus-9-billion increase under the Other Financial Assistance to Local Government Units is a lump-sum appropriation. For those reasons, I moved to revert the allocation for Other Financial Assistance to Local Government Units to its NEP level of P7 billion, or a reduction of P9 billion.

However, to my dismay, in the Second Reading version of the Senate, only P8.132 billion was deducted. This means that the Senate version introduced additional P917 million to the original allocation of P7 billion for this fund.

The Supreme Court, in the *Belgica* ruling states: "What beckons constitutional infirmity are appropriations which merely provide for a singular lump-sum amount to be tapped as a source of funding for multiple purposes."

May I ask therefore: Were the DBM and the DILG consulted when the Senate introduced the additional P917 million to Other Financial Assistance to Local Government Units? Is there a list of LGUs, and the corresponding projects, that will be funded by this P917 million? If there is, why is it that it was not attached to the Second Reading version of the Senate? *Hindi ko na lang itatanong kung sino na naman ang nagkaroon ng dagdag P917 million.*

As I mentioned, the intent of reverting the allocation for Other Financial Assistance to Local Government Units to the NEP level of P7 billion was that the increase was a lump-sum appropriations, and that it is also to prevent the introduction of pork within the fund.

The scrutiny of the national budget is taxing and oftentimes frustrating, but I take on the job to rid of the budget with compulsive corruption.

The unconstitutional pork barrel falls under the Commission on Audit definition of unconscionable, irregular, excessive, extravagant, or unnecessary; an immoderate budget, and which no man in his right sense would make, nor a fair and honest man would accept as reasonable.

Representative Andaya provided members of the Bicameral Conference Committee of House members' allocations under the 2019 proposed budget. The amounts are revolting. The highest allocation amounted to P8.4 billion and the lowest at P408 million. The allocations for all 241 district representatives reached a staggering amount of P387.727 billion. This is 13.4 percent of the P2.882 trillion new appropriations for 2019.

Looking back, when the Supreme Court ruled the pork barrel unconstitutional in 2013, the

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country heaved a sigh of relief. However, as today's reality unfolds before us, we cannot deny that the ruling unintentionally resulted in unbridled pork consumption of legislators — from then estimated P70 million pork allocation per Congressman in 2003 to at least P408 million this year, if we go by the document shared by Congressman Andaya.

Many would discredit my assertions on pork barrel insertions in both Houses. Thus, in the spirit of transparency and to dismiss any suspicion, I am forthright in making all my budget amendments available to public scrutiny. I pose a challenge to all lawmakers from both houses of Congress to henceforth do the same — own up to all our budget amendments. Let the people know. We all claim and boldly announce to all and sundry that all of our amendments are institutional and that we do not have pork insertions. Then let us put our money where our mouth is.

In this same hall, 16 years ago, on March 11, 2003, I delivered a scathing privilege speech unequivocally calling for the abolition of the pork barrel system that has marred our political institutions for decades. It fell on deaf ears until 2013 or 10 years later, when the controversial pork barrel scam involving Janet Lim-Napoles exploded right into our faces.

I wish to reiterate a statement I made in 2003 still fitting and applicable to this day: "There is no saying here that every senator or congressman is corrupt. It is only to say that we have all become suspect. The public has every basis and right to suspect. And we seem not to mind anymore."

Today, pork barrel presents itself as an evil reincarnate, taunting and tempting us, hiding in the shroud of feigned public service. Pork proves that the irresistible lure of money moves men and women of power who should be the guardians of the public treasury, to devise cunning machinations to further their own selfish interests.

In response, I share my conviction that as long as I see and hear evil in all its transformations, I will be as consistent and passionate not only in speaking of it, but in fighting tooth and nail against its rebirth.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR DRILON

Likewise availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Drilon delivered the following statement explaining his dissent to the approval of the proposed

2019 General Appropriations Act and calling on the Filipino people to continue to be vigilant in the implementation of the budget:

In today's headline of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, all of us in this Chamber were unfairly accused of getting P3 billion each in pork barrel allocation. It said, "Lawmakers keep P75 billion pork in final budget bill. The senators will receive at least P3 billion each."

There were previous reports that one province in the Visayas will get P3.3 billion in infrastructure projects. I deny and take exceptions to these allegations. I want to make of record that the province referred to is not my province in Iloilo.

In my 20 years in the Senate, I have made it a personal advocacy to scrutinize the national budget, which is the most important piece of legislation that goes through Congress. The national budget is the most effective tool for good governance. However, in my 20 years of scrutinizing the national budget, I have never seen or felt an atmosphere as toxic as this year's budget. *Sa totoo lamang, ang sakit po sa ulo ang budget na ito.*

Pagbabago at malasakit — the 2019 budget is supposedly anchored on these ideals. The Presidents' budget message clearly stated, "The increase in government spending will be largely driven by massive infrastructure and human resource investments, particularly our Build, Build, Build Program; creation and filling of population-related positions, i.e., health workers, teachers, policemen items and social protection, among others."

I am not convinced that the 2019 national budget is in sync with what this government wants to accomplish. There is no congruence. It is unfortunate that we did not have sufficient time to review the reconciled version of the Conference Committee Report. To give my vote to this budget is like signing a blank check. I simply cannot do that. It is on this note that I dissented from the Conference Committee Report on the proposed 2019 General Appropriations Act and intend to vote "no" to its ratification.

For purposes of transparency, which we owe to our Filipino people, I would like to state on record the amendments that I proposed to the National 2019 General Appropriations Bill, as Senator Lacson also has challenged all of us. I have endorsed to the Senate Committee on Finance various requests for additional budget support. These programs and projects are clearly specified in the budget.

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The DPWH Region VI submitted to our office an official request and program of works. This covers the installation of steel bridges which were already purchased in the past and are already in the warehouses of DPWH in Region VI. I have also submitted an amendment putting an additional P20 million to DOH for medical assistance program for the benefit of the poor patients all throughout the country. On my initiative, I have also supported the request of the University of the Philippines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the National Commission for the Philippines for additional funding support.

Let me enumerate for the record each of these proposals: for the installation of air-conditioning units in *UP College of Law* or *Malcolm Hall*, P500,000; *National Historical Commission of the Philippines* for the construction of historical memorial and-or fountain in a park in my city, P5 million; for the conduct of commemorative activities including lectures, symposia, exhibits on historical events and personages for the public, P500,000; for the *Cultural Center of the Philippines*, presentation of cultural and artistic events, arts and education and cultural exchange, P5 million; *Department of Public Works and Highways* — *Aganan flyover* including right-of-way, Municipality of Pavia, Iloilo province, P80 million; construction of flyover, Barangay Buhang, Jaro, Iloilo City, P80 million; construction of Hibao-an flyover, Mandurriao, Iloilo City, P80 million; construction of slope protection/bank improvement along Iloilo River, Esplanade 6, P10 million; construction of slope protection/bank improvement along Iloilo River, Esplanade 4, P20 million; construction of slope protection/bank improvement along Iloilo River, Esplanade 8, P10 million; the *Department of Health* Medical Assistance Program, P20 million; and *Department of Foreign Affairs*, Philippine Embassy in Portugal for a book project in the collection and essays of the history of Portuguese relations with the Philippines, P1.5 million. The total is P312,500,000, and I am making that public.

The unsubstantiated and unfair claims regarding pork barrel allocations make each member of this Chamber a suspect.

The budget is an embodiment of the checks and balances present in a democracy. In the simplest terms, budgeting is important as a process of allocating finite resources between competing priorities.

The power of the purse is lodged by the Constitution in this Congress. Let us exercise

that power responsibly. Let us not abuse that discretion. We owe it to our people.

Let me repeat, let us exercise that power over the purse with responsibility. Let us not abuse that discretion granted to us.

I am making this disclosure in the spirit of transparency. And please allow me to end by appealing to our people—continue to be vigilant in the implementation of our budget.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan manifested that he had not introduced amendments to the 2019 budget, and denied any involvement in the introduction of amendments to the Senate version of the GAB amounting to some P23 billion. He said that since he was elected senator in 2016, he had not submitted proposed projects or proposed appropriations through the budget process in the Senate. He reiterated his non-involvement in any such allocation, whether P1 billion or P3 billion, as pointed out by Senator Drilon and as stated by Congressman Andaya.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 8169

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes of both Houses on House Bill No. 8169, entitled

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 NINETEEN, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chair recognized Senator Legarda to sponsor the report.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Thereupon, Senator Legarda presented to the Body for its approval and ratification the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 8169.

Hereunder is the full text of Senator Legarda's sponsorship speech:

Infrastructure in itself is not pork. In fact, how can “Build, build, build” ensue without infrastructure? If the amendments are based on agency requests with programs of works and letters of the regional director, like what the Minority Leader said, they are certainly not pork. We need bridges, roads, school buildings, and evacuation centers.

And so, I assure you, I asked each and every amendment to be accompanied by agency request. That was a very basic request. Whether it is a reading center, an evacuation center, an airport or a bridge, to the best of my ability and our limited time, we tried to do all that. So, I just wanted to clarify that.

Second, Senator Pangilinan and the Minority Leader, Senator Drilon, mentioned about unfair, baseless allegations that came out today that there are allegedly P3 billion or P1 billion allocations. I assure you that there was no such allocation for any or each member of this Chamber. Amendments were introduced, whether it was for an airport, a fiber project, a hospital, an apparatus or medical equipment, or a scholarship. But these are all implemented by the agencies and, again, based on department, institutional and agency requests. There is no ceiling and there is no minimum.

We had to analyze all the requests not just of senators but of barangay captains, of mayors of fourth, fifth and sixth-class municipalities, of agencies that said that the President’s budget was not enough, which said that their congressman’s amendment was not enough, and which even wrote us and, up to the last day, today, I received text messages *kung puwede pa raw dagdagan iyong mga ahensiya*.

This is not pork. As the chair of the Committee on Finance, we worked so hard with LBRMO, Atty. Doblón, and all the heroic LBRMO staff. We had no sleep. I had to drink a Paracetamol for my continuing right temple pain for 80 days.

The vice chairs worked so hard. Thank you very much, Senator Lacson, Senator Angara, Senator Ejercito, Senator Villar, Senator Aquino, Pro Tempore Recto, who guided me as well, the Majority Leader, who helped me—all of you, all the interpellations and the Minority Leader’s interpellations were always well-meant and well-intended. I know it is nothing personal if we dissent on the budget.

Now I end my official bicam report, after exhaustive deliberation and consultations with the House counterpart, this Representation as chair of the Senate Committee on Finance is honored to present, for this Body’s approval, the

highlights of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions on the 2019 General Appropriations Bill:

- ***Congress: net increase of P1.775 billion***

The increase under Congress’ budget will cover the additional operating requirements of the Senate and the Commission on Appointments, including funding for the construction of the new Senate building.

- ***Office of the Vice President (OVP): net increase of P215.700 million***

The additional fund is for various social programs of the OVP intended to improve the life of the poor and for the special duty allowance of the security officers assigned to the Vice President. Vice President Leni Robredo came to my office and she humbly asked me that her security be given the same allowance as the PSG. This will allow the security officers to receive the same special duty allowance given to the Presidential Security Group.

- ***Department of Agriculture (DA): net decrease of P2.046 billion***

The Department of Agriculture will reflect a net cut due to reduction in the allocation for farm-to-market roads under the Office of the Secretary and on the credit facilities of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council. The decrease in the said items will be partially offset by the P10 million provided for the Young Farmers Program and P50 million for Livestock Production Program under DA-OSEC, and construction of fish landings, fishermen’s wharf, and purchase of fishing gears under the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The additional amount of P185 million is for the establishment of Carabeo Dairy Centers in various provinces under the Philippine Carabao Center, to increase daily production and to reduce dependence on imported milk.

- ***Department of Education (DepEd): net increase of P2.521 billion***

Included in the DepEd budget is P800 million for the allowance of teachers to be given during the World Teachers’ Day. Additional allocation for Quality Teacher and Development Program, Computerization Program, and Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials – Senator Lacson helped me with these amendments and I accepted his amendments – and DepEd’s School-based Feeding Program, Senator Poe’s amendment. The allocation for the latter will effectively fund RA 11037 which institutionalizes the

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national feeding program for undernourished children. I believe it was an unfunded law last year of Senator Poe; it is now funded. All these items will account for the net increase in DepEd's budget. That was an increase of P1 billion in the school-based feeding program.

The amount of P69.681 million was also provided for the various projects of the National Museum while the Philippine High School for the Arts will also get an augmentation for capital outlay and MOOE. This will fund the initial cost of establishing a Philippine High School for the Arts in the Visayas and Mindanao.

- ***State Universities and Colleges (SUCs):***
net increase of P2.813 billion

We provided capital outlay to selected SUCs in the amount of P2.421 billion, including the University of the Philippines.

- ***Department of Energy (DOE):***
net increase of P110.276 million

The increase in the Department's budget is intended to augment their operating requirements of its Investment Promotion Unit.

- ***Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):***
net decrease of P2.212 billion

The National Greening Program has been reduced by P2.5 billion. However, we have realigned the amount of P230.8 million to Mangrove Reforestation and Eco-tourism. In addition, funds were also provided for the pollution laboratories in Visayas and Mindanao under the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

- ***Department of Finance (DOF):***
net increase of P200 million

The amount will be for the initial requirement of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) building in Makati.

- ***Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA):***
net decrease of P6.855 billion

This significant reduction in the budget is due to the cut—this was manifested on the floor—and the transfer of the balance of P5 billion allocation for the SEA Games from the DFA to the PSC. Funds were also provided for the opening of consular offices within the country—I think it was Senator Gordon who asked for that—as well as embassies in Melbourne, Barcelona, Nagoya, Morocco, Stockholm, and Turkey, including

augmentation of the operating requirements of selected embassies.

The Foreign Service Institute—again, Senator Gordon requested for this—will also get additional allocation to fund its cultural programs and language capacity building of Foreign Service Personnel, giving priority for languages of countries where there are a large number of overseas Filipino workers and trade relationship. We are also providing for the modernization of its library.

- ***Department of Health (DOH):***
net increase of P 21.523 billion

I claim this as everybody's amendment. This was raised by the Minority Leader, and we accepted it. And this was also Senator Ejercito's advocacy and Senator Lacson also questioned it and this is everybody's collective effort. It was not in the NEP and GAB. But all the unfinished health centers will now be finished; all those finished but no equipment will have equipment. Included in the budget is the restoration of P15 billion for Health Facilities Enhancement Program and the provision of P4.797 billion to complete the P7 billion requirement for Human Resource for Health Development. Allocation for Medical Assistance for Indigent Patients has been likewise increased. We are also providing funds for cancer medicines to help cancer patients in coping with their costly treatment.

- ***Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT):***
net increase of P2.047 billion

The incoming Secretary is here. The increase in the DICT will be for the ICT industry and countryside development—Rural Impact Sourcing, National Broadband and Cyber security under OSEC and augmentation for the operating requirements of the National Telecommunications Commission.

- ***Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG):***
net increase of P1.747 billion

The increase will fund the construction of building for Emergency 911 Command Center under the OSEC. We are also augmenting the Philippine National Police's (PNP) MOOE to improve its delivery of services, which will include P59.839 million to provide the per capita cost of MOOE for additional police-men—Senator Lacson. Likewise, additional capital outlay for both the PNP and the Bureau of Fire Protection have been provided for the purchase of

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motor vehicles, firefighting equipment, and fire trucks, respectively.

The Philippine Public Safety College will be provided funds to pay for its obligations, in accordance with the decision of the court.

- ***Department of Justice (DOJ):
net increase of P1.312 billion***

Augmentation in the DOJ's budget is for the creation of a special task force and victims' assistance program for OFWs, including programs geared toward child protection.

For the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), the amount of P1 billion is also provided. Remember last year, we also augmented the provision for the construction/repair/rehabilitation of prison facilities in Palawan, Davao, Leyte, Mandaluyong (NCR) and Zamboanga to decongest the existing prison facilities and to bring the prisoners closer to their families. I think it was the Minority Leader who initiated this.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is provided additional funds for confidential expenses, procurement of equipment, and rental since the NBI building has been condemned and they have to move out.

- ***Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE): net increase—it is an agency request—of P2.612 billion***

The increase in the DOLE's budget shall be used for emergency repatriation of our OFWs, worker protection and welfare program, employment facilitation program and government internship programs.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) will receive additional funding for the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development and for Professional Regulation Program.

- ***Department of National Defense (DND):
net increase of P3.098 billion***

The Office of the Secretary will be provided P48.766 million for Task Force and Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) for the rebel and insurgent returnees.

Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (Proper) will have additional funding for veterans' hospitalization and medical care program.

Veterans Memorial Medical Center will get an additional funding for drugs and medicines, medical and surgical supplies,

and hiring of job order workers, while the Philippine Navy is provided fund for the establishment of a Maritime Command in Tawi-Tawi. Funds are also provided to support various activities of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP). Construction of four-storey building has been provided for the General Headquarters. Similarly, additional allowance for CAFGU of P850 million nationwide and hiring of additional GAFGU companies are included in the Philippine Army's budget.

- ***Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH): net increase of P32.923 billion***

The net increase is due to the cut in the Right-of-Way (ROW) and Foreign-Assisted projects which will be offset by the increase in local infrastructure projects.

I repeat, as far as the Senate is concerned, there are no imagined projects. All are agency requests with programs of work.

- ***Department of Science and Technology (DOST): net increase of P450.250 million***

The adjustment is for the DOST's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program, grants-in-aid for SET-UP, and brick-making facility. We also increased the research fund by providing for the grants-in-aid for Disaster Preparedness, PhilMicrosat, Defense and Human Security, S & T Creative Industry and Tourism and Nutrigenomics.

- ***Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD):
net increase of P3.158 billion***

Additional funds for Protective Services and implementation of the enhanced program for children, families, indigenous peoples, and individuals in difficult situation have been provided. We allocated funds for the cost of service of employees implementing the CCT Program in the amount of P1.646 billion. The amount of P1 billion for "Bahay Pag-asa" is provided under the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (JJWC). We funded this last year, we are continuing to fund it. This intends to address the needs of the children in conflict with the law.

- ***Department of Tourism (DOT):
net increase of P38 million***

The budget will include requirement for Puerta Real Evenings, documentation of their projects.

- ***Department of Trade and Industry (DTI): net decrease of P1.561 billion***

The increase of funds will be for Negosyo Centers, Senator Aquino's request, amendment; and Shared Service Facilities (SSF), our shared advocacies under the OSEC and the Cooperative Development Program under CDA. Increase is also reflected in the allocation for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's Special Training for Employment Program and Training for Work Scholarship Program. However, access to Quality Tertiary Education was cut since the amount allocated in 2018 budget for the same item is still available for 2019.

- ***Department of Transportation (DOTr): net decrease of P4.812 billion***

Although additional funds were provided to selected airports and seaports, fly fees, purchase of helicopters, and lighted ocean buoys, DOTr will still reflect a decrease due to cuts imposed on the ROW allocation. This was done in coordination with the agency.

- ***National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA): net increase of P164.067 million***

Funds were given for various research/studies to be undertaken by NEDA, including the preparation of various master plans of LGUs.

- ***Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO): net increase of P38.710 million***

Funds were provided for the Davao and Presidential Photographers Division, and publication of the Rehabilitation of Boracay Island coffee table book.

- ***Other Executive Offices: net increase of P8.112 billion***

The Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) increase in budget will fund Higher Education Development Program, Legal Education Board, Scholarship Program and realignment from Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education to K-to-12 Transition Program for new grantees under the Faculty Development.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is given additional funding for the various cultural activities of the agency.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines' (NHCP) additional funding will be used for conservation of historical sites and construction of memorial on historical events and personages, including commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Ferdinand Magellan's voyage to the Philippines.

The increase in the funds of National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) will be used for rent, training, digitization of archival documents, expansion of existing storage facilities, and other activities.

The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) and National Security Council (NSC) will receive additional intelligence/confidential funds.

Funds will be given to National Youth Commission (NYC) for its various activities such as Project HAPPY: HIV/AIDS Prevention Program for the Youth, International Youth Day, and FITFIL Youth Drug Prevention Program.

The Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) increase in budget is for the gender mainstreaming in the ASEAN and for additional operating requirements.

For Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the increase will be for the operating expenses of PDEA satellite offices, seaport, and airport interdiction unit and for the operating requirements of the Inter-agency Committee on Anti-illegal Drug (ICAD), and procurement of additional narcotics detection dogs, including provision for its maintenance and hiring of handlers.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) will receive funding for the SEA games which was realigned from the DFA budget of P5 billion and for the training expenses of athletes participating in the SEA games.

The Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) will receive funds for the purchase of equipment and representation outlay.

The Presidential Management Staff will have funds for the purchase of furniture.

- ***Judiciary: net increase of P2.191 Billion***

The Judiciary will receive additional funds for the following:

- construction of the Cagayan De Oro Complex and halls of justice under the Supreme Court

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- construction of Sandiganbayan II building for the Sandiganbayan
- initial funding for the construction of the Court of Appeals building
- additional PS, MOOE, and CO for the entire Judiciary
- ***Constitutional Offices:
net increase of P2.886 billion***

The changes in Civil Service Commission's (CSC) budget include realignment from Anti Red Tape Act (ARTA) implementation to Reactivation of the Philippine Civil Service Academy, and provision for additional capital outlay for buildings and motor vehicles.

For Commission on Audit (COA), funds will be given for the construction of Provincial Satellite Auditing Office (PSAO) buildings, and additional PS.

Commission on Elections (COMELEC) will receive an additional allocation for overseas Filipinos absentee voting and postage fees.

Additional funds will be given to the Office of the Ombudsman for its restructuring requirements which will include adjustments in PS, MOOE and CO.

Additional allocation will be given for various projects of Commission on Human Rights (CHR), including the development, implementation and maintenance of data protection measures.

- ***Budgetary Support to Government Corporations: net decrease of P1.781 billion***

The additional allocation for National Dairy Authority (NDA) is for the purchase of breeding stock.

The net decrease in National Electrification Administration's (NEA) budget is due the provision for the lighting of schools and the reduction in the Quick Response Fund (QRF) and Sitio electrification.

The increase in the allocation of the four specialty hospitals— Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), Philippine Heart Center (PHC), Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), and National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) is for the medical assistance to indigent patients.

Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority's (TIEZA) additional funding is for the construction/development of plazas and tourism projects.

The increase in Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) is for the promotion and participation package for members who will join in trade exposition to be held in various countries.

The increase under Other Executive Offices will go to a) Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB)— for the construction of standard factory building; b) Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA)— for the construction of commercial building; c) Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)— allocation for its activities to bring CCP programs to the people and other activities; d) Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)— the additional allocation will allow DAP to expand its training programs to include LGUs and the Legislative Department; e) National Housing Authority (NHA)— for housing projects; and f) Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)— for construction of Magsaysay Bridge. However, the allocation for the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) was reduced—not by this House but by the Lower House.

- ***Special Purpose Funds:
net decrease of P70.670 billion***

Allocations to Local Government Units (ALGU) will reflect a reduction of P7.227 billion due to the cut on the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF).

The Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund was reduced due to the realignment of funds to DOH and DSWD to cover the cost of service of job orders, and the cut that was imposed.

We provided P1,486,539,000 for the implementation of NBC 461 (Cycle 7), which intends to fund a half-year implementation of the system of evaluation and promotion of SUC faculty members, which will effectively increase their compensation. *Sa pagkaalam ko po matagal na ito.* It was Senator Angara who brought this to my attention. And it is the first time that teachers in the SUCs will receive the proper compensation.

The increase of the GAB over the NEP of the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management (NDRRM) Fund was cut.

net

We reduced the amount of the Pension and Gratuity Fund based on the utilization in the previous year, to the level which we believe could be utilized.

- **Unprogrammed Fund**

We reflected realignments within the Unprogrammed fund to provide for a) Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund of P10 Billion; b) Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Fund of P10 Billion; c) Implementation of the Universal Health Care, P18 Billion; and d) Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Region in Muslim Mindanao, P30 Billion.

Moreover, the following are the highlights of the special and general provision:

- a. We included a provision prohibiting the Bureau of Immigration — Senator Joel Villanueva — from issuing temporary work permit to foreigners unless they present an alien employment permit or a similar certification coming from the DOLE.

A corresponding provision was also introduced in the DOLE which requires that before a certification shall be issued, the DOLE shall determine the non-availability of a person in the Philippines who is competent, able and willing at the time of application to perform the services for which the alien desires to work.

- b. A special provision in the DILG which institutionalizes a more holistic approach in local development planning. It requires a comprehensive consultation among the stakeholders and various LGU councils to be able to come up with plans that are responsive to existing and emerging challenges as well as formulate joint strategies to address such challenges. I think it was Senator Ping and Senator Risa on the LDCs.
- c. A special provision which requires DepEd to provide, implement, and monitor a mental health policy for students in accordance with RA 11036 or the Mental Health Act. It also requires a pool of registered guidance counselors to train guidance designates and peer facilitators within a specific administrative division of DepEd.
- d. A special provision for Health Facilities Enhancement Program was also included.

The provision shall, in its implementation, consider the requirement of a mother-baby friendly health facility in compliance with the provision of R.A. No. 11148 or the *Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act*.

The provision can be found in the Allocation to Local Government Units.

- e. Included under the DOTr's special provision is one adopting the department order which provides for the refurbished and/or rebuilt public utility vehicles shall be allowed to continue the routes provided it complies with D.O. No. 2017-11.
- f. Provision on the fare discount under the TRAIN Law was reiterated under the DOTr's special provision.
- g. Prohibition on the collection of fees in relation to retention or reacquisition of Philippine citizenship is again reintroduced in the General Provision.
- h. The General Provision also includes a provision clarifying that the block grant to Bangsamoro Government shall be automatically appropriated pursuant to R.A. No. 11054.
- i. The special provision on the Support to Foreign-Assistant Projects under the unprogram-med fund was amended, limiting the use of foreign-assisted projects to the projects enumerated in the special provision.
- j. A provision prohibiting the use of unprogrammed funds for any project intended for public video surveillance and communication system that will involve risk in the country's national security.
- k. Provisions on disaster resiliency, climate adaptation, disaster preparedness were also included in the special and general provisions. This was my overarching provision to green the budget and to make it a climate adaptive and resilient budget. These are just the highlights of the bicameral conference committee report.

I have tried my best. I cannot make everybody happy. I hope and I humbly appeal to our colleagues for the ratification of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report.

Thank you, once again, to all the vice chairs and all members of this Chamber, including the minority, regardless of your votes, and to the LBRMO and all staff of the senators and all the staff of this august Chamber.

It is also the last budget of Director Doblon who has been with the government for 40 years. I cannot imagine a Senate without Attorney Doblon.

The former Senate President, now Minority Leader, who was also chairman of the Committee on Finance, had worked with her and he calls her Senator Doblon, the 25th senator.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Senator Zubiri expressed his appreciation to Senator Legarda for doing a yeoman's job in handling the budget for the last four years. He then moved for the adoption and ratification of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 8169 and that it be deemed read and inserted into the Record of the Senate.

MOTION FOR A NOMINAL VOTING

Senator Drilon moved for a nominal voting, invoking Section 115 of the Rules of the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 7:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

NOMINAL VOTING

Acting on the motion of Senator Drilon, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary of the Senate to call the roll for a nominal voting.

Secretary Villarica called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Pacquiao
Binay	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Recto
Gatchalian	Sotto
Gordon	Villanueva
Honasan	Zubiri
Legarda	

Against

Aquino	Lacson
Drilon	Pangilinan
Hontiveros	

Abstention

None

APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

With 15 senators voting in favor, five against, and no abstention, the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 8169 was approved and ratified by the Body.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan manifested that he would submit a written explanation of his "No" vote.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva likewise manifested that he would submit in writing an explanation of his vote.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros said that she voted "no" to the ratification of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the General Appropriations Bill, as she recalled, when she registered her "yes" vote to the Senate version of the budget, she had hoped for a budget version that would satisfy the standards as provided by the Supreme Court on the proper planning, allocation, and disbursements of the nation's coffers, considering that the Senate version

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had provided more budgets for health and other social services.

She stated that the events of the past weeks only showcased the brazen display of political bullying by the House of Representatives that refused to budge and explain the allocation of unconscionable amounts to certain favored geographic units without going through the usual evidence-based planning and budgeting process. She pointed out that despite efforts to remove the anomalies, it remained in the budget. She said that the 2019 budget confirmed the democratic deficit in the process that still allowed the old system of patronage and the lack of transparency in the budgeting process.

She said that she voted "No" because right from the start, the DBM had handed Congress a deficient NEP, then the House of Representatives handed the Senate an even more problematic appropriations bill. She stated that many members of the Body worked to address the problems but the methods seem only to have been taken advantage of by others in the mad scramble for public funds, as another election season approaches. She said that it does not bode well for the common aspirations of transparency and accountability which the people of the country deserve.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Senate President Sotto placed on record that the Senate was in receipt of a message from the Office of the President of the Philippines, vetoing Senate Bill No. 1976/House Bill No. 8522.

Upon instruction of the Senate President, Secretary Villarica read the Message from the Office of the President, to wit:

Office of the President of the Philippines
Malacañang

February 08, 2019

THE HONORABLE SENATE PRESIDENT
and Members of the Senate
Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Building, Financial Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We respectfully transmit herewith the Veto Message of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, on consolidated enrolled Senate Bill No. 1976/House Bill No. 8522, entitled:

"AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE,' AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,"

pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 27 (1) of the 1987 Constitution.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary

Copy furnished:

Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

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

VETO MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DUTERTE

Hereunder is the Veto Message of President Duterte on Senate Bill No. 1976/House Bill No. 8522:

Malacañan Palace
Manila

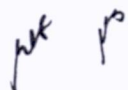
February 08, 2019

THE HONORABLE SENATE PRESIDENT
and Members of the Senate
Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Building, Financial Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Section 27(1), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, I am returning herewith without my signature the consolidated enrolled **Senate Bill No. 1976/House Bill No. 8522**, entitled:

"AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE,' AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."



While I recognize that the objective of the bill is to adopt necessary measures to immediately address the serious problems besetting the coconut industry, protect the socio-economic well-being of coconut farmers, and ensure that the benefits due our coconut farmers are consolidated and their delivery expedited, the present formulation of the proposed legislative measure regrettably lacks vital safeguards to avoid the repetition of painful mistakes in the past.

The powers given to the Philippine Coconut Industry under the proposed measure, read together with the proposed "*Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Act*," undermine relevant regulations and safeguards that were established precisely to avoid abuses. I am certain that neither Congress nor the Executive can bear to see our coconut farmers being exposed to injury by the very legislation that was intended for their benefit and protection, especially if such injury could have been prevented by the institution of necessary safeguards.

While the Enrolled Bill is the common legislative agenda of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, the provisions of the bill do not reflect our ultimate goal of accelerating the full utilization of coco levy assets and funds for the benefit of our marginalized coconut farmers and the coconut industry.

In view of these consideration, I am constrained to veto the above mentioned Enrolled Bill.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) RODRIGO DUTERTE

Copy furnished:

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang Palace

REMINDER OF SENATE PRESIDENT SOTTO

Senate President Sotto reminded the members of the Body of a standing resolution adopted by the Senate, as early as March 15, 2017, authorizing all regular, oversight, and special committee to conduct hearings, meetings, and consultations during recess in order to have a continuity in the process of passing

pending proposed measures and conduct investigations on issues of national interest to aid in crafting relevant legislations.

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Senator Zubiri informed the Body of the scheduled visit of Ms. Universe 2018, Ms. Catriona Gray, to the Senate, at which time he would convey to Ms. Gray a congratulatory message and a commendation. He then moved for an adoption of a formal resolution, subject to style, taking into consideration the proposed Senate resolutions already filed, congratulating Ms. Gray.

There being no objection, the Body adopted a resolution congratulating and commending Ms. Catriona Gray for winning the Miss Universe crown, taking into consideration the other proposed Senate resolutions already filed, subject to style.

SENATE CONFEREES

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, Senate President Sotto designated the following senators to constitute the Senate panels in the bicameral conference committees on the disagreeing provisions/votes of the measures here-under indicated:

1. Senate Bill No. 1950 and House Bill No. 8869 (*Murang Kuryente Act*):

Chair: Gatchalian

Members:

Recto	Ejercito
Binay	Hontiveros

2. House Bill No. 5558 (*franchise of Golden National Network, Inc.*):

Chair: Poe

Members:

Recto	Ejercito
Escudero	Hontiveros

3. House Bill No. 6168 (*franchise of Pacific Broadcasting System, Inc.*):

Chair: Poe

Members:

Recto	Ejercito
Escudero	Hontiveros

per *ps*

4. Senate Bill No. 1255 and House Bill No. 684 (*expanding the coverage of exemptions from revealing the source of information obtained in confidence*)

Chair: Poe

Members:

Escudero	Villanueva
Ejercito	Hontiveros

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri thanked the members of the Majority and Minority, especially the Minority Leader, Senator Drilon, for working together on the many measures that the Senate recently passed.

He then placed on record that the Senate was able to adopt and ratify 25 bicameral conference committee reports, of which 12 are of national application; nine bills adopted by either House as an amendment to their respective versions; 84 bills passed on Third Reading, of which 10 are of national application; and nine bills passed on Second Reading, of which eight are of national application. He also expressed his elation that the Senate had received the highest rating at the recent SWS Survey as

the most trusted government institution, and he credited this high rating to the leadership of the Senate President and the hard work of all the Members of the Body.

Senate President Sotto credited the high rating to the Majority and Minority Leaders, and the entire Senate.

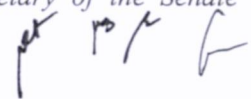
ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, Senate President Sotto declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, May 20, 2019.

It was 8:07 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate



Approved on May 20, 2019