



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 48
Wednesday, January 29, 2020

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 48
Wednesday, January 29, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Vicente C. Sotto III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

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

Panginoong Diyos, Ama naming mapagmahal at makapangyarihan, kayo na may likha ng sanlibutan at kalikasan:

Maraming salamat sa panibagong araw na ipinagkaloob Ninyo sa amin.

Maraming salamat dahil sa gitna ng mga pagsubok sa buhay, binigyan Ninyo kami ng bagong umaga at bagong pag-asa.

O Amang mahabagin,

Patuloy naming idinudulog ang kapanatagan ng loob at kaligtasan ng aming mga kababayan na labis na nagdurusa dahil sa matinding kalamidad na idinulot ng Bulkang Taal.

Yakapin Ninyo po sila ng Inyong pagmamahal. Bigyan Ninyo po sila ng kapayapaan at nawa ay mabilis silang

makabangon mula sa hirap na kanilang pinagdaraan.

Sa araw na ito, dalangin po namin na patuloy Ninyo kaming gabayan sa lahat ng aming mga gagawin.

Gawaran mo kami ng Iyong kalakasan at turuan Ninyo po kami na laging manalig sa Inyong kadakilaan at kaluwalhatian.

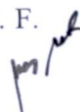
Ang lahat ng ito aming hinihiling sa ngalan ni Kristong Hesus na aming tagapagligtas.

Amen.

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:

Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Pangilinan, F. N. S.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Gatchalian, W.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Go, C. L. T.	Sotto III, V. C.
Hontiveros, R.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Lacson, P. M.	Villanueva, J.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Villar, C. A.
Marcos, I. R.	Zubiri, J. M. F.



With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Angara, Gordon, Pimentel and Poe arrived after the roll call.

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

Senator Cayetano was absent.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri asked that he be excused for a while as he needed to change into a proper attire as he just came from a relief operation in Batangas.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 47 (January 28, 2020) and considered it approved.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan expressed his appreciation to Senator Zubiri for his request to be excused to change clothing as he recalled the late Senator Joker Arroyo who was very particular as regards proper attire in plenary sessions.

Senator Zubiri then asked Deputy Majority Leader, Senator Villanueva, to take over.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Surigao City Mayor Ernesto “Nitoy” Matugas; and
- AB Political Science students of University of the East-Manila.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 27 January 2020, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 5673, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO SET AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF ALL DOH-RETAINED HOSPITALS

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 624, entitled

AN ACT RENAMING THE KALIBO—BANGA—BALETE—BATAN—ALTAVAS NATIONAL ROAD WHICH IS PART OF THE KALIBO HIGHWAY, STRETCHING FROM THE NUMANCIA—KALIBO BOUNDARY AT BARANGAY LAGUINBANUA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NUMANCIA, TRAVERSING BARANGAYS POBLACION, ANDAGAO, ESTANCIA, TIGAYON, AND LINABUAN NORTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO; BARANGAYS LINABUAN SUR, JUMARAP, MAMBOG, POBLACION, TABAYON, LIBAS, AND VENTURANZA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGA; BARANGAYS FULGENCIO, FELICIANO, CALIZO, MORALES, POBLACION, CORTES, AND ARANAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALETE; BARANGAYS LALAB AND CABUGAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATAN; BARANGAYS CABUGAO, LINAYASAN, ODIONG, POBLACION, MANUP, CABANGILA, UP TO THE

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CAPIZ—AKLAN BOUNDARY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALTAVAS, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AS CONGRESSMAN ALLEN SALAS QUIMPO NATIONAL HIGHWAY

To the Committee on Public Works

House Bill No. 1061, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE STA. IGNACIA – GUIMBA PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCES OF TARLAC AND NUEVA ECIJA VIA GERONA-PURA ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY NAMBALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. IGNACIA TO BARANGAY BUENAVISTA, MUNICIPALITY OF PURA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 1778, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY ANDUYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBAO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO BARANGAY SAN PASCUAL, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 4773, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALINGASAG, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5017, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORT-

ATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALIAGA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5153, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5277, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5420, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 5519, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MABALACAT CITY EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

House Bill No. 5738, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP) IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, TO BE

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KNOWN AS THE PUP-SANTA ROSA CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance

House Bill No. 5739, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP) IN CALOOCAN CITY—NORTH, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUP—CALOOCAN CITY-NORTH CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance

House Bill No. 5740, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE TABUK CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—BANTAY EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BANTAY, TABUK CITY, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE TABUK CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BANTAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5741, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE GUINZADAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—MAYAG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MAYAG, MUNICIPALITY OF BAUKO, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE FROM THE GUINZADAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MAYAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5742, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE LUBON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-MABA-

LITE EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MABALITE, MUNICIPALITY OF TADIAN, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE FROM THE LUBON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MABALITE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5743, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE DALANAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—DABBU-RAB-DALANAO EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BACARRI, MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE FROM THE DALANAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS WELLIE MACLINIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5744, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE CITY OF CANLAON, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 86 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3445, ENTITLED “AN ACT CREATING THE CITY OF CANLAON.”

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

House Bill No. 5811, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LOCATION OF THE SORSOGON SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE FROM BULAN, SORSOGON TO GUBAT, SORSOGON AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9689, ENTITLED, “AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SORSOGON SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF

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SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

To the Committee on Public Works

House Bill No. 5831, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMBA—PURA PROVINCIAL ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY SAN RAFAEL, TO BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL, BOTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIMBA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND TO BARANGAY BUENA-VISTA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PURA, PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 5840, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN SAN JOSE CITY, SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance

House Bill No. 5849, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIONAL ROAD FROM THE JUNCTION OF LANA DEL NORTE INTERIOR CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD AT BARANGAY POBLACION, THROUGH BARANGAY LEMONCRET, MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSAYSAY, TO BARANGAY SAN MANUEL, MUNICIPALITY OF LALA, TO BARANGAYS PANSILAN AND KATIPUNAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAPAD, TO

BARANGAYS MAHAYAHAY, BELIS, MALINAS, SITIO DAO, BUTADON, BANSARVIL, AND TIPOLO, MUNICIPALITY OF KAPATAGAN, TO BARANGAY CALUBE, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, TO BARANGAY LANTUNGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF AURORA, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD TO BE KNOWN AS ILIGAN—AURORA NATIONAL HIGHWAY BYPASS ROAD APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5850, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMBA—TALUGTUG—UMINGAN PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF GUIMBA AND TALUGTUG, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF UMINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5851, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY GRIJALVO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF BULA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD;

House Bill No. 5852, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ALBAY DIVERSION ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MINALABAC, BULA, AND NABUA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5853, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5854, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FIRST
DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO,
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR.

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

House Bill No. 5870, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A THREE
HUNDRED (300)-BED CAPACITY
TERTIARY TRAINING AND GENERAL
HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY MAUWAY,
CITY OF MANDALUYONG TO BE
KNOWN AS THE SENATE PRES-
IDENT NEPTALI A. GONZALES
GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 5871, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE MARIA L.
ELEAZAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKA-
WAYAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON
INTO A LEVEL III GENERAL
HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
MARIA L. ELEAZAR GENERAL
HOSPITAL, UNDER THE DIRECT
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 5872, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE GUINA-
ANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—
MAINIT EXTENSION IN BARA-
NGAY MAINIT, MUNICIPALITY OF

BONTOC, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
FROM THE GUINA-ANG NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT
INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS
MAINIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 5874, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECH-
NICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(TESDA) TRAINING AND
ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF BAYOMBONG,
PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA,
TO BE KNOWN AS THE NUEVA
VIZCAYA TESDA TRAINING AND
ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5875, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECH-
NICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESS-
MENT CENTER IN THE MUNICI-
PALITY OF MINALABAC, PROV-
INCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE MINALABAC
TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESS-
MENT CENTER, AND APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5876, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVE-
LOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)
TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT
CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF SAN ANTONIO, PROVINCE OF
QUEZON, TO BE KNOWN AS THE
SAN ANTONIO, QUEZON TESDA
TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR;

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House Bill No. 5877, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CORON, CUYO, ROXAS, SAN VICENTE, SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA, AND QUEZON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5878, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING CENTER FOR PIÑA HANDLOOM WEAVING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KALIBO, AKLAN TESDA PIÑA HANDLOOM WEAVING TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 5879, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance

House Bill No. 5881, 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; and

House Bill No. 5882, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 302, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON STRENGTHENING THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FORMULATING A FRAMEWORK TO OPERATIONALIZE THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPLEMENTARITY TO ACHIEVE OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Board Member Rolly Destura of Iloilo; and
- Vice-Governor Jose "Tam-an" Tomas of Nueva Viscaya.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 9
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1083**

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1083 (Committee Report No. 9), entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT TO SECURE THE STATE AND PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM TERRORISM.

Senator Villanueva stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Lacson, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Pangilinan, for his interpellations.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan noted that the bill proposed to delete the last two paragraphs of the *Declaration of Policy* of Republic Act No. 9372 or the Human Security Act of 2007, in particular the portion which stated: “xxx the exercise of the constitutionally recognized powers of the executive department of the government shall not prejudice respect for human rights which shall be absolute and protected at all times.” Asked on the rationale for the deletion, Senator Lacson replied that it was because the goal of the proposed legislation was to provide an effective legal framework that could empower the government to address terrorism as a crime and to emphasize the focus of the law on anti-terrorism efforts. However, he averred that he already agreed with Senator Pimentel to reinstate the second paragraph.

Senator Pangilinan hoped that the said clause would be retained during the period of amendments, as he believed that respect for human rights should be absolute and protected at all times.

Senator Lacson assured that all the human rights safeguards were retained in the bill in the succeeding provisions.

Senator Pangilinan also noted that the bill proposed to delete a number of provisions, among them were as follows:

- The official custodial logbook that the police or law enforcement custodial unit in whose care and control of the person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism is required to be kept and maintained under the law, and which should be open for inspection and scrutiny of the person’s lawyer, physician, and family; and that failure to comply would be imposed a penalty of 10 years and one day imprisonment;
- Presentation of the detained person before a judge which the existing law requires among police or law enforcement personnel concerned to determine whether a suspect is being subjected to any physical, moral or psychological torture, among others;
- Penalty for torture (12 years and one day to 20 years imprisonment) imposed on any person who uses threat, intimidation or coercion or inflicts physical pain or torment or mental, moral or psychological pressure to vitiate the free will of a suspect under investigation or interrogation for the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism; and
- Penalty of P500,000 per day for unlawful detention without a warrant.

Asked for the rationale behind their deletion, Senator Lacson replied that in place of those proposed to be deleted, additional safeguards were proposed. He said that in place of the official custodial logbook, under the proposed measure, “the law enforcer taking custody shall notify in writing the judge nearest the place of arrest of the following facts: (a) the time, date, and manner of arrest; (b) the location or locations of the detained suspect/s; and (c) the physical and mental condition of the detained suspect/s.” Relative thereto, he recalled that he and Senator Hontiveros even agreed to furnish the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) with the information on the arrest of the person.

Senator Pangilinan stated that he might, at the proper time, suggest amendments to the proposed amendments to ensure that the safeguards are not watered down or that their intentions are not misconstrued, and that the fundamental rights of a person who is accused and under custody are not violated.

Asked if the arresting officer would no longer be required to present the accused before a judge prior to detention if the provision which covers it would be deleted, Senator Lacson replied in the affirmative. However, he clarified that the judge would still be informed of the time, date, manner of arrest, and location or locations of the detained suspect/s, and their mental and physical conditions. He believed that there would be no need to present the arrested person before a judge because the presentation would come once an information is filed and an arraignment is held. He also pointed out the requirement to present the person before the prosecutor for inquest proceedings within the reglementary period of detention.

Senator Pangilinan said that he raised his concern over the deletion of the requirement to present the accused before a judge because of the proposal to lengthen the period of detention from three days to 14 days without a judicial warrant which, to him, is a long period of time for the accused to be denied access to the court's intervention. Thus, he believed that the provision that an accused should be presented before a judge is a necessary safeguard which should be retained.

Senator Lacson maintained that the person should only be presented before the prosecutor for inquest proceedings because presenting him before a judge would come later during the arraignment if probable cause has been established by the prosecutor and when an information has been filed.

Senator Pangilinan clarified that he was referring to that part of the provision sought to be deleted, to wit: "xxx police or law enforcement personnel concerned shall, before detaining the person suspected of the crime of terrorism, present him or her before any judge at the latter's residence." He said that hopefully he would be allowed to review the said provision to figure out if there is a need to propose additional amendments during the period of amendments.

Senator Lacson pointed out that there are security considerations that must be taken into account if the law enforcement agents would be required to present a suspected terrorist before a judge. Thus, he believed that information in writing should suffice. Also, he pointed out that if the law enforcement officer who conducted the arrest would perjure himself and submit false information, he could be liable for perjury. He added that there is also a provision that gives visitorial powers.

At this juncture, Senator Drilon stated that under the present system, if a person is arrested without a warrant, an information must be filed in court depending on the gravity of the offense. He explained that the purpose of the information is to transfer the legal custody from the prosecutor to the judge, and if the judge finds sufficient basis, he would issue a warrant of arrest. He agreed with Senator Lacson that the physical presence may not be required by the judge. In fact, he pointed out that as a matter of practice, the judge would not require the law enforcement officer to bring the person of the accused until arraignment.

Senator Lacson maintained that there is no need to present the suspect before the judge upon arrest and that the information required of the arresting officer would suffice.

Senator Pangilinan stated that his concern was on the proposal to lengthen the detention to 14 days or two weeks, and he believed that such extension merits a presentation before a judge. He suggested that the provision be reviewed to figure out if there is a need to put some amendments to ensure that the 14-day detention period would not violate the rights of the accused. He feared that those who are falsely accused might find themselves facing 14-working days of detention.

Senator Lacson explained that the 14-day detention was so proposed because according to the law enforcers who were asked during the committee hearings the three-day reglementary period is too short to gather enough evidence and to prevent the occurrence of another terrorist act. He also cited Senator Dela Rosa's narration of his firsthand experience of arresting a known terrorist that he had to release so as not to violate the three-day reglementary period, only to find out later that the same terrorist beheaded a person in Iraq a few weeks after his release. Thus, he agreed that extending the reglementary period to at least 14 days would not only make the Philippines at par with other countries but would also allow law enforcement agents to develop and file a strong case. He said that among the countries with longer reglementary period are Singapore with a two-year detention period renewable to an unlimited period, Sri Lanka with a period of 14 days, Bangladesh with 15 days, Pakistan with 60 days, and Australia with 14 days.

On the matter of torture, Senator Pangilinan stated that a penalty is imposed under the existing

Human Security Act. He then asked how torture would be punished if the provision of the law on punishment for torture is deleted. Senator Lacson clarified that the provision was not actually deleted but merely rephrased. He then read into the record the proposed amendment in place of the deleted provision in the present Human Security Act, to wit:

THE USE OF TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT, AS DEFINED IN SECTIONS 4 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9745 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-TORTURE ACT OF 2009," AT ANY TIME DURING THE INVESTIGATION OR INTERROGATION OF A DETAINED SUSPECTED TERRORIST IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED.

He added that whatever evidence obtained with the use of torture would be inadmissible.

On the matter of the applicability of the Revised Penal Code, Senator Pangilinan said that the proposed measure states that the Revised Penal Code "shall not apply to the provisions of this Act," and it proposes to delete Section 52 of the Human Security Act which provides that "provisions of Book I of the Revised Penal Code shall be applicable to this Act." He then asked if Article 10, one of the provisions of Book I of the Revised Penal Code, which provides for the suppletory application of the Revised Penal Code on the Human Security Act, no longer applies.

Senator Lacson explained that the reason for the deletion is that all the predicate crimes would be removed as they have become a handicap in the implementation of the Human Security Act, as evidenced by the fact that there has been only one conviction since its passage.

As to the reason for the deletion of certain provisions in Book I of the Revised Penal Code, particularly on the justifying, exempting, mitigating, and aggravating circumstances, which would no longer be availed of by the accused or the State under Section 47, Senator Lacson replied that the intent is to effectively amend certain provisions of the Revised Penal Code. Senator Pangilinan said that he would revisit the provision and would raise clarificatory questions during the period of amendments in order to dig deeper into the possible implications or repercussions of their deletion.

Asked if the prescription of crimes under Article 90 of the Revised Penal Code no longer applies since the bill makes the punishable act imprescriptible, Senator Lacson expressed his willingness to reinstate the prescription period of 20 years for capital offenses.

As regards Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Senator Pangilinan inquired if a consummated terrorist act would absorb other acts such as planning, conspiring, proposing, and inciting to commit terrorism, or whether the commission of the acts would be charged separately. Senator Lacson stated that the consummated terrorist act absorbs the commission of other terrorist acts.

At this point, Senator Pangilinan thanked Senator Lacson for answering his queries, saying that he was terminating his interpellation without prejudice to raising further clarificatory questions during the period of amendments.

FURTHER INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

At the outset, Senator Tolentino recalled that in *People of the Philippines vs. Simeon Ferrer*, an issue was raised as to whether or not Republic Act No. 1700 or the Anti-Subversion Act which outlawed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and similar associations and penalizing membership therein, was a bill of attainder—a legislative act that singles out an individual or group of persons to punishment without trial, and the Supreme Court ruled that the mere outlawing of the Communist Party of the Philippines was not a bill of attainder and was constitutional. Conversely, he cited former Chief Justice Puno's dissenting opinion relative to the case that mere membership in a group should not *per se* be punishable without judicial trial.

Asked if Section 9 of the bill is any different from Republic Act No. 1700 considering that specific groups, especially those proscribed by the United Nations, are considered as terrorist groups and that mere membership therein could lead to lawful arrest, Senator Lacson explained that due process is served before an order of proscription is issued because the respondents would be heard in the court where the petition is filed. He stressed that the petitioners should name the members of the terrorist organization who are the subject of arrest. He stated that the difference between RA 1700 and the proposed measure is that in RA 1700, it was Congress that outlawed the CPP, while in the proposed law, due process would be observed.

Asked if a suspected member would be allowed to renounce his or her membership in the terrorist group, Senator Lacson stated that it is up to the court to determine and appreciate the evidence presented by the suspected member, and to find out if the renunciation would only be an alibi to escape arrest and prosecution.

Senator Tolentino stated that he was thinking of an organization which has not been previously declared by the court as a terrorist organization, or a person in good faith who initially joined the organization that later became a terrorist organization. Since it could not be known if the acts committed by the organization — before the court has declared it as a terrorist front — were done in good faith or a defense of alibi, he asked if the court would retroactively declare the same as a terrorist organization.

Senator Lacson replied that a person could not be charged for violation of a law that does not exist at the time the offense was committed, although the offender could be charged for violation of the Revised Penal Code or any other statute which covers the crime. But Senator Tolentino pointed out that the declaration that the group is a terrorist organization would only come during trial. Senator Lacson clarified that the declaration occurs during trial or upon the filing of the petition to proscribe a terrorist organization.

To Senator Tolentino's apprehension that an alleged member could be charged but could have an escape mechanism by alleging that his organization has just been declared as a terrorist organization during the trial, which means there was no terrorist organization to speak of upon the filing of the case, Senator Lacson invited Senator Tolentino's attention to Section 9 (*Recruitment to and Membership in a Terrorist Organization*), to wit:

"Any person who shall recruit another to participate, join, commit or support any terrorist act or a terrorist individual or any terrorist organization, association or group of persons which is proscribed under Section 24 of this Act, or the United Nations Security Council-designated terrorist organization, or organized for the purpose of engaging in terrorist acts, shall suffer the penalty of life imprisonment."

Senator Tolentino said that a court validation as to what organization is included in the list of terrorist organizations would therefore no longer be necessary

even without trial *per se* as it would all be taken up during the trial, thus making the bill parallel to Republic Act No. 1700, which, to some, was unconstitutional for being a bill of attainder.

But Senator Lacson argued that Republic Act No. 1700 was arbitrary because it made mere membership punishable under the law; on the other hand, Senate Bill No. 1083 authorizes a court of law to declare or to proscribe an organization as a terrorist organization.

Considering that some provisions of the Revised Penal Code would be set aside insofar as the application of the measure is concerned, Senator Tolentino expressed concern that doing so would set aside the rich jurisprudence that the Supreme Court issued in a long line of cases related to the bill, particularly special complex crimes.

Senator Tolentino stated that he was thinking of a situation wherein certain individuals were caught at a checkpoint in possession of firearms, and without realizing that they are members of the Maute Group, the police officers charged them with illegal possession of firearms. He said that under the Revised Penal Code, the crime of illegal possession of firearms would be absorbed when the group is charged with rebellion later. However, he noted that the bill proposes to delete Section 49 (*Prosecution under this Act shall be a Bar to Another Prosecution under the Revised Penal Code or any Special Penal Laws*) of RA 9372.

Senator Tolentino stated that the Maute Group can be viewed in two lenses: one, they committed an act of terrorism; and two, they committed an act of rebellion — both punishable by up to 40 years of imprisonment. He then asked if the Maute Group could be charged with two distinct crimes given that terrorism and rebellion have different elements.

In reply, Senator Lacson explained that the appropriate charges should be guided by the intent or purpose since the intent and purpose of rebellion is different from that of a terrorist act. He said that the reason Section 49 was proposed to be deleted was that the provision on predicate crimes was also being proposed to be deleted. He explained that if the accused happened to be acquitted under the bill, granting that it was already enacted into law, he can still be charged for violation of common crimes such as, but not limited to, illegal possession of firearms without violating the

right of the accused against double jeopardy because predicate crimes have precisely been removed.

Senator Tolentino posed a situation wherein police security forces at a checkpoint in Mindanao flagged down a group and apprehended them for illegal possession of firearms and grenades supposedly to be used in furtherance of terror attacks. He said that those apprehended were charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives and, a month after, it was revealed by the Intelligence Unit that the detainees were the real mastermind of the terror attacks. Asked whether the accused would be charged again for terrorism without violating their right against double jeopardy, Senator Lacson replied that in the example cited, there were two different offenses: illegal possession of firearms and acts of terrorism based on a separate set of evidence that was discovered in the course of further investigation. Thus, he maintained that under the proposed measure, the accused could be charged for violations of the Anti-Terrorism Act. He pointed out that a terrorist act is different from illegally possessing firearms; thus, the case of illegal possession of firearms, which is another offense, can still proceed without violating the accused's right against double jeopardy. He explained that there is double jeopardy when a person is being charged twice for the same offense.

On that note, Senator Tolentino said that he was just apprehensive that, with the new measure amending some provisions of the Revised Penal Code, the rich jurisprudence handed by the Supreme Court in a long line of cases relative to complex crimes, compound crimes, double jeopardy, and even the constitutional limitations on how to proceed in a criminal case, would be set aside.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1083

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 31 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1240

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1240 (Committee Report No. 31), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOP- MENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREAT- ING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Villanueva stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Pimentel, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Drilon for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DRILON

Preliminarily, Senator Drilon placed on record that he has no objection to the enactment of the bill and that he merely wanted to clarify certain aspects of the measure in an effort to help achieve the purposes for which it was being enacted. In fact, he said there have been media reports that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has designated Iloilo, his home province, as a pilot area in its promotion of the bamboo industry.

Asked if the present framework and legal framework of the bamboo industry development in the country was by virtue of Executive Order No. 879, Senator Pimentel replied in the affirmative.

Asked to highlight the difference between the provisions of E.O. No. 879 and Senate Bill No. 1240, which provisions of the former were being amended or changed, Senator Pimentel cited Section 5 which set at 11 the membership of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC), from 12 members under EO 879.

Senator Drilon then asked if it was indeed necessary to have 11 members, all of whom are *ex officio*. He placed on record that he was in the Cabinet for nine years and because many of the councils were created during Martial Law, the councils were so large that decisions were delayed and normally, the *ex officio* members simply sent their undersecretaries or minor officials who were not authorized to decide. He then suggested that Senator Pimentel consider reducing the membership of the proposed council and granting the council the power to seek the assistance or to subpoena even other

members of the government whose presence would be needed on a particular issue.

Senator Pimentel obliged to review and come out with a lean and mean council.

Senate President Sotto agreed with Senator Drilon on the impracticability of having too many members in the council, citing the 17-member Dangerous Drugs Board.

Senator Drilon also cited the 25-member National Anti-Poverty Commission. He said that the PBIDC would have nothing to lose by having a more manageable council and including a provision which will authorize it to call on any official in order to assist in the discharge of its functions.

Asked if the Bamboo Industry Development Center was not provided in EO 879, Senator Pimentel explained that the Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center (BIRDC) would replace the secretariat that was created under the executive order but which was later abolished.

Senator Drilon observed that under the bill, the Center would have four divisions—research and development, trade promotion and education, networking and linkages, and internal administration. He suggested that the DBM be authorized to determine the number of divisions because it has the technical expertise to do so. Senator Pimentel agreed.

On whether the Executive Committee created under EO 879 was able to prepare the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Plan, Senator Pimentel replied that the Executive Committee produced the Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap that was published in 2016. He confirmed that the Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center would take the place of the Executive Committee presently existing under EO 879.

Senator Drilon asked if a new roadmap would be created and the present Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap would be set aside once the bill is passed into law. Senator Pimentel affirmed that the present roadmap would serve as the basic document which the Council would update, modernize and constantly review.

Asked why the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), not the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR), was considered to chair the council, Senator Pimentel explained that the bill primarily seeks to propagate the industry and improve the commercial utilization of bamboo. But Senator Drilon pointed out that with the DTI as chair, the main thrust would stray from the environmental concern which, he opined, should be the principal issue given the effects of bamboo plantation which is the prevention of soil erosion as well as a cheaper form of reforestation, among others.

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri recalled that when he was the chair of the committee in the previous Congress, the DENR claimed that the bamboo industry should be under its jurisdiction because bamboo can be used for agroforestry, while the Department of Agriculture maintained that the crop is agricultural in nature; on the other hand, he was told by the stakeholders that it has been the DTI that has actually been helping the bamboo sector and developing the industry. He said that the DTI is willing to support the industry while the stakeholders favor receiving assistance from the agency.

Senator Drilon maintained that the designation of chairmanship of the council must be related to the mandate of the department. He disclosed that Secretary Cimatu had already spoken to a number of people in Iloilo, encouraging them to go into bamboo plantation and had even designated thousands of hectares of land for bamboo plantation. He believed that the DENR is the more appropriate agency to lead the council for the purpose of propagating bamboo as a specie and as part of the country's ecological efforts, while the DTI could remain as a member to cover the commercial aspect.

Senator Zubiri pointed out that the objective is not only commercialization but also of planting bamboo considering its high-value byproducts which could be marketed by the DTI abroad. However, Senator Drilon stated that the first stage in reviving the bamboo industry would be to make public lands available for bamboo plantations. He said that the chairmanship could change once the initial aim has been accomplished, allowing the DTI to lead the council after some time.

Senator Pimentel stated that he would be amenable to providing a system allowing co-chairmanship, which Senator Drilon agreed, saying that the environmental concerns and commercial purpose would be simultaneously highlighted.

Regarding the incentives provided in Section 12 of the bill, Senator Drilon expressed concern that the Department of Finance (DOF) might pose objections since the provision would be inconsistent with the policy of rationalizing the grant of fiscal incentives. He feared that the bill might be vetoed if it is not endorsed by the DOF whose mandate is to raise revenue. Senator Pimentel said that he would endeavor to obtain the formal opinion of DOF on the incentives and resubmit the provision.

Senator Zubiri conveyed the information he received from the House of Representatives that the DOF had indicated that the bill would be vetoed if the income tax holiday provisions would be retained. As such, he said that the entire Section 12 of the House version of the bill had been deleted. He also said that the same message on rationalizing the grant of fiscal incentives had been relayed by Secretary Dominguez during the mini-LEDAC.

Senator Pimentel said that he would ask for the resumption of the interpellations and give a report once he receives the comment and inputs from the DOF.

To hasten the proceedings, Senator Zubiri said that the Body could approve the bill sans the provision since there would be a bicameral conference committee anyway.

Senator Drilon stated that he does not have any objection to the proposal of Senator Zubiri. He said that if in the period of amendments Section 12 is deleted and some items agreed upon would be corrected, such as the number of members and the chairmanship of the council, the Body could hasten the approval and could proceed to a bicameral conference.

Senator Pimentel stated that the Committee is open to delete the entire Section 12 during the period of amendments.

Senator Zubiri added that the Committee could invite the DOF during the bicameral conference.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino noted that one of the purposes of the measure is for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Thus, he believed that a representative from the Climate Change Commission could be a member of the PBIDC or the DENR could absorb the responsibility of promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Senator Pimentel stated that at the proper time, the Committee would come up with a magic formula that could satisfy the need to have a lean and mean council and, at the same time, include a person with a climate change adaptation viewpoint.

Senator Tolentino explained that bamboo is known for its high carbon dioxide adaptive capacity which could store up to 40% of the total amount of their biomass. He recalled that during his time as mayor of Tagaytay City, he endeavored to get some bamboo seedlings from Palawan which turned out to have originated from Indonesia and planted them at the back of the City Hall. He stated that the seedlings have grown, their trunks as big as Meralco posts, and the trees still stand to that day, although some employees have harvested portions of the trees and turned them into fences. He added that the lifespan of bamboo plants would probably reflect their ability to mitigate even the effects of climate change. He also surmised that bamboo could have absorbed the ashes from the Taal Volcano. In pursuing the objective of climate change mitigation and adaptation, he believed that a representative from the Climate Change Commission, the lead policy-making body of the government that is tasked to formulate measures relative to climate change issues, should be included in the Council.

Agreeing with Senator Tolentino, Senator Pimentel stated that the Committee was aware of the magical properties of bamboo, which was why it was being developed as an industry. He pointed out that as indicated in the bill, the members of the Council are tasked to promote the benefits of propagating the bamboo — the DENR for the propagation of the tree given its benefits to the environment, terrain, water supply and the absorption of carbon dioxide; the DOST for the scientific knowledge and to research new discoveries; and the DTI for its commercial application and products.

Asked by Senate President Sotto which office the Climate Change Commission falls under, Senator Zubiri replied that it is with the Office of the President.

Senator Pimentel stated that the Committee would have to find the formula to include the Climate Change Commission to give it a voice in the Council.

But Senate President Sotto reminded the Body of the case of the 17-member Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) which has yet to conduct a meeting.

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On another matter, Senator Tolentino revealed that there are 62 bamboo species, one of which is the *kawayang tinik*, a small but leafy bamboo. He then recalled that during the earlier discussions, Senator Drilon mentioned about the economic utilization in propagating bamboo. He then asked if the bill was designed to incentivize only large tracts of land for the bamboo's commercial use and whether private bamboo growers, similar to the bamboo growers in Talisay, Batangas, could also be incentivized.

Senator Pimentel stated that the Committee would fix the structure of the Council so that it could focus on bamboo matters such as its scientific uses, commercial uses, and propagation of the industry. He said that the plans to be made by the Council would be encapsulated in an industry road map which is the ultimate goal of the bill.

Senator Tolentino believed that the DILG's membership in the Council is as vital as it would incentivize the LGUs in encouraging small-scale farmers to grow bamboo similar to the example of India. He stated that the national government of India is at the forefront of the effort to help the small-scale bamboo farmers and shoulders 100% of the cost. He said that the model could be replicated in the Philippines through the LGUs. He supposed that while the government supports the scheme to have thousands of hectares of bamboo farms, it should not prevent itself from helping those with only a thousand square meters or even smaller backyard bamboo farms and allow them to put up a conglomerate or to group them into clusters similar to the agricultural system in Nueva Vizcaya and other provinces.

Senator Pimentel assured the Body that the small-scale or backyard farmers would not be forgotten as stipulated under the *Definition of Terms* where bamboo backyard farming is defined as planting and operating bamboo in the house backyard with the household members as workers. He pointed out that majority of bamboo processing enterprises belong to such category and that the Committee is aware of their existence.

Senator Tolentino surmised that the large sector of bamboo growers could also help the small backyard farmers plant bamboo species like *kayali*, *buhô*, *anos*, *bayog*, and *kawayang kiling*, among others. He then expressed his support for the measure and congratulated Senator Pimentel for being a bamboo expert.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon informed the Body that he had given away 500 bamboo food trays that were made by the nuns in Iloilo to show his appreciation and support for the industry.

At this point, Senator Pimentel stated that whenever a bamboo plantation is developed for environmental benefit and commercial purpose, the bamboo, when harvested, is cut a few poles clamped together so that the plantation would continue to provide climate change functions and benefits.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri informed the Body that Filipino designer Kenneth Cobonpue has made a car and a bike out of bamboo.

Senate President Sotto said that the Members are enjoying the bamboo tumbler given by Senator Cayetano, the reason why there has not been a plastic bottle in the session hall since then.

Senator Zubiri disclosed that over the weekend, he stayed in a hotel where the toothbrushes were made of bamboo.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1240

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, February 3, 2020.

It was 4:58 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate



Approved on February 3, 2020