



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Journal

SESSION NO. 51
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Sen. Franklin M. Drilon led the prayer, to wit:

Let us put ourselves in the loving presence of the Lord.

Almighty God, we stand before You today to humbly thank You for the countless ways You have blessed us. Our hearts are filled with adoration as we come to You in praise.

Father, let Your love cast out our fears especially during these trying times. You are our healer and redeemer. We trust that You will bring healing from all sickness and give courage to those in distress.

You are our refuge and our strength. We believe that with Your divine guidance, we will conquer every difficulty that comes our way.

Lord, be our guide in today's proceedings. May You shower us with Your vision for us to think and act right as a way of serving You.

We humbly seek to be good stewards of Your grace. Grant that we may become Your living instruments for the benefit and well-being of Your people.

In Jesus' Name, we pray.

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.
Cayetano, P. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Poe, G.
Drilon, F. M.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Gatchalian, W.	Sotto III, V. C.
Go, C. L. T.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, J.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, C. A.
Lacson, P. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

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

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Senators Angara, Marcos, Pimentel and Recto arrived after the roll call.

Senator Lapid 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 of the Journal of Session No. 50 (February 4, 2020) and considered it approved.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE TRANSFER OF COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the transfer of the committee referral of Senate Bill No. 1138 (An Act Strengthening Local Government Participation in Agriculture Development) to the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform as primary committee and to the Committee on Local Government.

He said that with the reconsideration, the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform would remain as the secondary committee.

CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Thereafter, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the creation of a subcommittee under the Committee on Local Government to be chaired by Senator Villar, to particularly hear Senate Bill No. 1138.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1320, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF BPA IN BABY FOOD PACKAGING AND CONTAINERS, AND OTHER CHILD CARE ARTICLES, PROVIDING FOR ITS REPLACEMENT WITH SAFER ALTERNATIVES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1321, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL DEFENSE ECONOMIC ZONE (SpeDEZ) INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT ARSENAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LOCATED IN CAMP GEN. ANTONIO LUNA, LAMAO, MUNICIPALITY OF LIMAY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SPECIAL DEFENSE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (SpeDEZA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1322, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6541, ENTITLED AN ACT TO ORDAIN AND INSTITUTE A NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS A MAJOR SUBJECT IN THE CURRICULUM OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, SANITARY ENGINEERING, ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING, AND ARCHITECTURE, AND ITS INCLUSION AS A TOPIC IN THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS FOR THESE PROFESSIONS

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

Senate Bill No. 1323, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LACSON

At this juncture, Senator Lacson gave an update on the progress of the Senate's effort to build its new home, envisioned to be a national landmark — an iconic, green, functional and secure Bagong Senado.

Senator Lacson reported that since the Senate embarked on the new Senate building project in November of 2017 through Proposed Resolution No. 293, authored by Senator Gatchalian, the Committee on Accounts has completed significant milestones, to wit: from the conduct of the conceptual design competition, the procurement phase through a design and package with the DPWH has been concluded, and the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), tree cutting and balling permit, locational clearance, CAAP clearance, fencing and excavation permits, and building permit have been secured. Thus, he said that there were no more pending bureaucratic requirements that may delay the work.

He said that the new building, consisting of four towers, 11 floors and three basement levels, will rise in the 18,230 square meters of land at the Navy Village, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. He recalled that on March 18, 2019, the groundbreaking ceremony, which marked the start of the construction of the building, was launched, and that to date, the excavation works have been completed and the building foundations have been prepared with reinforcing steel bars ready to receive its first pouring of concrete.

He then invited the members of the Body to join the first concrete pouring ceremony to be held on February 6, 2020, at 9 o'clock in the morning, a tradition of symbolic milestone in all engineering programs — private or public — to mark the beginning

of works. He said that the concrete to be poured would not just be for ceremonial display, as in many similar engineering works, but would start the actual massive pouring of concrete that would serve as a cornerstone and the very foundation of the new Senate building that would represent the continuing legacy of a great and independent institution.

He said that the commitment of the committee stands, and that Senate President Sotto will open the Third Regular Session of the Eighteenth Congress in its new home in Taguig City.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR CAYETANO**

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano spoke on liver cancer and viral hepatitis in commemoration of National Liver Cancer and Viral Hepatitis Awareness and Prevention Month, declared pursuant to Republic Act No. 10526 which she authored in 2013.

Following is the full text of Senator Cayetano's speech:

In June 2012, almost eight years ago, I sponsored the National Liver Cancer and Viral Hepatitis Awareness and Prevention Act, with the primary objective of spreading awareness on liver cancer and viral hepatitis. In that bill, we declared January as the awareness month, and, today, it is Republic Act No. 10526. This is a few days delayed because it is actually February 5, but it is my solemn and personal duty to help create and stir awareness on this very deadly virus.

Hepatitis B is a potentially deadly virus and the leading cause of liver disease. According to the World Health Organization, around 8.5 million Filipinos are living with chronic hepatitis B virus. So, for a visual, consider that similar to the number of OFWs we have. I am not equating with OFW, I am simply saying that in terms of the number of people who are living with chronic Hepatitis B, *ganoon karami iyon*.

The World Health Organization's 2019 data shows that one in 10 Filipinos have chronic Hepatitis B. Hepatitis is a silent killer, it has no symptoms but quietly damages the liver. In fact, what is sad here, it is known to hit you at the prime of your life, at the productive years of your life, usually in somebody's 40s when they are mothers and fathers of their families with children fully dependent on them. The WHO data shows

that Hepatitis B causes 60% of liver cancer ailments in the Philippines in 2019.

Many of you will recall that my father was a senator at that time and is at the prime of his life. He was 57 years old when the Hepatitis B virus that he had, mutated. And, at that time, there was no medication for that mutated virus. There was one in the US but by the time it literally arrived here via Fedex, his liver was very damaged and it was no longer of use to him. That was when he was told that he needed a liver transplant, and we did that in the United States. My youngest brother Lino, who is now the mayor of Taguig City, was my dad's surprise donor. My dad did not know that Lino was his donor. So we had that liver transplant in 2003. And for those who are not familiar with liver transplant, Lino lives with only a third of his liver because he gave two-thirds of his liver to my dad, and that is possible. And interestingly enough, four months after his liver transplant, Lino and I ran a duathlon and we were told that he was the first liver donor who was able to do such a physical feat. Sadly, although the procedure was very successful and if we look at the color of my dad there versus the picture before that, he was very healthy and he was recovering. But apparently, some of the cancer cells might have been microscopic size and probably were in other parts of his body. So, he was eventually diagnosed with stomach cancer, and that was the cause of his death.

Fast forward, I became a senator in 2004. And at that time, my dad had just passed away, and it was one of my passions and one of my personal convictions that I would also help spread information about this deadly virus. I found out that the budget for Hepatitis B vaccination was about to run out because at that time, it was currently sponsored by UNICEF. Without a budget coming from Congress, the millions of children that were now vaccinated by the funding of UNICEF would run out. Because of our initiatives, of course, along with, a lot of medical practitioners and advocates, we were able eventually to include this as part of the regular budget of the DOH.

Then, eventually, we were able to pass a law wherein we provided more details on the importance of the Hepatitis B vaccination that must be administered within 24 hours of birth, because the most common mode of transmission is mother to child. So, if a baby is vaccinated within 24 hours, he gets that immunity.

There are so much more that we can do to save lives against these diseases. Per UNICEF

2018 Report, the proportion of Filipino children aged 12 to 23 months who received basic vaccinations including Hepatitis B dropped from 77% in 2013 to 70% in 2017.

We will recall that — I am not sure what year — in the decade before this decade, we were already around 90%. In the previous deliberations on the Senate floor, including a very interesting one I had with the Minority Leader, we established the fact that our vaccination rates have gone down, and this includes Hepatitis and others. The percentage of children with no vaccination also rose from 4% in 2013 to 9% in 2017. That is also why we will see the rise in the case of polio.

I digress a bit, but this is about the importance of vaccinations.

There was a case reported in the papers around two weeks ago about a child who was immunized with the polio vaccine and yet got polio. What I wanted to emphasize, because it did not find the explanation of the DOH to be as clearly as it could have been, the herd immunity that is created when there is a high level of vaccination or a high percentage of vaccination does not work when there is a low level of vaccination. So, *itong bata kahit na pinabakunahan siya ng nanay niya, siguro iyong mga classmates niya at mga kapitbahay niya ay hindi nabakunahan. Siya ngayon, with poor health, kasi pag hindi maganda ang kalusugan natin, tayo ang pinaka-vulnerable, itong mga batang ito kahit nabakunahan ay wala nang herd immunity.* That is why vaccination for all is very, very important.

I will now stress that this is part of our commitments under our objectives to have sustainable development in our country including achieving the sustainable development goals.

Goal No. 3 is to ensure healthy lives and promote wellness for all ages. This includes ending the epidemics on AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combating hepatitis and water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases. It also includes reducing by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and the promotion of mental health and well-being.

There are so much more for us to do with increased awareness and the right information. Because just the other day also, I read that the WHO has issued a statement that we are also in an epidemic situation on the spread of wrong information, which is just as deadly as the spread

of the virus itself. That is why I emphasized increased awareness with the right information and implementation of our policies and laws with the help of everyone. I believe that we can beat viral Hepatitis and other communicable diseases, including the novel coronavirus.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Cayetano to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 3:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 25 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1211

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1211 (Committee Report No. 25), entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," BY EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS' POWERS OVER LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Zubiri stated that the parliamentary status was the period of individual amendments.

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino informed the Body that since the bill was a substitute measure, he would intro-

duce individual amendments culled from various discussions with the Members as well as suggestions from Senator Drilon during the period of interpellations.

TOLENTINO AMENDMENTS

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

1. On page 1, line 8, after the word "UNITS," insert a comma (,) and the phrase CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICIES;

At this juncture, Senator Drilon manifested that he has no objections to the introduction of amendments, with the understanding that even if the amendments are approved, the Members are allowed to submit their own amendments.

The Chair took note of Senator Drilon's manifestation.

2. On page 1, line 8, replace the words "SHALL ENDEAVOR" with the phrase ARE EMPOWERED TO.

At this juncture, Senator Recto inquired if the local government units mentioned in the bill would include the barangay.

Senator Tolentino stated that the original proposal was to cover only highly urbanized cities. However, he said that further studies made by the Committee showed that other independent component cities would also qualify. He explained that barangays would not qualify because of the budgetary requirement stated in Section 33 of the Local Government Code. He supposed that municipalities, if clustered together, could form as one entity and qualify because of financial viability.

On whether the barangays were excluded because they would not be financially capable, Senator Tolentino explained that the intention of the bill is to have a wider transportation system that would encompass a local territory.

Saying that it was improper to exclude the barangay based only on its financial capability, Senator Drilon proposed that the bill specify which local government units are empowered to undertake the

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project, noting that as presently worded, it allows a barangay to undertake such activity.

Asked by Senate President Sotto whether the measure would allow a monorail to be built from North Forbes to Forbes Park, Senator Tolentino stated that looking at the threshold requirement for a transport system in various jurisdictions, it would mean almost one million, thus, even if Forbes Park or San Lorenzo Village would qualify financially, it might not meet the required number of passengers for a mass transport system that is viable, efficient, and sustainable.

Asked by Senator Recto if local governments are prohibited from having a mass transport system of their own, Senator Tolentino stated that while LGUs are not prohibited, complying with the requirements of the NEDA-ICC and obtaining the approval of the NEDA board are too cumbersome that they could take years. He explained that the proposed measure would enable the LGUs to find an open window and unleash their creativity insofar as transport demands and systems are concerned.

Senator Recto noted that nothing in the bill enhances the process. Senator Tolentino said that it would be contained in the succeeding amendments.

Senator Recto clarified that he was not against the bill but that at the moment, no local government is prohibited from trying to endeavor a mass transit system and that it is just a matter of technical and financial capabilities and the cumbersome process that are needed to undertake, whether through PPP or going through the NEDA board, or securing foreign or domestic loans.

On another matter, Senator Recto noted that Senate Bill No. 1065, which he authored, was included in the committee report. He stated that while the bill was rightfully referred to the Committee on Local Government, it essentially talks about how the LGUs would spend the additional IRA that they would have by the year 2022 when the Supreme Court ruling on the *Mandanas* case would be implemented. He explained that the Supreme Court ruling defined the sharing of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) at 60:40 sharing of the IRA which would include the revenue collected by the Bureau of Customs. He said that at the moment, the value of the IRA is at P150 billion, and by 2022, it would be about P250 billion, or a 30% increase in IRA for all

LGUs nationwide. In this regard, he said that the Department of Finance has recommended that Congress pass a law that would reduce the share of the LGUs or a law on how the LGUs would spend their IRA share.

Taking cue from the DOF recommendation, Senator Recto informed the Body that he filed two bills which offered two options: 1) to use the P250 billion additional IRA by 2022 for capital investment, such as the Build, Build, Build infrastructure projects like roads, highways, bridges, transport system; or 2) to fund the Magna Carta for Barangays and/or a portion could be used also for the salary adjustment of employees of the local government units based on the SSL V, since they were not included in the present law.

Senator Recto pointed out that Senate Bill No. 1065 is totally different from the Senate Bill Nos. 1012 and 1211. Thus, he maintained that Senate Bill No. 1065 should not have been consolidated in Committee Report No. 25 because doing so would mean that it would never be considered again by the Committee.

Senator Tolentino explained that only the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1065 that are related to transportation were lifted and included in the committee report. He assured Senator Recto that the Committee, taking into consideration the IRA implications of the *Mandanas* ruling, would hear and consider Senate Bill No. 1065.

Senator Tolentino explained that the reason the Committee made reference to Senate Bill No. 1065 was to take into consideration the financial capacity of the LGUs, bearing in mind the current requirements such as the Certificate of Net Debt Service Ceiling which would increase if the *Mandanas* ruling would be applied by 2022. Considering that Senate Bill No. 1211 has not included the financial, economic and budgetary implications of the *Mandanas* ruling, he asked Senator Recto's permission to lift a portion of the latter's bill relative to the transport system.

Senator Tolentino agreed on the need to plan and anticipate the application of the *Mandanas* ruling, specifically during the budget hearing of 2021 and 2022, because the implication of the ruling would not only affect the transport industry or the LGUs but also the entire bureaucratic spectrum. He again

acknowledged the importance of Senate Bill No. 1065 and he assured Senator Recto that it would be heard separately.

Senator Recto said that he had already explained the purpose of his bill, Senate Bill No. 1065, where listed under Section 5 (*Infrastructure Projects*) thereof were projects for Local Public Buildings and Other Infrastructure; Local Roads and Bridges; Local Drainage, Flood Mitigation and Flood Control Systems; Local Transport Infrastructure; Local Agricultural and Irrigation Facilities; Local Educational Infrastructure; Local Health Infrastructure; Local Social Welfare Infrastructure; Local Housing and Resettlement Projects; Local Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure; Local Solid Waste Management Infrastructure; Local Jail and Prison Infrastructure; Local Public Enterprise Infrastructure; Local Electrification Infrastructure; and Other infrastructure projects to be identified by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

He said that if one of the 15 projects under Section 5 of his bill such as Local Transport Infrastructure, would be considered in Committee Report No. 25, he would interpose no objection as long as he is assured by Senator Tolentino that he would hear the other substantive portions of his bill at the appropriate time.

Senator Tolentino gave the assurance that Senate Bill No. 1065 would be heard in due time by the Committee on Local Government.

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the amendment to replace the words "shall endeavor" with ARE EMPOWERED was approved by the Body.

On page 2, line 13, after the word "CONDUCTED," Senator Tolentino proposed the insertion of a paragraph, to read as follows:

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THIS PROVISION SHALL NOT BE SUBJECTED TO REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY RELEVANT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FRANCHISE AND CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE REQUIREMENTS BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD AND PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOP-

MENT AUTHORITY: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY SAFETY STANDARDS UNDER PERTINENT LAWS AND PROTOCOLS AND THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 324 OF THIS CODE SHALL BE COMPLIED WITH.

Senator Drilon noted that the proposed amendment was totally different and a departure from the essence of the committee report. He said that it was not, in fact, found in the committee report, and given its very wide-ranging policy implications, it must have to be examined closely. Further, he doubted if the proposal was even presented during the committee hearings which could have enabled the resource persons, particularly the policymakers of the Executive branch, to express their views. As such, he moved that the Body defer action on the proposed amendment in order to allow the senators to examine it closely in a subsequent session.

At this juncture, Senator Lacson asked how the proposed amendment removing all the regulations and requirements being required by the national agencies could be in sync "with the existing and proposed national intermodal transportation system." He then suggested that the NEDA study the proposal.

Senator Tolentino replied that his first proposed amendment, which was to include the phrase "CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICIES," already encompasses the current policies of the DOTr, NEDA and other policymaking bodies. He said that the National Transport Policy (NTP) was formulated for, among others, the improvement of the modal interchange areas; promotion of intermodality in urban transit with due consideration to appropriate technology within the hierarchy of modes; implementation of traffic engineering solutions such as transports system, the ITS, in the operation of transport systems; and collaboration of LGUs and the academe in enhancing institutional capacity. He said that the proposed amendment would not totally do away with existing interconnectivity but would even enhance the NTP.

As regards the concern of Senator Drilon that the proposal was totally different from the essence of the committee report, Senator Tolentino recalled that during their previous parliamentary exchange, Senator Drilon asked him on the need for a CPC or a franchise, and the answer was that it would not

entail an additional franchise. For instance, he said that a monorail in Cebu would not need a franchise from the LTFRB anymore because the proposed measure would provide itself the franchise. He said that the same was true with the NEDA requirement when he was asked by Senator Drilon if he should include the need for prior approval of the agency in the amendment. He explained that he was not inserting an amendment that was not previously discussed and that even the requirement for a franchise was lengthily examined. He said that he was just clarifying the provisions relative to lines 8 to 13 on page 2 of the bill which states in part that "... INTERCONNECTIVITY AND INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING AND PROPOSED NATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL BE CONSIDERED AND CONSULTATIONS WITH RELEVANT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING AGENCIES SHALL BE CONDUCTED."

Senator Tolentino said that project proposals of the LGUs would still be heard by the Regional Development Councils, along with all the relevant government agencies. He reiterated the assurance that he was not doing away with the national transportation policies or with interconnectivity but was, in fact, strengthening and highlighting it.

Senator Drilon clarified that the question he raised during the period of interpellations on the proposed measure was whether or not permits from the national agencies would be dispensed with, but he never suggested that those requirements should be dispensed with. Apparently, he noted, Senator Tolentino, through the proposed amendment, decided that the concurrence of the national agencies would not be necessary, prompting him and Senator Lacson to raise the issue of whether or not it was a correct policy.

Senate President Sotto believed that the motion of Senator Drilon to defer action, which has a higher precedence over the original motion which was to approve the proposed amendment, would give the Members a chance to review the particular amendment only.

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, the consideration of the proposed amendment was deferred.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Tolentino, the session was suspended.

It was 3:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:55 p.m., the session was resumed.

TOLENTINO AMENDMENT

On page 2, as proposed by Senator Tolentino, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the phrase CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 33 OF THIS CODE and a comma (,), before the word "LOCAL" on line 14.

Asked by Senator Recto if the amendment referred to Section 33 of the Local Government Code, Senator Tolentino replied in the affirmative, saying that the amendment reinforces Section 33 of the Local Government Code, entitled "Cooperative Undertakings Among Local Government Units," highlighted by Article 10, Section 13 of the Philippine Constitution, which encourages LGUs to work together to achieve mutually-beneficial results.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR RECTO

Senator Recto asked if Senate Bill No. 1065 was only partially considered in Senate Bill No. 1211. Senate President Sotto replied in the affirmative, adding that Senate Bill No. 1211 did not preempt the separate consideration of Senate Bill No. 1065.

CLEAN COPY

Senator Zubiri requested the Secretariat to prepare a clean copy of the bill, incorporating therein the approved amendments.

Senate President Sotto requested Senator Tolentino to submit to the Members of the Body a copy of his proposed amendment that was earlier suspended for consideration.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1211

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being

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no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 27
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1224**

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1224 (Committee Report No. 27), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPREHENSIVE VALUES EDUCATION IN THE K TO 12 CURRICULUM AS A CORE SUBJECT INCLUDING GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Gatchalian, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Zubiri for his interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION
OF SENATOR ZUBIRI**

Asked by Senator Zubiri how the measure would be implemented once passed and if the Department of Education (DepEd) was committed to launch it for the calendar year 2020 to 2021, Senator Gatchalian replied that although the DepEd did not explicitly commit, *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao* or *ESP* was already being taught at present but in a very limited time: 30 minutes per day in Grades 1 to 3; 20 minutes per day in Grades 4 to 6; and one hour per day, twice a week in Grades 7 to 12. Hence, he said that the bill calls for the expansion of the program to specifically include Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) which was modelled after *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao* so that teachers would be able to teach the subject in detail.

He related that during his visit to the DepEd Valenzuela earlier that day, he saw first-hand how *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao* was being taught and confirmed from the teachers themselves that 20 minutes or 30 minutes allotted time is not enough to teach the subject.

Senator Zubiri stated that he and most Members would confirm that the GMRC was taught in grade school and high school in both public and private schools during their time. Senate President Sotto, for his part, said that it was a graded subject.

Senator Zubiri believed that the reason why respect for the elderly such as the honoring gesture *pagmamano* and saying polite expressions like *opo*, and even other traits such as cleanliness have been lost was that they were no longer taught as a subject in schools. Relative thereto, he believed that it was high time to return it back to the curriculum to be at par with neighboring countries like Japan and Singapore which are both known for their discipline and cleanliness because precisely these values are part of their school curriculum. He claimed that there would be no harm if they brought back the subject as part of the curriculum and allot more time for it to be taught instead of just once or twice a week for 30 minutes.

Relative thereto, Senate President Sotto surmised that it would be alright if the subject would be taught 45 minutes to one hour twice a week.

Senator Gatchalian pointed out that since the subject is presently being taught at earlier hours of the day such as around 6:00 or 7:00 in the morning, it is not given emphasis as a lot of students and even teachers come late. Thus, he believed that values education and GMRC should be made a core subject, treated the same way Mathematics, Science and other subjects are treated.

Asked by Senator Zubiri if the measure would make it a graded subject, Senator Gatchalian replied that it would be called a core subject.

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva said that as one of the principal authors of the measure, he emphasized the importance of integrating a comprehensive values education in the curriculum; it would not be just one subject but would also be integrated in Mathematics, Science and other courses where children would not only be taught to report the right data they gathered from an experiment but would also be taught the importance of honestly reporting the right data.

Senator Gatchalian said that since everything is taught theoretically at present, students would just come in, listen, go out and forget everything they learned. He believed that the bill, with character-

building activities as its very important feature, would ingrain in the minds of the students and in their character the things they are taught through role playing, practical approach, experiential methodologies and experiential approach.

Asked by Senate President Sotto if he had the subject in his elementary days, Senator Zubiri replied that the DepEd stopped teaching it in the 1980s.

Senator Gatchalian stated that the original concept of good manners and right conduct was instituted in 1939 by President Manuel Quezon; throughout the years, it had changed and evolved. For instance, he said that it was in 2010, the same year that K-12 Program was first implemented, when the GMRC was converted into ESP and that when the K-12 Program became fully implemented, the time allotted to it was reduced to 30 minutes or 20 minutes.

Senator Zubiri agreed with Senator Gatchalian, recalling that he was only taught during his time sewing, laundry washing, cooking, and house cleaning, among others, under *Araling Panlipunan* and Home-room and not necessarily good manners and right conduct. He also agreed that the teachers only touch on the subject really quick in the morning and that the subject is not given importance as it is not graded. He believed that making it a core subject would allow the students to immerse in their communities where they can actually help the elderly. Relative thereto, he recalled that one of the requirements of his school during his younger years was to assist an elderly crossing the streets. He added that the task to assist the elderly cross the street, as well as cleaning the surroundings, was actually graded.

Given that the subject was no longer a priority, Senator Zubiri lamented that in the last New Year celebration, the 26 tons of garbage collected in Luneta was a sad indication of how Filipinos have deteriorated as a people.

Senator Gatchalian narrated that one anecdote he had heard was of non-productive teachers or those with not very good record being assigned to teach ESP since it was a minor and irrelevant subject; thus, the Committee added some salient features to strengthen the requirement to teach Values Education and GMRC, among which is to give preference to teachers who have concentrated in values education which is actually a course; and to involve the parents in inculcating good manners and values formation in the minds of the children through a whole-school approach.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no further interpellation, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1224

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 4:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADDITIONAL 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 4 February 2020, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 5829, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VALUES EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM BY INCORPORATING "GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT" AS A SUBJECT IN KINDERGARTEN UP TO THE GRADE 3 LEVEL

To the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 5422, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE "NATIONAL COOPERA-

TIVE MONTH" IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

To the Committee on Cooperatives

House Bill No. 5869, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004"

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

House Bill No. 2674, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CAMARINES NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

and House Bill No. 5888, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE THIRD DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF M'LANG, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, AND APPROPRIATING FUDNS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

BILL ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1324, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS

THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Cooperatives

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AND INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECTS OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEAS (2019-nCoV ARD) INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ON THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM SECTOR, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING A TOURISM MITIGATION AND RESPONSE PLAN ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF HEALTH EMERGENCIES, CALAMITIES AND CATASTROPHIES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Tourism; and Health and Demography

MOTION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri informed the Body that only a portion of Senator Recto's bill, Senate Bill No. 1065 or the "Local Build, Build, Build Program Act," was considered under Committee Report No. 25.

With the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, Senate Bill No. 1065 was returned to its original committee referral for further public hearings and separate consideration, to wit: Committees on Local Government; Public Works; Ways and Means; and Finance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Dr. Ariel Guarco, cooperative leader who undertook the cooperative movement development

process in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and president-elect of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) General Assembly since 2017 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

- Balasubramanian "Balu" G. Iyer, ICA Regional Director;
- Orlando R. Ravanera, chairperson of Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) with board member Myrla B. Paradillo; and
- Cooperative leaders from the Philippine Cooperative Center, National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO Network), and Federation of Peoples' Sustainable Development Cooperative (FPSDC).

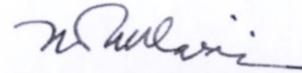
Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

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 10, 2020.

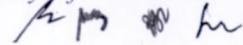
It was 5:03 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate



Approved on February 10, 2020