



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 5**  
Tuesday, August 2, 2022

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

Prepared by the  
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Senate of the Philippines

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**SESSION NO. 5**  
Tuesday, August 2, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:01 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Ronald “Bato” M. Dela Rosa led the prayer, to wit:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty Father, we come before You today, stripped of the prestige of our position and the pretense of our humanity. Instead, we stand, fully aware that we are Your creation, beloved and formed, for the sole purpose of establishing Your presence and love on this Earth.

You are the God who moves us to act in the name of truth and goodness. The God who challenges us to move beyond our comfort zones, to choose to do what is right, no matter how unsettling or inconvenient. The same God who asks in Isaiah 6:8—“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

In Your presence, and in the presence of those who are most in need, this Senate declares: Here we are, Father. Send us forth.

Send us, to where many would not dare go. In the midst of earthquakes, typhoons, and other calamities, we are ever ready to help.

Send us, to always represent those who are lost, least, and last. In the face of hardship and poverty, we shall respond with kindness and generosity.

Send us, to formulate, deliberate, and pass policies that will restore justice and peace to society, the kind that the world cannot give, the kind that only You can provide.

We place our full confidence in You, as we declare in Psalm 91, that “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. You are my refuge and my fortress; My God, in whom I trust.”

We also pray for our Majority Leader, a true friend in the Senate, Sen. Joel Villanueva, who celebrates his birthday today. May he always abound in Your wisdom and grace as he fulfills his duties being both leader and servant.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

## ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Renato N. Bantug Jr., called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Marcos, I. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Padilla, R. C.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Poe, G.
Escudero, F. J. G.*	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Estrada J. E.	Tulfo, R. T.
Gatchalian, W.	Villanueva, J.
Go, C. L. T.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, M. A.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 21 senators physically present and one senator virtually present, or a total of 22, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Cayetano (A) arrived after the roll call.

\*Senator Escudero attended the session online by reason of his exposure to COVID-19.

Senator Tolentino was on official business in New York City to enable him to complete his International Trade Law Program at Columbia Law School from July 27, 2022 to August 10, 2022, as indicated in the Senator's letter dated July 25, 2022.

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

On behalf of the Body, Senate President Zubiri greeted Senator Villanueva who was celebrating his birthday.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (P), the session was suspended to allow the senators to greet Senator Villanueva.

*It was 3:05 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

## MOTION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested the Body's unanimous agreement from the previous day's caucus to allow the remote or electronic participation, pursuant to Section 41(b), Rule XIV of the *Rules of the Senate*, of a senator who had tested positive for COVID-19 or is considered an asymptomatic close contact.

Thereafter, he moved to recognize the remote participation of Senator Escudero via video conference.

Senate President Zubiri reminded the Body to still observe proper dress code during remote participation by wearing polo barong or jacket.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Mayor Valentino "Ben" R. Patron of San Jose Batangas;
- Ms. Samira Ali Gutoc of Ako Bakwit, Inc.;
- Mayor Rodessa Delante-Revita of Caibiran, Biliran;
- Mayor Joseph C. Caingcoy of Maripipi, Biliran, Southern Leyte;
- Mayor Bernie G. Tacoy of Matagob, Leyte;
- Dr. Catherine Roween C. Almaden, Northern Bukidnon State College president;
- Dr. Joy C. Capistrano, Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology president;
- Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, Sulu State College president;
- Dr. Haipa A. Salain, Basilan State College president;
- Dr. Mary Jocelyn V. Battung, J.H. Cerilles State College president;
- Dr. Jesus Antonio G. Derije, Central Mindanao University president;
- Vice Mayor Almedzar A. Hajiri of Lugus Sulu;
- Prof. Freddie F. Concepcion of Mindanao State University; and
- Sabit Alih.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva expressed gratitude to God's unspeakable love and abundant blessings because one of the happy bills which was approved in the Eighteenth Congress is now a law. He said that Republic Act No. 11916 or "An Act Increasing the Social Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens," would double the monthly social pension of indigent senior citizens from P500 to P1,000.

Saying that he considers the passage of the law as his best birthday gift, he noted that it is also the current administration's best gift to the four million indigent senior citizens aged 90 and above who have nothing to expect besides their monthly pension.

He recalled that the measure was memorable to him because some senators from the previous Congress caught COVID-19 while deliberating it. Consequently, he acknowledged Senators Hontiveros, Marcos, and Binay for attending the public hearings as well as the authors of the measure led by former Senate President Sotto, Senators Poe, Revilla, Angara, Binay, Hontiveros, and Senate President Zubiri.

To the adage that everyone would grow old one day, Senator Villanueva said that with another year added to his life, all the more that he realizes the need to care for and support the aging population, particularly the senior citizens.

### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

Pursuant to the passage of the Social Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens Law, Senator Poe delivered her statement as follows:

*Isang dekada na mula noong maipasa natin ang Republic Act No. 9994 or ang "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," at isang dekada na ring pinagkakasya ng mga senior citizens ang P500 buwanang pensyon bagamat ang presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihan ay nagtaasan na.*

But with the passage of Republic Act No. 11916, the measure seeking to increase the social pension of indigent senior citizens to not less than P1,000, we are now affording our *lolos* and *lolas* the opportunity to receive better health and life care that they truly deserve.

Aside from a higher pension, an important aspect of this law is its adaptive character which allows for an adjustment of the social pension, if necessary, every two years, subject to review and consultation, and taking into account the prevailing Consumer Price Index.

As principal author of the measure, I thank my colleagues for supporting this important and long overdue legislation, and for the hard work of our Majority Leader in sponsoring and defending this bill. *Akala namin hindi ito makakalusot kaya talagang birthday gift ito sa kanya at sa ating mga nakatatanda.* But this would not have been possible, if not for the steadfast commitment and able leadership of Senator Villanueva during his chairmanship of the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development last Congress. I suppose this will be one meaningful birthday celebration for our dear Majority.

We likewise extend our gratitude to Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. for recognizing and acting on the needs of our senior citizens. *Lahat po tayo, tatanda. Ito ay kabayaran din sa pag-aalaga at pag-aaruga na ibinigay sa atin ng ating mga magulang, lolo, at lola.* Any investment we make on our elderly today will benefit us in the future.

### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

As Senator Cayetano (P) congratulated the Body for the passage of Republic Act No. 11916, she remarked that so much of the work done in the Senate is truly a long journey—a step-by-step process. Stating that the social pension program was her bill which initially granted P500 some ten years ago, she pondered why it seemed so difficult for government agencies and the DBM to spend money directly on people. She placed on *Record* that she started with baby steps; that is, granting P500 monthly pension which may not be a lot but the senior citizens were happy about. She expressed appreciation that from the said amount, some Members of the Chamber worked to further adjust it to P1,000. She stressed the importance of starting with small steps to improve laws in order to meet the goals the government wants to achieve for the country.

As an aside, Senate President Zubiri placed on *Record* that the approved measure was included in the last batch of bills that were sent to Malacañang, but since the focus during the last few days were the five measures that were vetoed by the President, the

Body failed to immediately recognize other measures which were not vetoed. It being the case, he said that during their meeting earlier that day, he instructed the Secretariat to prepare the list of bills that were either approved or have lapsed into law, and submit the same to the media in order to shift the focus from the five vetoed bills to the measures that became law.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

Senator Villanueva expressed gratitude for the passage of Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 authored by Senator Cayetano (P), and Republic Act No. 11916 which he believed is a timely gift to the country's indigent senior citizens, considering the increase of consumer prices to around 38% from 2010 to 2021, based on the Consumer Price Index.

He likewise thanked former Senator De Lima for giving him the opportunity to partake and lead the subcommittee which the measure was referred to, the reason why it was heard and sponsored.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS**

Senator Hontiveros thanked Senator Villanueva for acknowledging former Senator De Lima, and thereafter stated for the *Record* that she and Senator Pimentel already prepared a resolution to call on the Secretary of Justice to cause the withdrawal of charges against former Sen. Leila De Lima and effect her liberty. As she disclosed that another senator also expressed support and commitment to sign the resolution as coauthor, she invited other Members of the Chamber to consider signing the resolution for their former colleague.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR REVILLA**

In congratulating Senator Villanueva for the passage of Republic Act No. 11916—a law that is greatly needed by the country's indigent senior citizens, Senator Revilla also cited the recent passage of Republic Act No. 11909 which makes the validity of birth certificate, marriage certificate, and death certificate permanent. He noted that the said measure would relieve Filipinos the burden of constantly requesting copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates for any kind of transaction. Senator Villanueva lauded Senator Revilla's diligence in pushing for the passage of the bill, recalling how the latter worked very hard in the committee hearings.

At this point, Senate President Zubiri enumerated the 11 Senate bills passed by the Eighteenth Congress which lapsed into law, to wit: Republic Act No. 11683 or the "Conversion of a Municipality into a Component City" by Senator Lacson; Republic Act No. 11697 or the "Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act," and Republic Act No. 11698 or the "Vintage Vehicle Regulation Act" by Senators Recto, Gatchalian and himself, along with other Members of the Chamber; Republic Act No. 11707 or the "Egg Basket Act" by Senator Villar; Republic Act No. 11840 or the "Amendments to the PDIC Charter" by Senators Angara and Poe; Republic Act No. 11861 or the "Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2020"; Republic Act No. 11897 or the "National Baptist Day Act"; Republic Act No. 11898 or the "Extended Producer Responsibility Act" by Senator Villar; Republic Act No. 11899 or the "Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) Act" by Senator Gatchalian; and Republic Act No. 11901 or the Agriculture, Fisheries, and "Rural Development Financing Enhancement Act," also by Senator Villar.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

Senator Pimentel noticed that Republic Act No. 11904 on the promotion of creative industries which was sponsored by him and Senator Marcos was not mentioned. Senate President Zubiri replied that the law was included in a separate list under House bills.

Senator Pimentel stressed that he and Senator Marcos worked hard on the measure, reiterating what he had said during his sponsorship speech that it is about time for the government to place its bets on the creative industry to bring the country more economic progress, preserve its culture, and make the talent and creativity of Filipinos known to the rest of the world.

Lastly, he thanked Senate President Zubiri and other Members of the Body for supporting his bill, and President Marcos for allowing his measure to finally become a law.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

Senator Cayetano (P) remarked that she was the first to urge Senator Pimentel along with Rep. Christopher De Venecia, to pass the Creative Industries Bill. She said that Senator Pimentel at the time was

chairperson of the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship.

To her next point, she lauded Senate President Zubiri for not including the Vape Law in the list of the “happy bills” that lapsed into law as it was really not a happy bill. She said that she takes Senate President Zubiri’s gesture as a sign of support, considering that there is no way the Vape Law could be considered a happy bill unless the intention for its passage was to confuse the public about the deregulation provided in the bill. Senate President Zubiri admitted that he purposely omitted the Vape Law in the enumeration so as not to offend Senator Cayetano (P) and the rest of senators who are against vape.

At this juncture, Senate President Zubiri also cited the passage of Republic Act No. 11845 which seeks to rename Cagayan de Oro Convention Center as Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. International Convention Center to honor and give credit to Senator Pimentel’s father—a former Senate President, Minority Leader, leader of the Senate’s Mindanao bloc, and the one who conceptualized the convention center project.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DELA ROSA**

Senator Dela Rosa stated that another happy bill is Republic Act No. 11917, or the Private Security Services Industry Act, which he and Senator Drilon worked hard on.

Senate President Zubiri congratulated Senator Dela Rosa for the passage of his measure.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA**

At this juncture, Senator Legarda placed on *Record* that she was the principal author of Republic Act No. 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” which corrects the flaw of the previous Senior Citizens Act that grants an eight percent (8%) discount on the value of the item or service purchased by senior citizens. She said that the said law would give indigent seniors and non-pensioners free medical insurance and disability assistance.

She thanked the Members of the Chamber for further amending the law and for acting on the “Creative Industries Act.” As member of the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bloc (ACCIB) of the House of Representatives from 2019 up to June 30, 2022, she said that she and the ACCIB members are grateful to Senator Pimentel for shepherding the

passage of the measure even though it was only during the pandemic when they realized that those who receive income from arts, culture, and other creative industries, including microenterprises and job orders, need all the help that the government could give. She said that the passage of the measure is just one step for the government to help millions of creative people and their families to find resources that could help them.

Senator Legarda said that when she was a representative, she discovered that the lone district of the Province of Antique had backlogs from the distribution of senior citizens’ pensions, the reason why she had to coordinate with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for an updated distribution of pension. She disclosed that according to Senator Villanueva, the funds in the database would be transferred from DSWD to the newly created National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC). Thereupon, she hoped that the DSWD would update and fix not only the files but the actual pensions up to 2022, and ensure that the senior citizens would not wait too long for their anticipated P1,000 pension due to the transfer of jurisdiction of payment. She hoped that an appropriate Senate committee would request for an updated delivery of social pensions of all senior citizens in all provinces nationwide.

Senate President Zubiri said that Senator Legarda’s request could be converted into a resolution filed with the Committee on Rules for immediate action.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the *Journal* of Session No. 4 (August 1, 2022) and considered it approved.

#### **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. 201, entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7941, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT**

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Senate Bill No. 202, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002" AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 203, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ANTI-DRUG ABUSE COUNCILS IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Senate Bill No. 204, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REVITALIZATION AND CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 205, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT

NO. 10912, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016"

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Senate Bill No. 206, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO FARMERS, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE "THE FILIPINO FARMERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 207, 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), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Senate Bill No. 208, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE ACT OF WAGE THEFT BY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 87 & 116



OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 209, entitled

AN ACT MODIFYING THE PRESCRIP-  
TIVE PERIOD OF MONEY CLAIMS  
ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYER-  
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AMEND-  
ING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE  
306 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE  
NUMBER 442, AS AMENDED,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 210, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING POOR JOB  
APPLICANTS A 20% DISCOUNT IN  
THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND  
CHARGE FOR CERTAIN CERTIFI-  
CATES AND CLEARANCES ISSUED  
BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 211, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 9262, OR THE ANTI-VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR  
CHILDREN ACT OF 2004, EXPAND-  
ING THE SCOPE OF THE PROTEC-  
TION TO ALL FORMS OF DOMES-  
TIC VIOLENCE REGARDLESS OF  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PROVID-  
ING PROTECTIVE MEASURES,  
PRESCRIBING THE SAME PENAL-

TIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

**To the Committees on Women, Children,  
Family Relations and Gender Equality; and  
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 212, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING THE FUNDA-  
MENTAL EQUALITY OF MEN AND  
WOMEN ON LAWS RELATING TO  
CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY,  
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE  
ARTICLE 333 AND REPEALING  
ARTICLE 334 OF ACT 3815, OTHER-  
WISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED  
PENAL CODE, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 213, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVI-  
SIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 209  
AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO  
DEFINE AND INTRODUCE DIVORCE  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 214, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
MODERNIZATION OF THE JUDI-  
CIAL DEPARTMENT, APPROPRIAT-  
ING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 215, entitled

AN ACT REDEFINING THE CRIME OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT COMMITTED BY A SYNDICATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 38 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES," AS AMENDED AND SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS ACT, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 216, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 217, entitled

AN ACT REMOVING THE PUBLIC OFFERING REQUIREMENT OF GENERATION COMPANIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43(T) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

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

Senate Bill No. 218, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BICYCLE RIGHTS, CREATION OF LOCAL BIKEWAYS OFFICE (LBO), ESTAB-

LISHING INFRASTRUCTURE IN RELATION THERETO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (M.)

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

#### REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Senate President Zubiri noted that the bills concerning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) which were introduced by Senator Tulfo have been temporarily referred to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, but that they would be referred to the Committee on Migrant Workers once the said committee is created.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:42 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva informed the Body that the reading of the Reference of Business and Additional Reference of Business would be suspended to a later hour. He likewise reminded the Members to submit the list of committee members so they could be designated later.

With the permission of the Body, Senate President Zubiri then recognized Senator Cayetano (P) to deliver her privilege speech.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Rising on a matter of personal and collective privilege, Senator Cayetano (P) recognized the month of August as "World Breastfeeding Month."

*The full text of Senator Cayetano's (P) speech follows:*

For almost 20 years, I have delivered a breastfeeding speech during August. It is personal to me as a breastfeeding mom and it is a policy issue I have been advocating for years, but much has changed over the years. We passed laws that promoted breastfeeding and raised awareness. Social media has also helped the younger generation of mothers and fathers proceed with breastfeeding and allow it to be more acceptable in the sense that many mothers would tend to be embarrassed breastfeeding outside the confines of their homes. Nonetheless, I have also noticed that there is a younger generation of fathers in the Senate, including the Senate President, who are role models for being supportive fathers and husbands—I would like to commend every single one of you.

There is a serious reason for that. May I just say that the gentleman sitting beside me, no other than Senator Dela Rosa, is always the first to raise his hand whenever I ask for volunteers on “who brings their children to the doctor?” It is Senator Dela Rosa who is a supportive breastfeeding father.

When I was a new senator—I was in my 30s—a lot of gentlemen in the Senate laughed when I talked about breastfeeding. It is not a laughing matter but I had experienced that and I was offended. But I was too young to speak up in a way to show that I was offended, but it does not mean that I was not. So, I proceeded with my job. And I am just so happy that I now work with either younger or older gentlemen in the Senate.

I would like to point out that the father of the Minority Leader was my seatmate at one point. He was very supportive because he always had a way of seeing my discomfort in times like that. Later on, I will proceed with the history because I think it is very important that we remember where we came from and where we are now because we have achieved a lot.

Why does breastfeeding need to be discussed on the Senate floor? Is it a subject of legislation? Yes, it is. And I will get to that in a while. But considering that it is the best way to nourish an infant and it is their natural immunization, more so that it should be discussed because there are policy issues involved.

I would like to share my personal breastfeeding journey and I hope that through my own experience, I can illustrate the challenges that a mother goes through just to breastfeed her baby, and which should be the most natural thing in the world.

When I was pregnant, I decided that I should buy my own books because I did not

grow up learning about it in school. Yes, we had Science and Health Education but no one talked about the benefits of breastfeeding. Thankfully, I saw my mom breastfeed my brothers but other than knowing that for a fact and having a general idea that it was good for infants, I did not know anything else so I bought plenty of books.

Interestingly, the doctors did not tell me to breastfeed. My obstetrician actually said to me that it is up to me—*puwedeng yes, puwedeng no*. She was very nice, very senior but she did not in any way tell me that there are so many benefits to it; that it may be difficult but it would be good if I breastfeed. *Walang ganoon*. My pediatrician *naman* was very supportive.

I gave birth and I breastfed on Day 1. And I breastfed throughout my entire 60-day maternity leave.

As a runner, I had no guidance. I did not know how I could continue running while breastfeeding an infant and *wala pang cellphone noon*. So, what I would do is I would breastfeed and then run for only 30 minutes because my baby might get hungry while I am still out running and my mom would go crazy because we did not have infant formula in the house.

I specifically did not purchase infant formula with the intention of sticking to my plan to breastfeed. So, I did things on my own. *Marami roon ay kapa-kapa lamang*.

Meanwhile, I lived in Taguig with my brother Alan. It was a two-bedroom house and my mom pretty much moved into Alan’s room and was his roommate during the entire time of my maternity leave, to help me take care of my baby because I was fully breastfeeding. So, *habang nag-aaral si Alan, ang mommy ko ay pinatutulong iyong baby ko at ibibigay sa akin kapag umiyak na dahil ako naman ang magpapakain*.

After 60 days, I went back to work. And I was so blessed to work for a law office—Castillo Laman Tan & Pantaleon Law Offices, where they were very supportive considering that I was the first associate, and probably the first employee to make a career out of breastfeeding while working.

How did that work? Well, I took phone calls on speaker phone while manually using a manual pump—*wala pa akong electric pump* at that time so I locked my door. I was blessed enough to have my own room; made sure that the curtains were closed so that no one could see me, and alert my secretary that if my door is locked and my curtains are down, no one can come in but I can take phone calls.

And then I proceeded to put the bottle of freshly pumped milk in the freezer of the common freezer. But then shortly after *ay nangamoy ulam iyong breastmilk na ibibigay ko sa baby ko*. After that, I decided to bring my own cooler.

So, that was my life for a whole year. I proudly breastfed my two daughters actually for a whole year. After my second daughter, I had a baby who was born with multiple disabilities and had a cleft lip but I also breastfed him. I breastfed him, I pumped my milk and it was given to him through a tube that went straight down to his stomach because my son could not digest milk or anything.

So, if anyone went through the difficulties of breastfeeding and I am sure a lot of mothers would have other stories to tell, but I had my own which I wanted to spread into the *Record*. Because this is what encouraged me to make legislation that would help mothers breastfeed as long as they wanted to.

So, quick history, when I became a senator, there was already Executive Order No. 51, known as the "Philippine Milk Code." And what it does is it regulates the marketing of infant milk formula. I can leave it at that but I would like to share the knowledge I learned in my first year in the Senate.

This is so critical because what happened in many hospitals, both in government and private, is that infant formula companies would give or even donate their milk to the hospitals for the newborns and interfere with what should have been a natural breastfeeding process. So, for the information of those who are not familiar with breastfeeding, breastfeeding supply is based on supply and demand. The more the mother breastfeeds, the more milk she will produce. So, *kapag binigyan nila ng infant formula iyan, mababawasan iyong pagbigay niya ng sariling gatas niya dahil may ibang napagkukunan*. And *untunting mawawala ang kaniyang breastmilk supply*. So, that is why *kailangan ma-regulate ang marketing ng infant formula*.

The other thing is that and I hope when we go home tonight, tomorrow, look around. We see a lot of advertisements of brands that claim *na tatalino ang baby nila roon sa gatas na iyon. Hindi po totoo iyon. Ang totoo, tatalino ang baby doon sa gatas ng ina. Iyon ang pinaka-effective. Iyon talaga iyon*. So, we also want to ensure that the marketing also goes through the highest standard. I can go on about this but I have other things to talk about, so I will move on at this point.

When I became a senator in 2004, there was also a 1992 law, Republic Act No. 7600 or the "Rooming-in and Breastfeeding Act," which was adopted by no less than my idol, the late Sen. Ed Angara. I was quite surprised because I expected that maybe it would be somebody like Senator Flavio, but when I learned that it was Senator Angara who passed it, it was very heartening for me that a male senator was actually the one who passed it. And having already given birth, I realized how important this is. This law basically says that in every hospital, immediately upon birth, *kailangan itabi iyong baby sa mommy para agad-agad maka-breastfeed sa nanay*. So, this law was really a game-changer.

And I also learned parliamentary procedure through the late senator because my bill was actually called by another name. And very statesmanlike, he guided me in the amendments of this law— of my bill, so that it would simply be an amendment to the existing Republic Act No. 7600 which he authored instead of me creating something totally new; not really disregarding but he just helped me make this bill flow better. A very important lesson as a new senator.

So, that is the Breastfeeding Promotion Act that I am already talking about which basically provided new features to the Rooming-In Act. And under the Breastfeeding Promotion Act, the critical features here are the setting up of lactation centers in all public places and in private and government offices. Again, this, I believe, is still a game-changer. When we look around and for those of you, for the gentleman with young wives, they can find a lactation or breast-feeding room in the malls. You can now find it in the airport. You can even find it in terminals for ferries. I actually saw a beautiful one in Bohol terminal years ago.

So, this makes it easier for mothers to continue breastfeeding. I have the experience of having to lock myself in a restroom that has its own door and about 20 people banged on the door to tell me to get out of the room because I was breastfeeding. I understand that they need to use the toilet but during those days, there were no breastfeeding rooms. So, this is the kind of change that makes lives better for breastfeeding moms.

In addition, in the workplace, this law also provided for lactation breaks. It is basically 40 minutes in addition to the usual meal breaks. I would have wanted more. I actually pushed for more but we tried to strike a balance with industry that obviously was hesitant to give more breaks to their staff. But now, it is a right

of every breastfeeding mother to use an additional 40 minutes to pump her milk and take it home to her baby.

At this point, I would like to point out that charity begins at home. Maybe that is not the right phrase. We need to implement our laws in our own home so the Senate actually has its own lactation room. We put this up I think around 2014 or 2015, *tama ba?* Anyway, I am not sure of the date but it is on the fifth floor and I would like to include here my—I do not think it has to be a motion—request for the GAD office to place posters as they did before, at the entrance of the Senate so that resource persons or other persons who have business in the Senate know that they can use that room.

I actually had the opportunity to be thanked by a resource person—this was pre-COVID-19—who was so happy that, to sit in a six-hour hearing, there was a lactation room that she could go to in the Senate. And, when I was a member of the House of Representatives, I also worked with the Secretariat to put up a lactation room and this was continued by Sen. Alan Peter S. Cayetano when he was the Speaker of the House. That is actually the House of Representatives' lactation room.

Just a quick note, I want to show that it is very important for this kind of laws to be supported and implemented on the ground and I am very happy to hear other examples but the example I will give, of course, is Taguig.

In Taguig City, the Taguig Hospital actually received way back in 2013—almost 10 years ago—a recognition as a mother- and baby-friendly hospital and there is a 10-point requirement to be able to do that. I am sure there are others. I am just aware with the one in Taguig and I hope the Department of Health (DOH) will make this public so that we can also acknowledge other hospitals that are compliant. And for those that are not, may I call on the DOH to work closely with the city health officials of various cities and provinces to bring them up to speed.

The success of breastfeeding will really depend on the people who are surrounding the mother who can continue to encourage her to breastfeed. It is actually the cheapest way to nourish a baby and it is also their first immunization against various kinds of ailment. In fact, the leading cause of death for infant mortality, if I am not mistaken, is waterborne diseases which are also directly related to bottle feeding. *Kasi kapag hinuhugasan iyong bote at hindi tama ang paghugas, doon nagkakaroon ng waterborne diseases; samantalang kapag nag-breastfeed,*

there is no contamination and there is nothing to wash. It is just simply safer for babies.

I also wanted to point out that aside from Taguig City, I have also launched similar programs in Cebu, and in other parts of the country, there is human milk bank. So, in 2015, Taguig City established its human milk bank which screens and then pasteurize donors' milk to families whose mother cannot make milk available to their baby. So, this is a big help for babies whose mother actually died, are sick, or are still recuperating, and also for babies who are left—we have already covered that in another law with Sen. Grace Poe and Sen. Risa Hontiveros—but that fact is part of babies who are left behind and in need of breast milk.

Again, as an example, in Taguig City, 377 bottles of milk that were pumped by Taguig women were donated to infants in need after the Taal Volcano erupted. Even during the pandemic, there were also donated breast milk to infants in need during the pandemic. I would like to emphasize, since I mentioned the pandemic, evidence shows and according to the World Health Organization (WHO), it was not detected in the breast milk of any mother with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 virus. They have not detected COVID-19 virus. Thus, it seems to be unlikely that COVID-19 virus will be transmitted through breast feeding.

So, as we have known—but of course, it is always good to have the evidence—breastfeeding even at the time of COVID-19 is still very much recommended.

I think I will end there. I just want to emphasize that I share my personal journey. There are a number of bills and laws—my team will flash it right now—that also supports breastfeeding, but, what I want to emphasize is the 105-day Expanded Maternity Leave (Republic Act No. 11210).

This is very crucial because from my own experience and from the experience of the women staff who worked with me, I really saw with my own eyes that 60 days is not enough to leave their baby and get back to work especially if they are continuing to breastfeed. It is really a problem going back to work, that included breast engorgement—very painful, fever, and it is just very difficult. So, with the 105 days we give the mother an additional 45 days to continue breastfeeding. And when the mother goes back to work, her breast milk supply is definitely much more established and it is easier for her to continue breastfeeding.

I thank the Members of the Senate for the support that I have seen growing for breastfeeding throughout the years.

## **MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI**

At this juncture, Senate President Zubiri congratulated and thanked Senator Cayetano (P) for her speech which reminded the parents of their duties. He agreed that parents of the current generation are more involved in the rearing of their children.

## **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)**

At the outset, Senator Cayetano (A) congratulated Senator Cayetano (P) for being consistent and persistent in defending the basic fundamentals of healthcare issues.

Asked about the role of barangay health centers in pre- and postnatal care, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that barangay health centers are critical in the promotion of breastfeeding in the grassroot levels. She emphasized that even if the country has sound policies on the matter, these would be rendered useless if not implemented in the barangay level.

She said that the education of barangay health workers on breastfeeding, and health care in general, is part of her advocacy and that she had visited remote barangays in order to further this cause. She pointed out that while health workers are sufficiently informed, they should further be engaged through sharing of real-world examples on controversial issues.

She then reiterated the critical role of barangay health centers and workers in the success of the country's breastfeeding and basic health care programs.

Relating Senator (P) Cayetano's point to Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s State of the Nation Address where the latter emphasized the need for specialized hospitals in the regions, Senator Cayetano (A) said that while he supported this, as evidenced by the various bills he had filed in the past of the same nature, he contrasted the task of constructing big health care facilities with the concept of the fundamentals of primary health care as stated by the World Health Organization (WHO):

All people, everywhere, deserve the right care, right in their community. This is the fundamental premise of primary health care.

Primary Health Care (PHC) addresses the majority of a person's health needs throughout their lifetime. This includes physical, mental, and social well-being and it is people-centered rather than disease-centered. PHC is a whole-of-society approach that includes health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

A primary health care approach includes three components: meeting people's needs throughout their lives; addressing the broader determinants of health through multisectoral policy and action; and empowering individuals, families, and their communities to take charge of their own health.

Asked if the aforementioned components could be addressed in the absence of community-based centers or barangay health centers, Senator Cayetano (P) asserted that accessibility is critical to meet the basic primary health care components in an archipelagic country like the Philippines; thence, the role of barangay health centers is vital.

At this point, Senator Cayetano (A) presented data which showed that 18,766 or 47.2% of the country's barangays did not have barangay health centers. While he agrees that specialized hospitals must be built in the regions, he deemed it essential that the Department of Health (DOH) reflect the plans in building operational health centers in every barangay for the 2023 budget.

Agreeing, Senator Cayetano (P) raised two points: basic healthcare planning vis-à-vis tertiary healthcare; and the need for details on the funding of barangay health centers. She opined that experts would agree on the primacy of basic healthcare over tertiary healthcare, saying that an excellent basic health care system would prevent a substantial number of individuals from even needing tertiary or critical healthcare; thus, critical interventions would be lessened.

On her second point, she stated that the DOH categorized barangays according to their healthcare needs for funding purposes. She said that for barangays without any health center facility, funding is given for the construction of a building at the onset, but for barangays that already had physical structures, funding is given for equipment or personnel. She reiterated the need for a clear-cut plan to avoid incidents where the delivery of equipment precedes the construction of a physical building for a health center.

She also speculated as to whether budget allocation for such items were even funded in the manner that the department wanted.

At this point, Senator Cayetano (A) recalled that during the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses where discussions on the Value-Added Tax (VAT) took place, Senator Cayetano (P) fought for the earmarking of part of the VAT for health and education. He pointed out that despite the earmarking, the gap between the need for barangay health centers and the actual numbers have not lessened.

While it was laudable that a substantial number of city and district hospitals have been constructed all over the country, he lamented that the basic unit of primary healthcare had been neglected and that resources must be poured into the hiring and training of doctors, nurses, and other personnel, aside from the actual construction of physical buildings.

Highlighting the importance of the Doktor Para Sa Bayan Act, Senator Cayetano (P) said that the law intended to identify public medical schools in need of support or expansion for funding allocation that went beyond merely giving out scholarships to medical students to also addressing the need of the schools to accommodate more students. She expressed willingness to revisit the law and make fine adjustments to accommodate the need for basic primary care facilities in barangays.

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva interjected that prior to the passage of the Doktor Para sa Bayan Act, there were 10 regions in the country without any school of medicine within their territory. He informed the Body that to date, at least seven state colleges and universities offering school of medicine have opened, but that there was still a need to ensure funding for the measure. He noted that the country only had three doctors attending to every 10,000 Filipinos. The World Health Organization, he said, pegged a ratio of at least 10 doctors for every 10,000 Filipinos in order to dispense proper health services.

Senator Cayetano (P) underscored that it is not sufficient to merely work with state universities and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) regarding the opening of medical schools. She underscored that the DOH has to be involved as well because medical schools need to have nearby hospitals for internship purposes. She emphasized

that a holistic approach to healthcare must be to put basic primary health care as a priority and only then should hospitals and medical schools be established in the area. She committed to take the necessary steps to establish a holistic healthcare system, even if it would take time.

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that his line of questioning for the 2023 budget would be on guesswork. He then lamented that in his 30 years of working in government, representatives from the DOH would, more often than not, give a “guesstimate”—an estimate that is actually a guess when they are asked to justify proposed budgets for certain medicines.

He cited that since 2010, Taguig City would rely on actual data by conducting house-to-house surveys to give the local government information on the number of expectant mothers in the area. He noted the fathers have not been identified, being a private issue. He further stated that, through the city’s efforts, they were able to allocate the seats for the “*Buntis Congress*,” provide for prenatal and postnatal checkups, and address the national objectives on teenage pregnancy.

Senator Cayetano (P) believed that knowing the identity of the child’s father is equally important, particularly in getting information on the number of times he has impregnated his partner as well as whether he could be a candidate for vasectomy and also be made aware of the Education Program on Family Planning.

Adverting to his comments earlier, Senator Cayetano (A) quoted Section 22, Article VI of the Constitution which states in part that:

SEC. 22. The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House, as the rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments. xxx

He pointed out that, unlike the parliamentary form of government wherein the Prime Minister and all the ministers are periodically questioned and held accountable on their areas of jurisdiction, Philippine government officials go through such inquiries only during budget hearings and during confirmations.

He stated that 40% of barangays in the country do not have a health center. He opined that if the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

is responsible in building it, the agency should be asked on the number of structures it could build in three or four years, and should be held accountable for the completion of such projects. He averred that during the election campaign, he did not have to advertise, and that many of the senators like him stuck their neck out on what they believed to be worthwhile programs, such as the “P10,000 *ayuda*” or “*sampung-libong pag-asa*.” He said that he welcomes the people who ask about the fulfillment of his campaign promise, adding that it is among his five priority measures. He also thanked the Members who filed similar bills like Senators Villanueva and Legarda, who had asked to be made a coauthor of his measure. He said that he would also support the latter’s bill which is *tablet para sa bawat estudyante* or “One Tablet, One Student” program.

He stated that elected officials should welcome the call of the people for them to make good on their campaign promises; however, Congress could only craft legislation, but it is the Executive department which handles the implementation of the law. He stressed that rather than giving Congress a generic answer, the agencies should show the department’s plan of action and their actual executions.

He recalled that classroom shortage had been a problem since the Eleventh Congress and the issue remains unresolved. He admitted that while there are intangible problems and issues such as shortage of physicians in most parts of the country, the government should come up with a plan to address the situation; otherwise, nobody would believe that healthcare is not a priority of the government. He believed that while there are many problems that were not caused by the past and present administration but by external factors beyond control, how the government reacts is within its control. He said that the speeches of Senator Cayetano (P) deserve more than a commendation from the Body, but a concrete plan coming from the concerned departments.

Thereupon, he thanked Senator Cayetano (P) for allowing him to ask questions and intervene. He stressed that if the government can provide an efficient primary healthcare system and if each barangay has its own healthcare system, all other national health programs on breastfeeding and pregnancy could easily be addressed, and less guesstimates would be submitted to the Committee on Finance. He said that requiring the agencies to give the basis for their programs would be a giant

step forward so that their budgets would be based on facts and data rather than estimates.

## MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara stated that the best interventions are the simplest ones, which ought to start at the barangay level. He cited Thailand’s program for choosing to strengthen their grassroots healthcare system rather than to have elaborate tertiary hospitals.

He stated that since he became chairperson of the Committee on Finance in 2019, he had never handled the budget of the DOH, which had been alternately handled by Senators Go and Cayetano (P). He also noted that despite scarce resources, the Senate had been able to push for higher health budgets. He also commended Senator Villanueva and former Senate President Sotto who had been instrumental in passing the “Doktor Para sa Bayan” Act.

He said that the day he started his term as a senator in 2013, he had always admired Senator Cayetano (P) for always being a strong health advocate and for tackling problems from different angles – from health financing to sponsoring tax measures like the Sin Tax Law of 2012, together with Senator Drilon. He said that such efforts caused a sea of change in financing health concerns which brought so much resources towards PhilHealth, Breastfeeding Law, and earmarking funds for the Universal Health Care Law that is in the budget every year.

*At this juncture, Senate President Zubiri relinquished the Chair to Senator Villanueva.*

He commended Senator Cayetano (P) and her staff for their work in promoting health over the years. He also expressed appreciation for the insights of Senator Cayetano (A) and promised to work with him on his proposal. He recalled that during his interviews over DWIZ and DZBB, he mentioned that the budget for the SUCs is itemized unlike the lump sum budget for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP). He said that during the hearings, the committee would ask for the rationale of their budget so that the resources would go to those who truly need it the most.

Responding thereto, Senator Cayetano (P) stated that she would propose the implementation of a ladderized education system which had also been the proposal of Congressman Angara (S) at the



House of Representatives and authored by the late Sen. Edgardo Angara during his term in the Senate while she was the chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture. She believed that the ladderized education is relevant and it would further empower health workers throughout their lifetime.

She explained that under the ladderized program, a barangay health worker could train to become a midwife and a nurse before eventually finishing as an allied professional or physician. She mentioned that other senators are pushing for health-related measures, to wit: a barangay healthcare system by Senator Cayetano (A); a midwife in every barangay by Senator Cayetano (P); and the Philippine Nursing Act together with Senator Revilla. She stressed that in other countries, nurse practitioners and doctor-assistants study for four years, the same time as nurses in the Philippines.

She expressed hope that in due time, the Body could take up the bills in a holistic approach to address the health concerns of the country.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR REVILLA

Senator Revilla lauded the efforts of Senator Cayetano (P) to make the Body aware of the importance of breastfeeding. He stated that both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have advocated breastfeeding because of the immense impact it has on the youth. He assured that he would continue to support Senator (P) Cayetano's advocacies on health and breastfeeding.

*At this juncture, Senator Villanueva relinquished the Chair to Senate President Zubiri.*

#### REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Cayetano (P) and the interpellations and manifestations thereon to the Committee on Health and Demography.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body elected the following senators as chairpersons of the committees hereafter indicated:

<i>Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies</i>	Villar (M)
<i>Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation</i>	Revilla
<i>Committee on Cooperatives</i>	Marcos
<i>Committee on Economic Affairs</i>	Poe
<i>Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation</i>	Marcos
<i>Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change</i>	Villar (C)
<i>Committee on Public Information and Mass Media</i>	Padilla
<i>Committee on Sports</i>	Go
<i>Committee on Tourism</i>	Binay
<i>Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement</i>	Ejercito
<i>Committee on Youth</i>	Angara

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereafter indicated:

<i>Committee on Rules</i>	
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Villanueva
<i>Vice Chairpersons:</i>	Ejercito Villar (M)
<i>Members:</i>	
<i>Majority</i>	
Angara	Poe
Binay	Cayetano (A)
Gatchalian	
<i>Minority</i>	
Hontiveros	

**Committee on Energy**

*Chairperson:* Tulfo  
*Vice Chairperson:* Gatchalian

*Members:*

*Majority*

Ejercito Lapid  
Villar (M) Escudero  
Dela Rosa Poe  
Go Angara  
Tolentino Cayetano (A)  
Binay Cayetano (P)

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education**

*Vice Chairpersons:* Gatchalian  
Ejercito

*Members:*

*Majority*

Binay Villar (C)  
Cayetano (A) Marcos  
Dela Rosa Cayetano (P)  
Tulfo Estrada  
Poe Villar (M)  
Revilla Jr.

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform**

*Vice Chairpersons:* Marcos  
Dela Rosa  
Tolentino

*Members:*

*Majority*

Binay Go  
Cayetano (P) Lapid  
Escudero Padilla  
Estrada Revilla  
Gatchalian Tulfo

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Health and Demography**

*Vice Chairpersons:* Cayetano (P)  
Ejercito

*Members:*

*Majority*

Binay Lapid  
Villar (C) Revilla  
Poe Tulfo  
Padilla

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

*Vice Chairperson:* Villanueva

*Members:*

*Majority*

Go Estrada  
Lapid Cayetano (P)  
Dela Rosa Padilla

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality**

*Vice Chairperson:* Binay

*Members:*

*Majority*

Cayetano (P) Padilla  
Villar (C) Tulfo  
Poe Go  
Marcos

**Committee on Games and Amusement**

*Vice Chairpersons:*

Go Tulfo

*Members:*

*Majority*

Escudero Villar (M)  
Revilla Jr. Padilla  
Estrada

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Public Service***Vice Chairpersons:*

Ejercito	Estrada
Tolentino	Revilla

*Members:**Majority*

Binay	Go
Dela Rosa	Lapid
Escudero	Villar (M)
Gatchalian	

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Local Government***Vice Chairperson:* Dela Rosa*Members:**Majority*

Angara	Padilla
Estrada	Revilla
Gatchalian	Tolentino
Go	Tulfo
Marcos	Villar (C)

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Foreign Relation***Vice Chairperson:* Tolentino*Members:**Majority*

Villar (C)	Estrada
Go	Lapid
Padilla	Revilla
Villar (M)	Angara
Dela Rosa	Escudero
Poe	Gatchalian

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification, and Reconciliation***Vice Chairpersons:*

Revilla Jr.	Ejercito
Dela Rosa	Padilla
Go	Tolentino

*Members:**Majority*

Binay	Cayetano (A)
Poe	Marcos
Villar (M)	Villar (C)
Gatchalian	Escudero
Angara	

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Public Works***Members:**Majority*

Villar (M)	Padilla
Estrada	Ejercito
Go	Marcos
Poe	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Lapid	

*Minority*

Hontiveros

At this point, Senate President Zubiri asked if a vice chairperson has already been designated in the Committee on Public Works. Senator Villanueva replied that there was none and that he would have to ask Senator Revilla on the matter.

**Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development***Members :**Majority*

Villar (C)	Padilla
Go	Revilla
Dela Rosa	

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes***Vice Chairperson :* Tolentino*Members :**Majority*

Go	Estrada
Dela Rosa	Angara
Revilla Jr.	Poe
Binay	Cayetano (P)

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Finance***Senior Vice**Chairpersons:*Cayetano (P)  
Legarda  
Marcos*Vice Chairpersons:*

Villar (C)	Binay
Dela Rosa	Poe
Gatchalian	Tolentino
Go	Villar (M)
Hontiveros	Ejercito

*Members:**Majority*

Cayetano (A)	Padilla
Escudero	Revilla Jr.
Estrada	Tulfo
Lapid	

Asked by Senate President Zubiri to confirm the total number of members in the Committee on Finance, Senator Villanueva replied that the committee has a total of 20 members, excluding *ex-officio* members.

**Committee on Ways and Means***Vice Chairperson :* Angara*Members :**Majority*

Binay	Lapid
Cayetano (P)	Marcos
Dela Rosa	Poe
Ejercito	Tolentino
Escudero	Tulfo
Go	Villar (M)

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**Committee on Public Order  
and Dangerous Drugs***Vice Chairpersons:* Estrada  
Tolentino*Members :**Majority*

Binay	Poe
Ejercito	Villar (C)

*Minority*

Hontiveros

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 4:55 p.m.***RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 6:06 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

*It was 6:07 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

**ATTY. RENATO N. BANTUG JR.**  
*Secretary of the Senate*

Approved on August 3, 2022