

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Senate Pasay City

# Journal

### **SESSION NO. 18**

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

NINETEENTH CONGRESS FIRST REGULAR SESSION ₹:

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## Prepared by the LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE Senate of the Philippines

#### SESSION NO. 18 Wednesday, September 7, 2022

#### CALL TO ORDER

At 3:35 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

#### PRAYER

Sen. Grace Poe led the prayer, to wit:

Panginoon, sa panahong pataas nang pataas ang halaga ng bilihin at paliit nang paliit ang halaga ng piso, pagpalain Mo po kaming tumingkad nang tumingkad ang aming pag-asa na maisasaayos namin ang aming bansa at mapabubuti namin ang buhay ng aming kapwa.

Patamisin Mo po ang aming buhay kahit mahal ang asukal. Hatiran Mo po kami ng magandang balita at hindi text scam o spam. Panatilihin Mo po kaming ligtas mula sa kapahamakan at mga mapagsamantala.

Bigyan Mo po kami ng pusong nakakakilala kung ano ang tunay na mahalaga. Gabayan Mo kami tungo sa isang bansang masagana at mapayapa.

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.	Marcos, I. R.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Padilla, R. C.
Cayetano, P. S.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Estrada, J.	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.
Legarda, L.	

With 23 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Binay was absent.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the *Journals* of Session Nos. 16 (September 5, 2022) and 17 (September 6, 2022) and considered them 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. 1151, entitled

AN ACT RENAMING THE URDANETA CITY BYPASS ROAD IN THE CITY OF URDANETA, PANGASINAN TO EDUARDO COJUANGCO, JR. AVENUE

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

#### To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1152, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING SENIOR CITIZENS FREE MOVIE ACCESS TO ALL MOVIE THEATERS NATIONWIDE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1153, entitled

#### AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 YEAR AS "ARAW NG MARINDUQUE," A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

#### To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1154, entitled

#### AN ACT DECLARING THE LUZON DATUM LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOGPOG, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

#### To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1155, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING AND MANDATING THE USAGE OF FILIPINO MUSIC IN

HOTELS, RESORTS, AIRPORTS, RADIO STATIONS, RESTAURANTS, OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS, TOURIST BUSES, AND ALL FLIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL, IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

#### To the Committees on Culture and the Arts; and Tourism

Senate Bill No. 1156, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONDUCT OF HYBRID NATIONAL, LOCAL, AND BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARRM) ELECTIONS, THROUGH MANUAL-AUTOMATED VOTING, COUNTING, CANVASSING, CONSOLIDATION, AND TRANSMISSION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8436, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

#### To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1157, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Marcos

## To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1158, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE," AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1159, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FAIR ELECTION ACT," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11207, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

## To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1160, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE MODES OF VOTING FOR HIGHLY VULNERABLE SECTORS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1161, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (VIP), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

#### To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1162, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1163, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR EPIDEMIC CONTROL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

#### To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No.1164, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE BASIC MONTHLY SALARY OF ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1165, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, SUPERVISION, AND REGULATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRESSION, AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Angara

#### To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1166, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING PAG-ASA ISLAND CLUSTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAYAAN, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS AN ECOTOURISM DESTINA-TION AND PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Tourism; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1167, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

#### To the Committees on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1168, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTRUMENTS OF WHICH THE PHILIPPINES IS A STATE-PARTY

Introduced by Senator Angara

#### To the Committees on Public Services; and Foreign Relations

Senate Bill No.1169, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIVING FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1170, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 7 EVERY YEAR AS BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS DAY

Introduced by Senator Angara

#### To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1171, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BUSINESS-FRIENDLY TAX REMEDIES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS BY AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN BOOK II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

Introduced by Senator Angara

#### To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1172, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A MASTERPLAN FOR THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO E-GOVERNANCE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1173, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

#### To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 1174, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1175, entitled

AN ACT ENCOURAGING NEW LAWYER-SCHOLARS TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL

SERVICES TO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) NO. 11641, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

#### To the Committees on Migrant Workers; Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1176, entitled

## AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

#### To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1177, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3720, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9711, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) ACT OF 2009," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

#### To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1178, entitled

AN ACT REFORMING THE MANDATE OF THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1986, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "CREATING THE MOVIE AND TELEVISIONS REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

#### To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1179, entitled

AN ACT CONDONING UNPAID INTEREST, PENALTIES, SURCHARGES ON LOANS AND AMORTIZATION OF LANDS AWARDED TO COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 1180, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

#### To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1181, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PLANNING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OCCU-PANCY AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS, PROMOTING BUILDING RESILIENCE VERSUS FIRE, FLOOD, STORM, EARTHQUAKE AND MULTIPLE HAZARDS, ENACTING A NEW PHILIPPINE BUILDING ACT, THEREBY REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1096, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 1182, entitled

#### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS UNIFIED INITIATIVES TO DISTRESSED ENTERPRISES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY (GUIDE)

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1183, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING ENHANCED PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFITS FOR MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1184, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING MEASURES TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN FOOD, GROCERY AND PHARMACY DELIVERY SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Go

#### To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1185, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, EXPANDING, RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING THE COMPENSA-TION AND BENEFITS OF ITS OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, APPROPRIAT-ING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 1186, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS IN THE COURT OF APPEALS, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICES FROM SIXTY-NINE (69) TO SEVENTY-EIGHT (78), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No.1187, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ONE ADDITIONAL DIVISION IN THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COM-MISSIONERS FROM TWENTY-THREE (23) TO TWENTY-SIX (26), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 1188, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, AND DISCRIMINATION ACT"

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 1189, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANDATORY ENVIRONMENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL PROJECTS

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Senate Bill No. 1190, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

#### To the Committees on Local Government; and Basic Education

Senate Bill No. 1191, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS"

Introduced by Senator Go

#### To the Committee on Migrant Workers

Senate Bill No. 1192, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE SENTIENCE, SAPIENCE, AND INHERENT RIGHTS OF MARINE MAMMALS AND PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

#### To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Senate Bill No. 1193 entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSES-SION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS, RAYS, AND CHIMAERAS AND ANY PART THEREOF IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1194, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

Senate Bill No. 1195, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

## To the Committees on Local Government; and Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 1196, entitled

## AN ACT TO ESTABLISH PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD ACADEMY, ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Public Services; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1197, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING SALARIES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1198, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE GROUNDS FOR LEGAL SEPARATION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209 OR THE "FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1199, entitled

AN ACT ORDAINING A BILL OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE TAXPAYER

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

#### To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1200, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Public Works; and Finance

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 3.50 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:52 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda presiding.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 182, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTI-GATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UPSURGE OF TEXT SCAMS, SMISHING, TEXT SPAMS, AND OTHER MALICIOUS SOLICITATIONS AND UNWANTED TEXT MESSAGES, AND INQUIRE ON THE CONCRETE SOLUTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PUT AN END TO THE UNRESTRICTED INTENSIFICATION OF THE MENTIONED ACTIVITIES

Introduced by Senator Binay

#### To the Committees on Public Services; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 183, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RAPID AND SUSTAINED INCREASE IN THE INFLATION RATE IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, AND THE ERODING PURCHASING POWER OF THE PESO, AND TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A TARGETED CASH SUBSIDY TO THE BOTTOM THIRTY PERCENT (30%) OF FILIPINO FAMILIES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALARMING INCIDENTS OF CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NUMEROUS ALARMING REPORTS OF ABUSE, KIDNAPPING, DISAPPEARANCES, AND KILLING OF WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 187, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES AND CONTINUED FAILURE BY THE PHILIPPINES SEAFARERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) FOR SEAFARERS CONVENTION, AS REPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Migrant Workers

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 188, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2022

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 189, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7076, OR "AN ACT CREATING A PEOPLE'S SMALL-SCALE MINING PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," AND OTHER RELEVANT LAWS PERTAINING TO SMALL-SCALE MINING, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE MINING AND PROVIDING THE NECESSARY POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMALL-SCALE MINING SECTOR AND THE GENERATION OF QUALITY JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL-SCALE MINERS

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committees on Local Government; and Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Committee Report No. 2, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; Public Works; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1290, with Senators Cayetano (P), Poe, Ejercito, Estrada, Revilla, Jr., and Angara as authors thereof, entitled
  - AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ACTIVE TRANSPORT BY ESTABLISHING A SAFE PATHWAYS NETWORK OF BICYCLE LANES, WALKWAYS AND SLOW STREETS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 19, 331, 393 and 472.

Sponsor: Senator Cayetano (P)

#### To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 2 on Senate Bill No. 1290 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

#### COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1290

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1290 (Committee Report No. 2), entitled

#### AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ACTIVE TRANSPORT BY ESTABLISHING A SAFE PATHWAYS NETWORK OF BICYCLE LANES, WALKWAYS AND SLOW STREETS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

The Chair recognized Senator Cayetano (P) for the sponsorship.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 3:57 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

In presenting Senate Bill No. 1290 under Committee Report No. 2, otherwise known as the "Walkable and Bikeable Communities Act," for the Body's plenary consideration, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered the following sponsorship speech:

The long title of this bill is "An Act Institutionalizing Active Transport by Establishing a Safe Pathways Network of Bicycle Lanes, Walkways and Slow Streets, and for Other Purposes."

This takes into consideration Senate Bill No. 19 filed by this Representation, and the bills filed by Senators Poe, Ejercito, and Estrada. There were also expressions of intent from several senators to be coauthors – Senators Revilla, Angara, and Dela Rosa.

I was only able to find biking pictures of Senators Ejercito and Dela Rosa. *Kung meron kayong* biking pictures, *padala ninyo, ihabol natin diyan*. But it is very interesting because the picture of Senator Ejercito is actually from an article that talks about how he bikes to work.

Also, to put on record, Senator Villanueva had filed his own version of the Safe Pathways Act.

This bill is similar to the one I filed and sponsored last Congress which the Senate passed on Third Reading. That bill was a product of necessity at the height of the pandemic, brought about by the plight of health and essential workers who were stranded and had to walk long distances to get to their work or home. So, these are articles that highlighted how difficult it was to get to work and how the bikes were coming out on the streets. Those who had bikes fared better than the others.

The original bill, as I mentioned, that was passed by the Senate in the last Congress, known as the Safe Pathways Network Bill, sought to create a network of pop-up bicycle lanes and slow streets that could be used by our essential workers during the pandemic and to connect users to essential destinations.

All over the world, urban cycling networks surged after lockdowns were imposed. In New York, Berlin, Mexico City, to name a few, temporary bike lanes were set up to facilitate people's mobility. The same happened here. Brought about by the surge of bikers, more and more bike lanes were carved out of streets.

But even before the pandemic, I have long advocated for a shift to active and sustainable transportation. There are many benefits of cycling and walking to one's health: physically, walking and biking are excellent forms of exercise, good for cardiovascular health; mentally, taking time out from work or studies is a much needed breather from the rigors of daily life, and going for a walk or bike ride is one way toward better mental health.

The other benefit is community health, collectively, because the air is cleaner and there were less cars and motor vehicles on the road during the height of the lockdown. There were reports of cleaner air and clearer views all over the metropolis, and this was also seen in other countries. Finally, the cost of a bike is much cheaper.

Although the world has somehow learned to live with COVID-19 and many things have returned to normal, the use of bikes and other active modes of transport are here to stay.

This bill touches on the following sustainable development goals:

- SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
- · SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 13 Climate Action
- SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals

Interesting facts: in the Philippines, based on an SWS survey, one out of four households nationwide owns a bicycle; the number of households with bicycles in urban areas and NCR more than doubled since 2021, indicating the strong demand for active transport; 7.3 million households own a bicycle as of April 2022 compared to 6.2 million households in May 2021. This is based on a Rappler report; 80% of Filipinos believe that better roads would encourage more people to use a bike.

A number of cities in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country have their own network of bicycle lanes.

Outside of Metro Manila, Iloilo City has established its own bicycle lanes. I am not sure if I have the distance, but the distance of bicycle lanes in Iloilo is quite extensive. I will make sure that I have that to share with you during our period of interpellations.

In our own Taguig City, we have kilometers upon kilometers of bike lanes and sidewalks along the Laguna Lake.

So, let me tell you now about the bill.

What is the Safe Pathways Network? It is a network of bicycle lanes, walkways, and slow streets for active transport users. Electric personal mobility devices may also be allowed, but this would be subject to guidelines.

So, I think it is easy to understand what bike lanes are—for the use of bikes; walkways—for the use of pedestrians, including the use of strollers and other children's mobility equipment. Again, subject to guidelines.

And then the slow streets. This is a very interesting concept that I really love. Slow streets are quite common all over the world. Even in our own country. I normally notice this sa panahon ng may patay. Kapag may lamay, 'di ba sinasara ang kalye to allow people to come and go tapos andoon ang parang trapal na minsan may pangalan pa ng mayor o congressman na nagpahiram ng tolda.

So, I was just handed the information—sa Iloilo, 11 kilometers ang bike lanes doon.

So, anyway, *iyon ang* concept *ng* slow streets, *iyong isasara ang kalye*. It could be temporary or permanent, closed to motor vehicles, to allow people, particularly the vulnerable—the elderly, pregnant women, mothers, children—to run around and to walk. As to whether this would be temporary, permanent, what are the guidelines—that would depend on the particular area because, of course, affected *ang* residents and any other tenants in that area.

So that is the entire network: the slow streets, the walkable paths, and the bike lanes.

Our intention is to institutionalize facilities. This will require that LGUs to coordinate with public and private institutions within their jurisdiction to ensure that these infrastructures can be built and also the facilities that make it easy, convenient for the active transport users to actually use them. This would be what we call the "end-of-trip" facilities. These could include bike racks, showers, or changing rooms, and similar facilities. But what is also important are the bike lanes. If it is possible to make these permanent, then that would be the best scenario. But for many busy and urbanized cities that have been there, then temporary or pop-up bike lanes may be the most practical for the time being.

#### (A video was played on screen)

This is a video from my trip to the global conference in Korea. You will see on the right the cars, bike lanes, then the walk path. So, all three are there. It was amazing. And ordinarily, I would be very envious to see this in another city. But I am proud to say that in Taguig City, we have the same. I do not know if the picture was already shown, but in Taguig City, we also have by Laguna Lake a road for the cars, a separate bike lane, and the walkway. I think Senator Villar (M), when he was Secretary, had the occasion of visiting and inaugurating that. I think there was a picture of Senator Villar (M) on a bike as well. So we will put that in there before we end.

I am coming to the end of this sponsorship speech. I would like to end by quoting the WHO Constitution: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

So, when we subject our people to hours and hours on the road in traffic, unable to be reunited at the end of a long work day with their families, having to leave when it is still dark to work, I personally believe that that is not a complete state of physical, mental, and social wellbeing. So, until we are able to fix our transportation system, and one step in the right direction is active transport, then we will continue to deprive our people of the kind of health that they deserve to have.

I end with these photos of advocacy rides that I have had for more than 10 years all over the country. This is really to emphasize that there are these many bikers. We can take up the whole road. This takes a lot of planning, because it is not our intention to take up the whole road. But the intention is to show that if we plan better, more people would be able to use bikes, because one of the figures we also have is that it was revealed during our hearing that most of the

destinations of people for work are within a kilometer or so, less than five kilometers for most, such that they can walk or bike that distance. Five kilometers might be a little bit difficult to walk, and it may not be that comfortable with the kind of weather we have. But with active transportation, there will be less people using motorized vehicles.

With your support, I pray that this can become a law soon.

#### MANIFESTATION OF THE CHAIR

Senator Legarda asked to be associated with both advocacies and urged the Executive department to implement the measure even though it is not yet a law. She asked, though, whether a frustrated biker or a non-biker like her could share the same advocacy. She stated that she does not have a photo of her riding a bike because she tried but fell a number of times which traumatized her, and that she is not gifted to be an athlete. She stated that she supports the bill's immediate passage because it is beneficial to the economy, environment, health, and aesthetics, and expressed hope that during the budget hearing, Senator Cayetano (P), as well as the other cosponsors and authors, could bring it up so that the metropolis and other LGUs could benefit from it even before the enactment of the law.

Senator Cayetano (P) stated that at the proper time, she would respond to the remarks of Senator Legarda.

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 1290, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech:

We commend our dear colleague, the senator from Taguig and Pateros, Sen. Pia Cayetano, for sponsoring this measure.

At the outset, we would like to note that we also filed Senate Bill No. 1138, or the "Safe Pathways Act," several weeks ago, which was also referred to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking. Thus, we thank Senator Pia for agreeing to take into consideration our bill in this Committee Report.

It is my honor and privilege to cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1290, under Committee Report No. 2, entitled "An Act Institutionalizing Active Transport by Establishing a Safe Pathways Network of Bicycle Lanes, Walkways and Slow Streets, and For Other Purposes," or the "Walkable and Bikeable Communities Act."

When the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent strict quarantine measures were put in place, everything stopped. All persons were required to remain at home, and all modes of transportation had been suspended. Noong araw po na iyon, masasabi nating "tumigil ang buong mundo."

While essential services continued, there is no public transportation available, forcing many of our frontliners, such as healthcare workers, workers in establishments providing food, medicine, and other essential goods, and many others who had to resort to alternative modes of mobility, such as bikes and scooters, to go to their places of work.

More than two years have passed since then. Data show that active transport is here to stay. Based on a face-to-face survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations in November 2020 and May 2021, the estimated number of households that owned bikes grew from 2 million to 4.9 million.

In the same survey, it is reported that around 4.7 million Filipinos use bikes for essential activities, including market/ grocery/store runs about (3.1 million), going to and from work (1.4 million), and bikes for work-related or livelihood activities (about 1.1 million). Filipinos also use bikes for recreational activities, with an estimated 2.3 million using bikes for exercising, sightseeing, or playing.

We would also like to put on record that in 2021, the Department of Transportation established almost 500 kilometers of bike lanes along national roads—including those in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao—with pavement markings or physical separators and road signs.

Nonetheless, we believe that the investments we made in active transport infrastructure should be further reinforced. That is why this Representation likewise authored and cosponsored the bill to establish a safe pathways network of bicycle lanes, walkways, and slow streets that connect commuters to where they want and need to go. We will also promote the establishment of bike lanes and walkways that are physically separated from the main road through physical barriers or other separators. We likewise put emphasis on promoting an environment that encourages active transport by ensuring that there are secure bicycle racks and other end-of-trip facilities in public places.

With this measure, we also aim to decongest our roads and provide one of the solutions to address traffic. Even prior to the pandemic, we note that based on a study conducted by the Japan International Coordination Agency (JICA), the worsening traffic in Metro Manila costs P3.5 billion in lost opportunities every single day in 2017. *Nagbalik na po ito sa kasalukuyan*. Every day, we lose several hours on the road to and from work or school, which could have been spent instead with our loved ones.

In closing, we believe that it is time that we ensure that active transport becomes one of the primary modes of transportation for all Filipinos, and not anymore an alternative. Our primary mode of transportation should be environmentally friendly, promote healthy living, and be accessible to low-income Filipinos.

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Senator Ejercito delivered the cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1290:

I stand this afternoon on behalf of and in full support to all my fellow bikers and, of course, our main sponsor, Sen. Pia Cayetano, as I cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1290 under Committee Report No. 2.

Just like our good chairperson of the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking, Sen. Pia Cayetano, I am also an active biker. In fact, it has been three days in a row that I have been biking to work. This has been my go-to work out in the morning before going to the Senate. I just change here and then go to the sessions. Not only does it keep me fit and healthy, it is in this way that I avoid the stress of traffic while going around the city.

With the lack of fast and efficient public transportation for most of our *kababayans*, commuting has become more difficult and burdensome. Adding to this is the stressful traffic situation in the metro. With the latest report of the Numbeo Traffic Index 2022, Manila ranked second in Southeast Asia and ranked 15<sup>th</sup> globally as the most congested city. It is said that the average one-way time needed to transport in Manila is 53.59 minutes.

Hindi lamang dahil sa hindi maayos na pampublikong transportasyon at trapik ang nakakapagpahirap sa ating mga komyuter, dumagdag na rin ang walang humpay na pagtaas ng produktong petrolyo.

At the height of the imposition of the enhanced community quarantines, wherein there was a shutdown of public transportations, our kababayans became more creative in their means of travel. Naging normal na ang paglalakad at pagsakay ng bike o scooter para makapunta sa trabaho o grocery para makabili ng suplay ng pagkain. Indeed, necessity is the mother of all inventions. With the relaxation of community quarantines, many continued to ride their bikes and scooters. Kung dati ay dahil walang masakyan, ngayon ay upang makaiwas sa trapik o makatipid sa pamasahe at sa gas.

I am one with the chairperson in encouraging more workers, more students, more professionals, and more of our people to walk, bike, and use non-motorized vehicles as alternative modes of transportation. A survey commissioned by the Department of Health in November 2020 reveals that 85% of Filipinos nationwide agree that their city or municipality could become a great place for biking or walking, while 87% agree that our cities are better off with biking and walking being prioritized over private cars.

As we pass this proposed measure, we are responding to the call of our *kababayans* to have more walkable and bikeable environment.

When more people walk and bike, everyone benefits. There will be less traffic and pollution and there will more efficient use of road space. When people bike or walk, this will result in reduced carbon emissions, reduced road congestions, less use of energy and resources, less dependence on oil, and more healthy citizens.

Until the time the government has finished up with its goal to provide mass transportation that is people-centered and accommodating to every walk of life, let us make room and promote a more active and a healthier alternative means of travel. However, it is but imperative to provide the Filipinos with an environment that welcomes all these forms and means.

We envision the day when walking and cycling will become the safe and convenient means of every day travel for all Filipinos because we have been instruments in the improvement of our country's cycling infrastructure.

Ride safe sa lahat ng ating mga kapadyak!

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

Senator Dela Rosa likewise delivered the following cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1290:

It is my honor and privilege to cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1290 under Committee Report No. 2, otherwise known as the "Walkable and Bikeable Communities Act."

As a cycling enthusiast, I would like to laud Sen. Pia Cayetano in prioritizing the measure that would ensure the safety of our bikers and pedestrians on the road.

Time and again, we have heard of several devastating stories of road accidents involving our fellow cyclists. According to the MMDA, 2,397 road crashes involving bikers have been reported in 2021, 33 of which resulted in death, while 1,719 resulted in nonfatal injuries. A total of 645 incidents resulted in damage to property.

This year was no exception. Just last August 9, a couple riding a bicycle sustained injuries after being hit by a bus along the EDSA Carousel in Pasay City. Their bicycle was ran over and completely destroyed.

But the pandemic made us realize the benefits of cycling, not only to our health but more so for the environment. This has also opened the reality in our car-centric culture and the lack of sufficient infrastructure for our biking community.

The rise in the number of our cycling enthusiasts should not and should never equate to a consequent rise in the number of bicycle-related accidents. However, this is the reality.

With the passage of this measure, we can ensure the safety of all our *kababayans*, may it be the pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists. Ang panukalang batas na ito ay hindi lamang para sa ating mga siklista kung hindi para sa seguridad ng bawat Pilipino. It is but time that we move from car-centric policies to a more inclusive people-centric policy.

The approval of this bill will require the national government and the local government units to spend funds for the construction of the Safe Pathways Network that shall consist of bicycle lanes, walkways, and designation of slow streets. This public money to be spent is expected to have a multiplier effect.

The European Cyclists' Federation (ECF), in one of their studies, claimed that cycling delivers significant economic gains in the European Union. According to ECF: "...the health benefits due to reduced mortality amount to 114 to 121 billion euros, or the benefits of congestion easing to about 25 billion euros. Cycling also creates jobs: At current levels of cycling, more than 650,000 jobs in the EU are linked to the sector. If cycling modal share was doubled, more than 400,000 extra jobs could be created." Hopefully, with our public investment in the establishment of the Safe Pathways Network, we can reap the same economic benefits.

With that, the enactment into law of this bill will contribute to our efforts to fully revive our economy. But, more importantly, this will protect the lives of our countrymen.

To end, I join the call of our fellow cyclists of Move as One Transport Coalition that "Filipino cyclists SHOULD arrive alive" and it is incumbent upon us, as legislators, to make this call a reality for all. I urge my colleagues to support this very important measure.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR REVILLA

As chairperson of the Committee on Public Works, to which Senate Bill No. 1290 was referred as the secondary committee, Senator Revilla associated himself with the advocacy of Sen. Cayetano (P) in pushing for a measure that would establish a Safe Pathways Network of bicycle lanes, walkways, and slow streets.

He stated that sustainable transportation is undeniably part of the new normal. With the shift to a less car-centric mindset, he agreed that there is a need to invest in the right infrastructures where cyclists, whether as commuters or hobbyists, are ensured of their safety.

In closing, he expressed his confidence, with Senator Cayetano (P) taking the lead, that the proposed measure would eventually establish the Safe Pathways Network nationwide.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

In support to Senate Bill No. 1290, Senator Poe delivered the following manifestation:

I thank the good senator from Taguig City for prioritizing a measure that would champion the cause of the pedestrians, commuters, bikers, and community as a whole. The message is clear. The roads must be shared with the people, and this bill, being the first one to be sponsored before the Plenary, gives a clear indication that this is a Senate that believes in the principle that "those who have less in wheels must have more in roads."

We have seen from social media the pictures of Iloilo City Network, an extensive network of picturesque bike lanes that draws hundreds of bikers and visitors each day. Also making the waves of social media is the new Fatima Avenue of Valenzuela City of our dear colleague Senator Gatchalian, and the city ably run by the Gatchalian brothers for many years, a very progressive city, indeed. It is a street turned scenic walkway for pedestrians to stroll through and spend their precious time with their loved ones.

Talagang mapapa-"sana all" ka kapag nakita mo ang pictures. But I am sure that with this bill, which incorporates the bill I earlier filed titled "Bicycle Friendly Communities Act of 2022," we will be seeing a lot more Iloilo City Networks and Fatima Avenues come to life. "Sana all" will, hopefully, be returned into "may ganiyan din kami dito."

At the proper time, we will be proposing some amendments to make our pathways and roads more inclusive to all forms of active mobility, including e-scooters, e-bikes, and other light electric vehicles, as defined under Republic Act No. 11697, or the Electric Industry Development Act.

But at this juncture, let me congratulate the good senator for sponsoring this bill. I assure her that I am one with her in this fight for a healthier, more active, and more fulfilling lifestyle for the Filipino community.

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ESTRADA

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 1290, Senator Estrada likewise delivered the following speech:

I am honored to cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1290 under Committee Report No. 2 of the Senate Committees on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; Public Works; and Finance.

Allow me to express my sincerest gratitude to our indefatigable advocate of health, sports, and sustainable development here in the Senate, my *kumare*, the good lady senator from Taguig and

Pateros, Sen. Pia Cayetano, for swiftly acting on the bill filed by this Representation. I would like to commend her for readily bringing the said measure for plenary sponsorship today.

Through this bill, we can witness the persistence and swiftness of action of our good chairperson in once again pushing for the passage of this timely and worthwhile legislation which was already unanimously approved by this august Chamber last year during the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress and was then known as the "Safe Pathways Network Act."

This measure may seem quite simple in form and intent, but it is truly lofty in ambition. It offers a very practical solution to problems that encompasses a range of social concerns, such as public health, ecological integrity, clean and affordable energy, innovation, efficient public transportation, and infrastructure, among others.

And on the part of this humble Representation, I view this as a timely pro-poor measure. Maitututuring na kalbaryo para sa marami nating kababayan ang araw-araw at mahabang oras ng pakikipagsiksikan at pagpila sa mga istasyon ng tren, bus, jeep, at pati rin ng tricycle at padyak. Idagdag pa ang kawalan ng maayos na sistema at imprastraktura, pati na rin ang kakulangan sa masasakyan papasok at pauwi galing sa trabaho, lalo na at nasa panahon pa rin tayo ng pandemiya. Ang mga Pilipinong mananakay ay ang isa sa mga unang umaaray kada magtataas ang presyo ng pamasahe dahil sa pagsirit ng presyo ng gasolina at diesel at kada may isyu ng tigil-pasada o transportation strike.

Kaya naman isang praktikal na alternatibo sa paglalakbay ng maraming Pilipino ang paggamit ng bisikleta. Ngunit nakalulungkot na marami sa ating mga lansangan ang nananatiling hindi ligtas para sa mga bikers.

As presented during the hearing, we learned that 20% of households own bikes and only 5% have cars. There was also a significant growth—in fact, a 100% increase—in the number of households with bicycles both in the National Capital Region and in urban areas nationwide.

Eighty-five per cent of Filipinos also agree that it is possible for their city or municipality to become a great place for walking and cycling.

I laud the efforts of the Department of Transportation and the DPWH for opening hundreds of kilometers of bike lanes in major cities all over the country. We hope that with this legislation, the same will be institutionalized and more will be made available for bikers. This bill is a response to the public clamor for safe road structure and enhanced facilities for an efficient transport options *para sa mga gustong magbisikleta o maglakad na lamang*. This measure is also among the priority measures identified in the updated Philippine Development Plan, specifically in areas of modernizing public transportation, transitioning to the new normal, and ensuring clean and healthy environment.

Sa patuloy na hirap na nararanasan ng ating mga kababayan, sa pagtaas ng presyo ng gasolina, ng kuryente, ng bilihin, ng pamahase, at ng iba pa, nakatutuwang mayroon tayong solusyon upang maibsan ang gastos at hirap ng pagko-commute na parehong may buting idudulot sa kalusugan, sa kapaligiran, at sa positibo at sustainable na pamumuhay.

I look forward that this measure will be enacted into law at the soonest possible time.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

At this juncture, Senator Legarda requested the insertion of her cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1290 into the *Journal* and *Record of the Senate*.

#### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA**

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Legarda, following is her sponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1290 which was deemed read and inserted into the *Journal* and *Record of the Senate*:

Prior to the pandemic, public transportation in the country was already unbearable. In 2017, the MRT 3 broke down more than 500 times. This made the usually crowded lines become more congested.

During the pandemic, restricting human mobility and enforcing strict guidelines in transportation systems were some of the effective strategies used to control the spread of COVID-19. While positive effects of mobility restriction that mitigate COVID-19 cases have been observed, the restrictions, however, also have adverse and societal effects, especially on the labor force.

In a more recent perspective, the price of gasoline also reached an all-time high. We see congestion worsening again upon the return of face-to-face classes and employees physically reporting to offices. These events magnified our need for a better and more sustainable means of transportation.

I fully support the Safe Pathways Act which is hitting three birds with one stone specifically on health, environment, and economic aspects. It advocated for improved health for individuals and the community especially in this post-pandemic period, while supporting the cause of environmental protection with reduced pollution caused by the everyday volume of vehicles exceeding the capacity of public roads. Supporting bicycle and walking infrastructure will help ease congestion of our roads, and at the same time introduce safe ways to our cyclists.

It is for these reasons that I wish to be associated with the proposed legislation.

With the permission of the gentlelady from Taguig and Pateros, I would like to be a coauthor of the measure.

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GO

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 1290, Senator Go delivered the following speech:

I am glad to cosponsor this proposed measure which institutionalizes active transport by establishing a safe pathways network of bicycle lanes, walkways, and slow streets.

I congratulate and commend the sponsor, Sen. Pia S. Cayetano, for consistently advocating and prioritizing this important measure. *Naalala ko pa po noong 2007, nagbisikleta si* Senator Cayetano sa Davao papuntang Samal. So, that was 15 years ago na po. Talagang adbokasiya na niya iyong pagbibisikleta.

As the chairperson of the Committee on Health and Demography, I have been a supporter of the use of bicycles as an active form of transportation in the country, not only to minimize traffic on our streets but, more importantly, to promote a healthy and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

Sa panahon ngayon, kailangan na nating isipin kung paano makatutulong ang ating lifestyle sa ating kalusugan. Sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng bisikleta, mabibigyan tayo ng pagkakataong makapag-exercise at, siyempre, makatulong sa ating kapaligiran.

Matagal ko na rin pong hinihikayat ang ating mga kababayan na gumamit na lamang po ng bisikleta para sa kanilang pang-araw araw na pag-commute. And, in fact, kapag pumupunta po ako sa mga nasunugan, tinatanong ko sila kung hirap sila sa transportasyon, I encourage them to use bicycles. Minsan din po ay namimigay ako ng bisikleta sa kanila, at pinapaalalahanan ko na mag-ingat—huwag sa gitna dahil maraming abusadong driver.

Sa ngayon, nagmamahal din ang pamasahe at ang presyo ng langis, kaya naman isa sa mga solusyon talaga ay ang paggamit ng bisikleta. Kailangan lamang may sapat na pasilidad at imprastraktura para ma-engganyo ang ating mga kababayan.

Pakiusap ko lamang po sa mga nagbibisikleta: sumunod tayo sa batas trapiko at sa mga patakaran para sa kaayusan na rin ng ating komunidad.

Again, I give my full support to this bill which mandates the establishment of necessary infrastructure for walking, biking, and other non-motorized vehicles, and encourage sustainable and healthy modes of active transport.

I also want to make of record my intention to be made coauthor of this measure.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1290

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

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR MARCOS

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Marcos delivered the following privilege speech:

Tumatayo ako sa pagkakataong ito tulak na aking pribilehiyo—magkasamang personal at kolektibo.

Sa tuwing tayo ay magdiwang at kumanta ng ating pambansang awit, ibinubunyag natin ang "Lupang Hinirang"— lupang hinirang para sa mga magsasakang hinirang, ngunit wala pa rin silang kapirasong lupang maangkin o mapakinabangan ng kanilang pamilya.

Papalapit na ang ika-dalawampu't isa ng Oktubre, at lalampas na ang ika-limang dekada ng PD 27, ang pagpapalaya ng mga magsasaka sa pagkaalipin ng lupa, ngunit bigo pa rin ang marami nating magsasaka na mapasakanila ang munting bahagi ng ating bansa, lupa, na kung tutuusin ay yaman ng bawat Pilipino at ng buong lipi. Panahon nang wakasan ang pagtiis at pagdusa ng ating mambubukid, at ipamahagi nang walang utang at buong puso—lupang ibinubungkal at sinasaka nila araw-araw ng ilang taon nang nakalipas.

In truth, the history of land reform in the Philippines is a long and convoluted one, beginning with the Public Land Act in early 1903 and through various Commonwealth laws authorizing the President to acquire private land for resale to tenants. Following independence, the Philippine Congress enacted further land reform acts in 1955 and 1963, attempting to abolish shared tenancy and providing support services to new farm owners.

But it was in the 21st of October in 1972 that the Comprehensive and Mandatory Agrarian Reform Program was launched by then-President Ferdinand E. Marcos, decreeing the emancipation of all tenant farmers, sharecroppers, and agricultural workers "from the bondage of the soil." Identifying large tracts of rice and corn farmland, PD 27 mandated government expropriation of land without need of any farmers' petition as all areas cultivated under tenancy and sharecropper arrangements were deemed subject to agrarian reform. Vigorous execution of this decree affected the immediate breakup of vast agricultural estates in Luzon and elsewhere into three- to five-hectare parcels.

In 1988, CARP, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, expanded its legal coverage to the so-called "plantation crops," such as sugar, cacao, coconut, rubber, and all other export and commercial crops previously excluded under PD27. Controversy and protest hounded CARP and its successor CARPer's implementation from the outset, so that until today the Agrarian Reform Program under DAR remains incomplete and still uneven.

Then the pandemic hit with deadly virulence, causing a public health emergency that ravaged the economy. On September 11, almost to the day two years ago in 2020, this Chamber acted swiftly and decisively, passing RA 11494, the epic COVID-19 response legislation of Bayanihan 2. With the urgent goal of protecting the populace from the worst effects of the pandemic, the Bayanihan 2 also included in Section 49(m), a groundbreaking exemption for agrarian beneficiaries from interest payments for the period of the emergency.

This single provision in our law had impactful results, with P7.228 billion worth of interest payments from 272,320 agrarian reform beneficiaries waived, in addition to P887 million worth of excess interest payments from 112,785 farmers now credited to the principal interest of the loan. In fact, some 8,987 farmers were able to fully pay their loans solely from excess interest payments credited to the principal loan.

Following the Eighteenth Congress' historic initiative, next week, our new President, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, will sign an executive order further suspending payment upon the principal amount of loans to agrarian reform beneficiaries, declaring a moratorium until June 30 of next year.

Thus, for the first time today, with his legal precedents upending in a well-worn framework, the total condonation for the last remaining tenant farmers, their families, and heirs is truly doable.

I have thus filed Senate Bill No. 178 and Senate Bill No. 1112, DAR's less ambitious version, legislating a complete write-off of all unpaid amortizations from loans secured under all Agrarian Reform Programs. Let there finally be free land for all remaining qualified beneficiaries, for this, indeed, is the last mile of the Philippine Agrarian Reform Program. Already 4.8 million hectares had been distributed. What remains with DAR is a workable backlog of a mere 173,339.88 hectares.

Sa inyong mga harapan makikita ang mga munting rebulto ng kalabaw sa isang kapirasong lupa. Paalala sa atin ng ilang magsasakang mang-uukit na nag-aabang na maibigay sa kanila ang lupang sinasaka. Huwag sana nating kalimutan.

Wakasan na natin ang paghihirap ng ating mga mambubukid. Panahon nang palitan ng ngiti ang pagod at dusa ng magsasaka nang ang Lupang Hinirang ay hindi maging lupang hinarang na lamang. At ang pangako ng ating pambansang awit na "lupa, duyan ng kagitingan," hindi mauwi sa "lupang hinarang dulot ay kahirapan."

And if outright condonation has now become feasible, so too is it eminently viable; for truly, condonation simply makes good financial sense. Firstly, this proposal will generate savings for the Land Bank of the Philippines and the National Government given the absurdity that for many long years, the administrative costs for the land reform program had been bigger than its annual collections.

Observe the chart shown.

#### (Slide flashed on the screen)

In the year 2020 alone, the LANDBANK spent P1.95 billion for a paltry collection of P542,688,603. Tama ba naman ang ginagastos nating iyan?

The government's remaining balance totals P8.36 billion: first, to acquire DAR's remaining backlog hectarage for P7.32 billion, and P104 billion for titling said land.

For a change, we have more than enough money, because we can now use for possible funding of condonation the following sources of funds: firstly, the P34.47 billion from the Agrarian Reform Fund; and then the P10.22 billion from the PhilGuarantee-AGFP fund. In addition, there is P4.39 billion from the PCIC share in the Agri-Agra Fund.

Under the new Republic Act No. 11901, or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development Act of 2022, we can look forward to additional funding of 35% from the noncompliance penalty collections of banking institutions to the DAR for titling and parcelization. Hence, not only can we afford to condone these meager farmer loans, but we have the funds to support them with services, seeds and equipment, training, and, finally, even perhaps agricultural modernization.

May salawikain tayong mga Pilipino na malupit ngunit totoo naman. Ang sabi ng ating matatanda, "Walang ligaya sa lupa na 'di dinilig ng luha." Kung tutuusin, talagang bayad na ang mga magsasaka sa utang nila sapagkat idinilig na nila ng kanilang luha, ng kanilang pawis, at taun-taong paghihintay na makamtan ang lupang sinasaka. Sa haba na rin ng panahon, kung mayroon man malaki-laking bukid, pinaghatian na ng anak, ng mga apo, ng mga apo sa tuhod ng kauna-unahang mga beneficiaries.

Kaya't sa wakas, tapusin na natin ito.

Finally, if condonation is truly doable and viable today, there is also no doubt that condonation of all remaining agrarian reform debts is also the desirable end. At least 654,047 agrarian reform families will be granted a total of 1.35 million hectares of land, liberating the countryside from the burden of debt and despair. Wise men have said that the balance of power in a society accompanies the balance of property in land, and that people who lack jobs, ownership, and opportunity of land have little or no stake in their community and nation. With real assets free from encumbrances, our farmers can utilize cash originally intended for loan repayments to invest in their own properties to buy equipment and fine seed, and embark on new technology and marketable cash crops.

They will then have the collateral to access capital necessary to maximize productivity and enter into profitable commercial farming arrangements. The increased output of farms will result not only in higher incomes for the agrarian beneficiaries but also in food security for the nation, avoiding the dreaded shortages in sugar, onion, garlic and even salt that plague us today.

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And thence shall the way forward open toward rural development and commercial farming on condoned lands through contract growing, block and consolidated farming, joint ventures, agriventure agreements, and all manner of fresh capital as private investment grows in a landscape of secure and reliable land ownership.

Ngayong nagbabadya ang kakulangan sa pagkain, panahon nang buhayin ang pagsasaka. Tuldukan na ang kabuktutan ng pag-aangkat ng pagkaing simple lang naman itanim. Kawalan din ng pagpapalaya ng mga magsasaka sa pag-aalipin ng lupa ay tumagal ng limang dekada ang pinakamatagal na pagpaparte ng lupa sa buong mundo kung ihambing natin sa Taiwan, sa South Korea, at pati na rin sa Japan. Ilunsad na natin ang bagong simula ng agrikultura sa lupang hinirang. Bagong Pilipino, taas noo kahit kanino.

Matutupad din ang pangako ng ating Pambansang Awit, "lupa ng araw ng luwalhati't pagsinta," na ang buhay maging langit para sa bawat isang magsasakang Pilipino. Wika ni Gat Andres Bonifacio, "Aling pag-ibig pa ang hihigit kaya sa pagkadalisay at pagkadakila gaya ng pag-ibig sa tinubuang lupa?" Sadyang mamahalin ng bawat may-aring magbubukid ang lupang pinaghirapan at, sa wakas, maihahandog na sa kanila.

Mabuhay ang pagsasaka! Mabuhay ang kalayaan ng magsasaka! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

At this juncture, Senator Legarda thanked Senator Marcos for her privilege speech, acknowledging the latter's suggestion to condone the agrarian reform debts of the country's agrarian reform beneficiaries.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PADILLA

At this juncture, Senator Padilla manifested his support for Senator Marcos' privilege speech, saying that he was captivated by it. He surmised that the still-unresolved problem of insurgency particularly in the countryside would finally be solved when farmers finally had land to call their own. He expressed hope that the Department of Agriculture (DA) would provide farmers the necessary financial assistance once the lands are granted. He expressed concern that a lack of funds might lead to additional loans and, as a result, they may eventually lose the land itself.

He then urged his colleagues to support the Marcos administration's program, believing that it is the solution to the country's insurgency problem. He also surmised that the Philippines may be the only remaining country in Southeast Asia that is dealing with insurgency. He expressed hope that the farmers' dream of finally having lands of their own would one day become a reality.

#### REMARKS OF SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE LEGARDA

Senator Legarda agreed with Senator Padilla that simply granting the lands to farmers will not suffice. She believed that it is equally important to help them secure capital and farm inputs in order for the lands to remain productive after they are awarded. She revealed that she has been advocating and allocating funds for agrarian reform benefits (ARBs) as well as agrarian reform communities (ARCs) because she believes it is past time for the lands they till to finally become their own for which the government must provide the necessary support.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino likewise manifested his support for Senator Padilla's earlier manifestation with regard to the privilege speech of Senator Marcos. He associated himself with the notion that giving condonation would lead to total land ownership for farmers in the countryside, thereby alleviating the nation's current insurgency problem.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

Senator Dela Rosa expressed his support and thereafter requested that he be associated with the privilege speech of Senator Marcos and the subsequent manifestation of Senator Padilla.

He agreed that the distribution of lands to poor farmers is one of the solutions to the country's insurgency problem. However, he reminded the Body that there is a deeper cause to the insurgency problem, and that the agrarian reform issue is only one of many to deal with. Furthermore, he stated that the same land problem, as well as poverty and lack of education, is being exploited by left-leaning elements of society in order to seize power from the government. He believed that the proposal is a move in the right direction because the communist groups, which one true goal is to topple the government, would have fewer issues to exploit.

#### REMARK OF SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE LEGARDA

Senator Legarda thanked Senator Dela Rosa and assured him that as long as each senator adheres to democratic principles, everything should fall within the democratic framework.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

At this juncture, Senator Hontiveros stated that she has a few points that she would like to be clarified, which she would bring to the attention of the committee once the hearing on Senator Marcos' proposed measure begins.

With regard to the debt condonation of ARBs, which she viewed as one of the positive aspects of President Marcos' State of the Nation Address (SONA), she inquired which among the three primary components of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and its companion law, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER), the condonation would fall, whether in 1) land acquisition and distribution; 2) support services; or 3) agrarian justice delivery. Nonetheless, she stated that regardless of where the debt condonation falls within the three components, there is still the need for government to focus on the other two components to make the program a reality.

To emphasize her point, she stated that if debt condonation is included in land acquisition and distribution, the provision of a package of support services to ARBs, as well as agrarian justice delivery, must likewise happen. She believed that accomplishing the three items would finally put an end to the cycle of former landowners filing cases against the ARBs, to the detriment of land reform objectives.

Concerning backlogs in land acquisition and distribution, she informed the Body that the figure of 173,000 hectares provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to Senator Marcos may not be accurate. She revealed, based on the data provided by agrarian reform advocates, that the true figure was around 460,000 hectares, owing in part to the previous administration's poor performance in agrarian reform. She opined that some of the lands with issues attached to them might have been removed by the DAR from the list. She then expressed her wish for the government to deliver on the promises of the CARP, as neighboring tiger economies in the region, such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, have finished their respective agrarian reform programs in just a matter of two or three years. Relative thereto, she stated that no land should be removed from the list solely because of strong opposition from former landowners. Furthermore, while she appreciated the "less ambitious DAR Bill" being handed by the DAR to Senator Marcos, she stated that she would welcome a more ambitious bill from the senator, advising her to look into the possibility that the figure supplied by the DAR relative to its backlog might actually be closer to 460,000 hectares and not 173,000.

Finally, she informed the Body that Task Force Mapalad, an organization of poor farmers aspiring to be ARBs, has asked the DAR to conduct an investigation into the data in its land acquisition and distribution backlog. She believed that raising the figure to 460,000 would encourage the DAR to be more ambitious in its goal of delivering lands to tenant farmers and assisting with the proposed debt condonation.

At this juncture, Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda relinquished the Chair to Senate President Zubiri.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TULFO

Senator Tulfo likewise expressed his support to Senator Marcos. He then urged the Body to investigate the widespread land grabbing that is affecting farmers in Palawan, with influential politicians reportedly behind it. He stated that he will not name specific individuals until the committee hearings, to which they will be invited.

He revealed that influential individuals would approach the poor farmers in need, such as those experiencing medical emergencies, and force them to either pawn or sell their lands for a sum of money. He believed that it is prevalent not only in Palawan but throughout the Philippines and that it is past time that land grabbers victimizing poor farmers are subjected to congressional investigations in aid of legislation.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Senator Ejercito, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Marcos and the manifestations thereon to the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 5:11 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3 (Continuation)

(Commaunon)

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2022-2028 MEDIUM-TERM FISCAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

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

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

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

Asked by Senator Cayetano (P) asked whether the MTFF made reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Senator Angara responded that incomes and health were briefly mentioned in the fiscal framework, which he believed are part of the SDGs.

Adverting to the second to the last paragraph of page 21 of Annex A of the MTFF, Senator Cayetano (P) expressed delight that the SDGs were indeed clearly mentioned even if they were not specifically defined.

On whether the country's SDGs, such as on health, education, and disaster risk management, among others, would be prioritized in the national budget, which she expects the DBCC would assure her in the upcoming budget hearings, Senator Angara replied in the affirmative, saying that the health budget has been increased, specifically the allocation for UP-PGH.

Senator Cayetano (P) stated that in every DBCC hearing, she would usually emphasize that there should be a continuing allocation for the projects for budgetary items that are recognized, so that when one project ends, funding for the next would be available as they are important for the country's growth and development. She noted the wrangling and rushing in Congress to salvage the meager budget that they are able to insert in the previous Congress in the hope that it would be recognized again in the next. She noted that the most recent term for it is "For Later Release (FLR)," which is a term for removing funds from the budget.

Agreeing with Senator Cayetano (P), Senator Angara however explained that it is more akin to a situation where the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has a "one-fund concept," a policy that requires everything to revert to one fund, wherein funds would be vacuumed out after a project is completed and placed in another agency's fund rather than recurring obligation or appropriation. Senator Cayetano (P) clarified that her question was about future-proofing the budget.

As regards the second to the last paragraph of page 21 of Annex A of the MTFF, which enumerates, among others, health, education, disaster risk management, Senator Cayetano (P) asked if it is even feasible for the budget for specific items to be future proofed if the DBM could present a percentage of the budget that they are willing to work with. She stated that she always records the percentages of certain things, such as how the budget would be spent, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and so on. In reply, Senator Angara responded by suggesting that they set a goal of 5% of GDP for pending infrastructure projects, as they had done in the two previous administrations. He recalled that in the 1980s and 1990s, they spent 2% of GDP on education, which sometimes reached 4%.

She proposed that the DBM and the entire economic team meet with them more frequently so that they would understand the direction, given that she would give her all when defending the budget. She maintained that she would fight to support for any increases that she was unable to make, particularly those supported by her colleagues.

With regard to AmBisyon Natin 2040, she noted that is a shorter document than the MTFF, with the visions "Matatag na Pamilya, Maginhawa, at Panatag."

She stated that the first vision, "Matatag," is about a family being together and having jobs in the country so that neither parent needs to work abroad. She stated that it is directly related to her previous sponsorship speech, which talks about having time to relax and maintaining good mental health.

"Maginhawa," she said, addresses SDG No. 1 (No Poverty) and SDG No. 2 (Zero Hunger) in terms of food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

She stated that the third vision, "Panatag," is about having decent work and a living---not minimum---wage, or SDG No. 8.

She stated that the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress is the second Congress that has a Committee on Sustainable Development, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, which is her responsibility. She expressed her hope that everyone becomes acquainted with the concept so that when they get down to its essentials, they can be assured that they are on the right track with the targets.

On whether it is fair to ask the DBM to align their budget allocations to the SDGs, Senator Angara responded that it is only fair because they are all parties and signatories to all treaties and conventions, including the SDGs, and thus should be committed to it. Furthermore, he acknowledged the budget as a building block in achieving such objectives.

In response to another query, Senator Angara affirmed that the DBM's failure to meet specific targets within each goal for which they are accountable would make a substantial difference between general statements and actual delivery of the specific deliverables on education, health, and disaster risk management.

He stated that because everything begins with a plan, the legislator should ask the economic manager for the plan in order to achieve at least a 5% infrastructure spending-to-GDP ratio. He suggested that they set the same goals for human development as they do for physical development.

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed gratitude for the suggestion, noting that the new administration has stated that several policies will be continued. She noted that even the revenue generation policies that were stated, not only in the SONA but also in later statements made by the Secretary of Finance, were nearly identical to the wish list handed to her as chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means. She informed the Body that there were changes in the department heads.

Furthermore, she stated that she wanted to ensure that the SDGs are recognized because they were able to provide budgets for the establishment of Futures Thinking offices in the Department of Education (DepEd) and a Sustainable Development Office in the National Economic and Development Authority, as well as funding for the DAP's training programs. She expressed hope that the new administration will allow such tools to be used.

Senator Angara believed that several of the new faces would be on board to carry on some of the work that Senator Cayetano (P) had begun. He noted that Singapore had even dedicated an agency to Futures Thinking, which studies trends, He stated that whether its fields are as diverse as geography and films, as it is a free-wheeling mandate to ensure that the country is not left behind.

Senator Cayetano (P) stated that at a global health conference that she attended less than two weeks ago, a WHO representative to China focused on creativity in the approach to future-proofing health care, claiming that the Filipinos are most creative in various fields.

On a related matter, she inquired whether it is considered a concept of intergenerational fairness to defend or accept the budgets that are presented by the agencies to Congress because it is expected of them.

She recalled that one of the topics in a hearing conducted by her brother, Sen. Alan Cayetano, was salt shortage. She believed that, aside from urbanization, one of the causes for the shortage was the decline in salt production as a result of the law requiring the production of iodized salt, which the country did not pursue because it was only interested in producing raw materials.

With the disappearance of the salt beds, she lamented the lack of foresight and collective decision-making in protecting and preserving the local salt industry. She said the same situation applies to many of the country's agricultural products.

Senator Villanueva interjected at this point, expressing regret that despite having 36,000 kilometers of coastline, the country imports 93% of its salt requirements, compared to 15% in the 1990s.

To emphasize his point, he stated that the province of Pangasinan derived its name from "*pangasinan*" indicating that salt production was the main industry in one of the country's largest provinces. He noted that many salt-producing companies had gone out of business, particularly in the Municipality of Bolinao.

Senator Cayetano stated that she used the salt industry as an example to illustrate the need for futures thinking and planning. She asked Senator Angara if they could ask the MTFF's framers to include specific targets, such as reducing salt imports from 93% to 25%.

Senator Angara stated that he agrees with her position on the importance of strategic thinking in order for the country to capitalize on market opportunities. He recalled how, during the debates over the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Law, they both pushed for provisions that would incentivize people who add value to the process.

He added that the country cannot exclusively rely solely on market-based development because there are times when the market, on its own, cannot sustain the industry's viability. He believed that the government should intervene in such cases through policies such as incentivizing the private sector. He then mentioned Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam as countries whose governments are proactively attracting private sector investment.

He stated that the Philippines could benefit significantly from the strategy employed by Indonesia with regard to its mining industry when it prohibited the export of raw products from the mines, forcing the industry to refocus its operations on locally processing such raw materials. He stated that similar interventions can be added to the process and the economic value chain in order to alleviate the income of Filipinos. He stated that the thought process relates much to his "*Tatak Pinoy*" advocacy, which includes higher incomes, rural development, and reverse migration.

Asked if he agrees with calling on the plan's framers to provide specific industries and the targets for each, Senator Angara answered in the affirmative, saying that it would define what government plans to spend to incentivize the private sector, particularly in industries involving public goods that can be made to provide higher values. He believed that it is the only way to hold them accountable.

However, he stated private sector cooperation is required for the plan to succeed. He emphasized that it is the private sector, not the government, that creates jobs. He acknowledged that it would be challenging to hold government accountable for something that the private sector is supposed to do. On that note, he reiterated the importance of government incentives for the private sector.

Senator Cayetano (P) agreed that the government can only do so much, but that the success or failure of a program or project must be measured against clear and specific targets.

On water security, she stated that she would like to see concrete plans to ensure the availability of water for the country's future needs. Senator Angara agreed, stating that agencies with responsibilities for the country's water resource are dispersed across different departments. Senator Cayetano (P) stated that the newly appointed Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will present a report to the Senate. In closing, she stated that the MTFF's objectives and targets should be clear. She expressed hope that Senator Angara would support her during the budget deliberations if she raised the issue again. Senator Angara responded that he will work with her to achieve the common goal of providing the people with everything that the framework promised.

#### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Senator Pimentel stated at the outset that he was simply continuing his suspended interpellation from the previous session due to the late submission of the resolution's attachment labelled as "Annex A," which was not originally submitted with the concurrent resolution. Senator Angara confirmed that the attachment was submitted late to the Senate. Senator Pimentel called the situation a procedural blunder.

Asked if the MTFF was already in existence when the House of Representatives (HOR) approved their version of the resolution, Senator Angara responded that the resource persons present are nodding their heads to affirm the MTFF's existence when the HOR resolution was approved.

Senator Pimentel reiterated his position that he did not see why the Chamber should tackle and vote on the concurrent resolution, and that its approval is being rushed. He described the MTFF as a non-binding mission-vision statement and stated that he did not see the importance of having it approved, but that agreeing to the resolution meant pledging support for the MTFF.

When asked to comment on the statement, Senator Angara stated that it is the job of the Minority to fiscalize and scrutinize the work of the incumbent administration. However, he stated that the resolution and the MTFF, which he compared to a mission-vision statement as described by Senator Pimentel, are intended to guide the administration's actions and decisions, just as they would in any organization or aggrupation.

Senator Pimentel opined that, while he understands what a mission-vision is, the resolution and the MTFF is a joint mission-vision of the Executive branch and the two Houses of the Legislative branch.

He averred that the President could have simply called on his supporters in the Senate and the HOR to a convention where they would sign off a resolution supporting the MTFF, instead of having the document formally pass through the two Houses.

Senator Angara responded by highlighting the difficulties of being in a multiparty democracy with three branches of government that have strong checks and balances on each other. He noted that it makes decision-making and implementation in the country extremely slow. He contrasted it with countries with parliamentary governments, in which the Executive and Legislative branches are comprised of the same officials, resulting in efficacy and efficiency in action due to the lack of gridlock in the processes. He stated that if the Executive and Legislative branches worked together in supporting plans and programs, the country would move faster.

Senator Pimentel then requested Senator Angara to reiterate the resolution's non-binding nature. The latter responded that while the resolution was not legally binding, its approval would bind the Body to a moral obligation. Senator Pimentel said that it might be turned into a political issue.

Senator Pimentel then raised another issue with the procedures being followed in the resolution's approval. He underscored the limitations imposed on the Body in amending the

documents. He pointed out that the Body could only amend the resolution, not the MTFF. He stated that approval of the resolution implied approval of the MTFF as well, which he found problematic.

Asked by Senator Pimentel about the subject of previously approved concurrent resolutions, Senator Villanueva said that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 gave notice to the Office of the President about the State of the Nation Address, and the second was about the Legislative Calendar. Senator Pimentel pointed out that both concurrent resolutions simply expressed a sentiment or message emanating from both Houses.

In terms of procedure or form, Senator Pimentel stated that a concurrent resolution is an expression of sentiment or a message from both Houses, not an expression of support. He asked the Secretariat to look into and inform him of its opinion on the matter.

He then referred to the last paragraph of the policy statement found on page 1 of the MTFF, which states: "Once adopted, the MTFF will become an anchor for the annual spending and financing plan of the National Government (NG), and Congress when preparing the annual budget and undertaking related appropriation activities."

Inquired on the meaning of the phrase "the MTFF will be an anchor," Senator Angara responded that the term "anchor" meant that the fiscal activities of the government would only move around the parameters set forth by the framework which will not imperil the five measurable macroeconomic and fiscal objectives—GDP, poverty rate, deficit, debt-to-GDP ratio, and GNI per capita. He reiterated that anything that would imperil the five goals would not fall within the ambit of the framework.

Senator Pimentel also noted on page 3 that the framework's assumption is that the peso/dollar rate will average between P51 and P53 in 2022; however, the dollar has recently reached P57. He then inquired as to whether the assumption had been destroyed by actual events. Senator Angara stated that, according to BSP Vice Governor Dakila, the framework mentioned an assumption rather than a target, and that the peso decline was only for one day, not an average of the current year. He stated that the average rate is currently at P53.41, which is in the upper end of the assumption's limit, and affirmed that the assumption on the peso-to-dollar exchange has been destroyed.

Asked about the effect of the destruction of the assumption on the peso-dollar exchange rate, Senator Angara stated that when it comes to inflation, the administration is not solely focused on the foreign exchange rate; it is also working to improve the production side.

At this point, Senate President Zubiri inquired if the peso-to-dollar rate would still improve, as it has a significant impact on the goals laid out in the resolution. Senator Angara stated that the projection is that it will rise in the short term in 2022, then fall the following year due to less pressure from the price of oil.

On whether the drafters of the MTFF considered changing their assumptions after the pesoto-dollar exchange rate increased to P57, Senator Angara stated that the financial managers would conduct further review later that year. He clarified that, while the resolution mentioned a review, there would be annual periodic reviews and a formal review every three years following discussions among financial managers.

In reply to another query, Senator Angara stated that the managers could at the very least inform Congress of the movements leading to the direction of the MTFF, regardless of whether it needs to be informed of the potential impact of the peso against the dollar. He stated that for every peso depreciation, revenues increase by P10 billion, which is favorable for the economy, while exports become cheaper as the peso depreciates. Senator Pimentel stated that because revenues are generated by the people, the peso-dollar increase would have an impact on them. Senator Angara clarified that the revenue mentioned is from the Customs or business perspective, and not from the poorer classes.

Senator Pimentel opined that it is either businesses defer their payments or the rest of the population bears the burden. In any case, he stated that he will have to accept the BSP's assurance that there is nothing to worry about, and that there is nothing to revise or change as far as the MTFF is concerned.

Senator Pimentel inquired about the programs to be implemented as stated in item No. 2 on page 5 (*Reduce Transport and Logistic Costs*), to wit: "Implement a program to bring down the cost of transporting food produce from the farm to the market." Senator Angara stated that as mentioned in the previous days, infrastructure has the ability to increase productivity by shortening travel and lowering the cost of goods.

Senator Pimentel assumed that the MTFF would be used to justify the P13.1 billion farm-tomarket road (FMR) budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA), found in Vol. 1, page 97 of the NEP. Senator Angara believed that the DA's budget was motivated by the delivery of goods and cheap transportation, which is why the President mentioned the need for infrastructure that would benefit farmers.

Senator Pimentel argued that FMR is not a new concept, as it has been in place for decades. Senator Angara suggested that Congress find out when the government intends to build such roads and how much of the necessary infrastructure has already been built. He stated that the DPWH has completed 90% of national roads, implying that it is into building secondary, barangay, and provincial roads.

Senator Pimentel stated that FMRs should be considered in the long term, not the medium term. He apprised some of the MTFF's ideas as written in general, some are bullet points, some as clueless, and some as old-tuned. He then inquired as to whether the document contained any new tax proposals. Senator Angara stated that the MTFF is pushing for a tax on internet transactions, which is considered a "new old tax" because all goods and services must be subject to VAT under the VAT regime. He stated that it is taxable under the Tax Code, unless expressly exempted. He believed that the MTFF specifically mentioned it so that some of the Tax Code's safeguards, such as transfer pricing and situs of taxation, are not adequately addressed to cover cross-border internet transactions.

He also expects that the honest-to-goodness implementation of the existing tax provisions would focus more on cleanup and ensuring that it covers "dotting the I's" and "crossing the T's," in accordance with the Tax Code's philosophy, which is to tax all exchanges of goods and services, as rationalized by the mining fiscal regime; implementation of Packages 4 and 5 of the Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act (PIFITA), although it is unclear whether is it producing revenue because some would just declare lower rates lower to make it revenue-neutral; and Real Property Valuation Law, which gives the LGUs the power to raise their local tax, particularly the real property tax. He disclosed that the MTFF also proposes to have an excise tax on single-use plastic bags.

He also noted on No. 7, page 7 of the MTFF, the "Implementation of the full devolution initiatives of the national government previously issued under EO No. 138, dated June 1, 2021, in view of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling effectively increasing the resources of LGUs with their higher National Tax Allotment (NTA) shares." He stated his intent to inquire from the DBM Secretary during the budget deliberations about the status of EO 138 on the Devolution Transition Plan.

Senator Angara stated that the Committee would notify the DBM so that they can prepare the supporting documents relevant to the query on Monday.

Senator Pimentel stated that the details in the MTFF are a mix of motherhood ideas and plain ambiguous statements.

For his final point, he asked whether the fourth bullet point in the first resolutory clause correctly states that the framework's goal is to achieve a national government debt-to-GDP ratio of less than 60% by 2025, noting that the target year in the rest of the bullet points is 2028. Senator Angara replied in the affirmative.

Senator Pimentel speculated that the Marcos administration is confident that it will reduce the national government debt-to-GDP ratio to less than 60% by 2025 and will either slow down or ramp up the government's borrowings to increase the country's GDP. Senator Angara stated that the country's 3% deficit-to-GDP ratio and the about 40% debt-to-GDP ratio had been the trajectory for the last few years before the pandemic. He stated that the pandemic was merely a hiccup in that trajectory, and that the administration is confident in its ability to meet the standards.

Senator Pimentel expressed concern about the framework's target, particularly the target of less than 60% debt-to-GDP ratio by 2025. He asked if the Marcos administration could provide a more specific target range, stating that even having a 59.9% debt-to-GDP ratio by 2025 would be considered an achievement because it is less than 60%, which is the goal stated in the framework. For example, he suggested that the administration set a target debt-to-GDP ratio of 40% to 45% by 2025. Senator Angara stated that a chart on page 20 of the MTFF shows that the country's debt increased from 2019 to 2020 and peaked in 2022. Nonetheless, he stated that it is expected to fall to 58.3% by 2025 and 51.1% by 2028.

However, Senator Pimentel stated that he is not convinced by the trajectory, given that the country imports food commodities like sugar, pork, and salt. He wondered how the economy could improve its debt-to-GDP ratio through imports, given that they represent an outflow of funds from the country. Senator Angara asserted that the country's production capabilities and proclivity to import would point to the balance of trade and account deficit rather than the national government deficit to domestic and foreign lenders. Nonetheless, he agreed with Senator Pimentel that the country should begin producing its own food because it currently has a negative balance of trade, noting that it imports US\$60 billion to US\$70 billion per year, resulting in a US\$20 billion current account deficit despite all the remittances that are coming in. He hoped that it could be reversed by emulating countries like Indonesia and Vietnam, which produce and export their own food, while also creating jobs for their citizens. He also expressed regret that people rather than food are being exported from the Philippines. He emphasized the importance of the government being more proactive in talking to industries and encouraging them to do more than just ship raw materials. He believed that a micro approach to exports, rather than a general approach, is the way to go, citing Indonesian President Widodo, who is aware of what his country exports. He hoped that someone from the Legislature or the Executive would be in charge of export policies.

Senator Pimentel expressed concern that the Philippines is no longer a productive nation if it continues to import, noting that continued importation affects all revenues—both tax and non-tax. Senator Angara believed that, aside from an increasing account deficit, importation had an impact on employment and the quality of life of people, stating that they would not be as happy if one of their family members worked abroad or in a different province.

Concerning the framework's targets, Senator Pimentel said that one lesson to be learned from the pandemic is that no one can ever predict so far into the future, noting that even the BSP did not foresee that the country's inflation rate would rise to 6.1% when their assumption was that it
would only be between 2% to 4%. He stated that mechanisms for period review and briefing legislators on MTFF are in place to produce better projections. Senator Angara, however, believed that the Philippines is still in a better position than other countries, citing Europe, where electricity bills are increasing tenfold, resulting in numerous energy protests as people fear freezing to death in the coming winter due to an ongoing energy crisis.

Senator Pimentel concluded his interpellation by stating that there are countries where the Executive branch will publicize their Medium-Term Fiscal Framework for the next three years. Saying that nothing prevents the President from publicizing the MTFF, whether by citing it in his speeches and in all of his public engagements, he believed that the same goal could be achieved even without passing Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which he believes is ineffective in form. He then expressed gratitude to Senator Angara for his patience and understanding that there is a Minority who cannot possibly coauthor such a concurrent resolution. Senator Angara responded that he fully understands Senator Pimentel's position as a member of the Minority.

## MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PADILLA

Senator Padilla said that he was glad to hear the parliamentary form of government mentioned in the discussion between Senators Angara and Pimentel. He said that the subject excites him as the chair of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes, citing the beauty of uniting the Legislative and Executive branches, to which he believes the country aspires. He also acknowledged the role of the Minority, which is essential in a parliamentary form of government. With regard to his proposal about the use of cable cars as a solution to traffic, he wondered whether there is already a budget for ropeways.

Senate President Zubiri stated that while many criticized the idea of using ropeways or a cable car system to solve Metro Manila's traffic woes, he would attest to the efficiency of a cable car system by sharing his experience in Mexico, where cable cars are the primary mode of transportation in mountain areas. He believed that it is a better and more practical mode of transportation than spending money to build roads that could not be connected due to the mountainous terrain.

Senator Angara stated that there is actually a proposal from then-Agriculture Secretary Alcala to build a cable car system in Benguet to transport upland farm products to La Trinidad and other urban centers.

As regards transitioning to a parliamentary system, he recognized the benefits of combining the Executive and Legislative branches, particularly in policy implementation, when discussing such a transition. However, he surmised that arguments on the inherent stability of a parliamentary system could arise, noting that in Europe, people are losing faith in their parliamentary governments because their policies are unstable due to the formation of new coalitions. He stated that he had read an economist's argument that a country would have to spend more money under a parliamentary government because legislators might expect their fellow legislators to reciprocate the support they receive for the passage of their bills. He stated that as more bills become law, more projects will be funded.

Senator Padilla again thanked Senators Angara and Pimentel for including his committee in their discussion and expressed hope that the debate on the proposal to shift to a parliamentary form of government would be enriched at the appropriate time.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS**

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

## SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

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

## SECOND ADDITIONAL 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. 1201, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR QUALIFIED HOMELESS AND ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1202, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY OR NEAR-CITY RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PEOPLE'S PLAN AND MANDATING RELOCATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PROVIDE OTHER BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOOD COMPONENTS IN FAVOR OF THE RECIPIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992"

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1203, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9496, ENTITLED "AN ACT REPLACING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT RICE, WITH TARIFFS, CREATING THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, ENTITLED "AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1204, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF FAMILY COURTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1205, entitled

THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1206, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1207, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT FILIPINOS FROM THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TRANS-FATTY ACIDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1208, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING CREMATORIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

#### To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Senate Bill No.1209, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

## To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1210, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING A MANDATORY AD VALOREM TAX ON IDLE LANDS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 236, 237, AND 273 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS COLLECTED THEREFROM EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

## To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1211, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

## To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1212, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND GRADUATE TRAINING IN ADVANCE ENERGY AND GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1213, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS IN DATA TRANSMISSION, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

#### To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 1214, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CARPOOL SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY, REGULATING ITS USE AND OPERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 1215, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE MOBILITY CZAR TO COORDINATE URGENT MEASURES NECESSARY AND PROPER TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC CRISIS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; and Finance

Senate Bill No.1216, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, DEFINING THE PROSECUTORIAL POWERS PROVIDED THERETO, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGER-OUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

# To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1217, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1218, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE ROMBLON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANTON, CORCUERA AND CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

## To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1219, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL EVALUATION POLICY

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1220, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CAMPUSES OF THE ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN JUAN AND CABUGAO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, TO BE KNOWN RESPECTIVELY AS THE "ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE-SAN JUAN CAMPUS" AND THE "ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE-CABUGAO CAMPUS," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1221, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES (USTSP) IN BARANGAY BALUBAL, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USTSP-BARANGAY BALUBAL, CAGAYAN DE ORO CAMPUS, AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1222, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE DAVAO DE ORO STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NABUNTURAN, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DE ORO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO DE ORO STATE COLLEGE-NABUNTURAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1223, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY-BAGAC EXTENSION CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAGAC, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY-BAGAC CAMPUS," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1224, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MUNAI, PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE,

TO BE KNOWN AS THE "MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-MUNAI CAMPUS," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1225, entitled

AN ACT INTEGRATING THE PINTUYAN NATIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PINTUYAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, INTO THE SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE UNIVERSITY (SLSU) SYSTEM, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SLSU-PINTUYAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No.1226, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES IN BARANGAY LUMBIA, CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES-LUMBIA CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1227, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10642 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE LEMON LAW" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

#### To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1228, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OR THE RESERVE FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Ways and Means; and Finance Senate Bill No. 1229, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE TRI-LEVEL INTERCHANGE ALONG M.C. BRIONES STREET CORNER UNITED NATIONS AVENUE, MANDAUE CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

#### To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1230, entitled

# AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION FUND TO PROVIDE PENSION BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 1231, entitled

## AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND LEARNING CENTERS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

#### To the Committees on Basic Education; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1232, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY OF FREE HOUSING THROUGH USUFRUCT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

## To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1233, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PAYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE INCOME TAX OF PETROLEUM SERVICE CONTRACTORS, AS INCENTIVE IN PETROLEUM OPERATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

### To the Committees on Energy; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1234, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING MEASURES TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN FOOD, GROCERY AND PHARMACY DELIVERY SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

## To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1235, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE, ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1236, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION TO BE KNOWN AS REGION XVIII

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

## To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1237, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ZONES AND THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

# To the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1238, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING TEXT SCAMS, MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS, AND FRAUDULENT SALES PROMOTIONS, MANDATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE REGISTRATION OF ALL USERS OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 1239, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

## To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1240, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7104, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "COMMISSION ON THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 1241, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SCIENCE FOR CHANGE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS, THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Legarda

### To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1242, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR GERIATRIC HEALTH AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, CREATING REGIONAL GERIATRIC SPECIALTY CENTERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-RETAINED HOSPITALS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Legarda

#### To the Committees on Health and Demography; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1243, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THE ACTS OF ARBITRARY INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1244, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Public Services; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance Senate Bill No. 1245, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A MANDATORY POSITION FOR A HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443, 454 AND 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 1246, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ONE TOWN, ONE PRODUCT (OTOP) PHILIPPINES PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1247, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A SOCIALIZED MICROFINANCING PROGRAM FOR MICRO ENTERPRISES THEREBY PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1248, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

#### To the Committee on Migrant Workers

Senate Bill No. 1249, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A PROPORTIONATE SCHOOL ADMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE SHARE IN THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY FOR MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation Senate Bill No. 1250, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING ONLINE TRANSACTIONS, SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS AND MERCHANTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

## MEMBERSHIPS IN THE SENATE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Pursuant to Section 17 of Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, upon motion of Senator Ejercito, there being no objection, the Chair designated the following senators as members of the Senate Electoral Tribunal: Senators Villanueva, Lapid, and Revilla.

## 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 Monday, September 12, 2022.

It was 6:47 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

RENATO N ATTY. JG JR. Senate 19mapa M Secretary

Approved on September 12, 2022