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Senate of the Philippines

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:07 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. led the prayer, to wit:

Heavenly Father, as we open this week and embark on our task for the nation and our people, we come before You and ask for Your divine presence.

Dumudulog kami sa Inyo, mahal naming Panginoon. Nagsusumamo sa panahong sumusubok sa aming bayan at mundo. Ikaw ang simula at dulo kaya’t alam namin na sa Iyong kapangyarihan, ano mang pagsubok ay aming malalagpasan.

We come before You pleading for mercy for our nation and our people. The natural calamities that have tested our spirit, the rising prices that have exacerbated our daily struggles, the continuing conflicts around the world that have aggravated our difficulties, we know that with Your love and compassion, we will endure and survive them all. No tribulation is ever beyond Your power.

Alam namin na ang sinusubok ay itinatangi. Ang mga pighating ito ay agarang mapapawi sa Iyong isang salita lamang. Naninikluhod naming inilalapit sa Iyo ang aming bansang Pilipinas, ang Perlas ng Silangan, na Iyong pinagpala at binasbasan. Huwag Mo po kaming pababayaan, Panginoon.

Lord, we ask for Your hand of protection over us and Your wisdom to be upon us who are leaders. Lord, I pray for unity among us all. Give us all a united spirit, for when there is unity, You command a blessing to come.

I ask that the walls that separate and divide our people due to differences in ideology, alliances, and political leanings come crashing down.

Tuluyan po ninyong pagkaisahin ang aming bayan, Panginoon. Give us eyes to see a common vision for our nation that we may all rally together in one spirit and in one heart.

The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18: “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained; but happy is the one who keeps the law.”

Give us ears to hear Your mandate that we are here, ordained by You, in this unique position for a purpose in order to serve our people.



By Your strength, help us as leaders to choose the right path even when it is difficult and even when we are faced with opposition.

Remind us all to be steadfast in our convictions to put our nation's interest above all else.

Lord, You sit above the circle of the Earth, and see what goes on in our nation. We ask You to guard our nation from any state of disorder or unrest.

We pray that we, as citizens, will recognize authority and be the first to obey it even when we disagree on certain things.

We pray against those who are working to stir up trouble and discord, and apply force intending to bring harm to our government and our nation.

May we work together in harmony for a better nation and may Your peace rule and reign over the Philippines.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

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.
Binay, M. L. N. 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 Cayetano (A) arrived after the roll call.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 18 (September 7, 2022) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Sec. Ma. Esperanza Christina Codilla-Frasco of the Department of Tourism;
- Sec. Bienvenido E. Laguesma of the Department of Labor and Employment;
- Ms. Mylene Garcia-Albano, Ambassador-Designate to Japan;
- Philippine Muay Thai Team members Clark Fatitt and Edel Ali Ngina;
- Chairman Joseph Oloan of the Muay Thai Association of the Philippines;
- Coach Edzel Ngina of the Philippine Muay Thai Team;
- Overall Coordinator Caroline Tibayan of the Philippine Muay Thai Team; and
- Mayor Florencio “Pong” Mercado of Taal, Batangas.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

At this juncture, Senate President Zubiri stated that Secretaries Laguesma and Frasco, as well as Ambassador-Designate Garcia-Albano, were present in order to meet with member-senators of the Commission on Appointments to address any concerns about their confirmation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 3:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:33 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda presiding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- NBI Director Atty. Medardo de Lemos and NBI agent Anna Lira Reyes; and
- Former Mayor Proserfina M. Coro of Surigao Del Norte.

Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda welcomed the guests to the Senate.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 198

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 198, entitled

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE
CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH
OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND.**

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

In expressing the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Senate of the Philippines on the death of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Senate President Zubiri delivered the following speech:

I stand here today to join the rest of the world in extending our sympathy and condolences to the Royal family and to the British people for the passing of their beloved monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, who is now called by many as "Queen Elizabeth The Great."

The longest reigning British monarch, she always led with quiet grace and dignity, never seeming to sag under the heavy weight of the crown. She was born into power but that power came at a prize, a life lived in and owed to the public. All public servants like us here in the Senate experienced this to a certain extent, but it is a deal we enter into and a choice that we willingly take.

Not so for the Queen. At just 25 years old, she had no choice but to relinquish any possibility of a life lived for herself. In a strange way, in taking up the highest seat of power, she also gave up autonomy over herself. Nevertheless, she navigated her role well much like her namesake Elizabeth I. She ushered in a golden age of the monarchy and became a constant figure of stability for her people. And her unflappable leadership was instrumental in uplifting national morale even in times of socioeconomic and political upheavals.

In her seven decades as a monarch, she also oversaw the strengthening of their foreign affairs including, of course, bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and the Philippines, particularly with regard to peace and development, disaster relief and management, trade investments, and climate action and help.

Clearly, in my previous meetings with the ambassador of Great Britain, we always discussed issues about the Bangsamoro peace process, on the peace process in Mindanao, and how dedicated the British government was in helping us achieve this goal of peace in our area.

I had such an amazing experience listening yesterday, Sunday afternoon, to many distinguished former prime ministers at Westminster Abbey, giving eulogies on their beloved Queen Elizabeth The Great. One thing that struck me was the speech of Boris Johnson, the former prime minister of England and Great Britain, when he mentioned that the distinguished honorable Queen had one trait that stood above all the traits that she had—it was her humility. According to him, if you visit Balmoral Castle or the areas that she would love to stay in, the Queen always, apparently, disregarded her security escorts. She always liked to drive alone in her car without any escorts, roaming around the villages of the castle that she would stay; and she frowned upon any type of entourage, she did not like to have entourages—things that we can learn in Philippine politics. She also believed in duty to her people and, I think, that is her enduring quality, and for most of you who watched *The Crown*, because I am a big fan of that show in Netflix, she truly, no matter what side she takes on her personal life and public life, she always fulfills her duty to her people. Duty first among any other things. That would be the template of the society at that time. It was always duty first.

So, indeed, we join hundreds of thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers in the United Kingdom today—we have plenty in the United Kingdom, who are mourning for the loss of the Queen of England and Great Britain under whose leadership they were able to enter the U.K., to create a better life for themselves and their families and communities back home.

Once again, let me reiterate the expression of our deepest sympathies and condolences on the passing of Queen Elizabeth The Great, a leader well-loved and respected and admired the world over.

Thank you, and I would like to ask our colleagues to adopt this resolution with all members as authors.



MANIFESTATION OF THE CHAIR

Senator Legarda believed that the Body would like to associate themselves with the earnest thoughts of the Senate President on the resolution.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senators Binay, Tulfo, and Revilla requested that their cosponsorship remarks on the resolution be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following are the cosponsorship remarks of Senators Binay, Tulfo, and Revilla on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 198:

By Senator Binay

The whole world stood still on September 8 upon learning that one of the most renowned and respected leaders of today, Queen Elizabeth II, had passed on.

Queen Elizabeth II was a well-loved figure that the people of Britain had relied on as a steady presence amid the various upheavals they had faced. Indeed, there is much to learn from her about the nature of leadership, about how we must comport ourselves with dignity and grace, and rise to the occasion when responsibility is thrust upon us.

While we have not the opportunity to host Queen Elizabeth II in our shores, our country has nevertheless felt her long-standing friendship. The Philippines and the UK's relationship has gone from strength to strength under her reign. Be it political, economic, consular and law enforcement, cultural, environmental, or regional and global issues, our nations have explored partnerships geared at mutual development.

The Elizabeth-led UK has been a reliable and generous ally of the Philippines in times of need. Yet, our nation has not been sole beneficiary, with the queen herself acknowledging our nation's contribution to the welfare of the United Kingdom when Filipina nurse May Parsons received the prestigious Gold Cross on behalf of the National Health Service. Ms Parsons is among 30,000 Filipino nurses in the NHS, and among 53,000 overseas Filipinos in the UK rendering various and valuable services.

I am one with this august Body, and the whole Filipino nation, in expressing sympathy and condoling with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the loss of their great and beloved leader.

Long may we remember Queen Elizabeth's contribution and support to our nation.

By Senator Tulfo

I manifest my intention to join the proposed resolution mourning the life and recognizing the achievements of Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth is recognized not only for her longevity in ruling, but also for her grace and propriety in representing the sovereign power of the crown of the United Kingdom. She was a brave leader that the United Kingdom was fortunate to have during the numerous armed conflicts and political struggles that occurred during her reign. She served alongside her people in World War II which showed her willingness to sacrifice everything for her people. She also rallied the people together during the height of the BREXIT controversy, a political crossroad which



threatened the very soul of her nation. Truly her wisdom was only bested by her willingness to serve the people.

It is her bravery, wisdom, grace, and longevity that all leaders wish to emulate and which we should use as one of our standards in serving our country. We have lost a great leader but we have gained another inspiration that guides our hands as we legislate law for those we represent.

Although I mourn her loss, I maintain to celebrate her achievements and I move to be included as one of the coauthors of the proposed resolution.

By Senator Revilla

I would like to join my colleagues in extending profound sympathy and condolences on the death of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The world mourns a great loss in the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. True to her promise of unwavering faith and high courage, she devoted her lifetime serving her people in seven decades on the throne.

As we come together to celebrate the life and legacy of the longest reigning monarch in British history, we are certain that memories of Queen Elizabeth II will last forever and her solemn dedication will constantly be admired by the people around the world.

Sending condolences to the British Royal Family and the people of Great Britain.

May you rest in peace, Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 198, Senator Cayetano (P) joined the nation of the United Kingdom and the entire world in mourning the passing of an icon. As a fan of British history, she stated that she had read extensively about Queen Elizabeth I, who reigned from 1558 to 1603, when women and men were burned at the stake for expressing their own beliefs; 400 years hence, Queen Elizabeth II started her reign. She stated that she never considered Queen Elizabeth II's reign as part of history as she was more part of current events because she was still alive.

She revealed that as a young girl, she was already familiar with the life of Queen Elizabeth II because she was fond of following stories about the United Kingdom. She believed that historical novels made into film, like the Netflix documentary series *The Crown*, make history more interesting to study. She lauded documentary movies and series based on historical records for bringing the stories to life.

She stated that she was unsure whether the Queen was an advocate for women's issues, but she believed she was an advocate for many issues for the welfare of the entire country, and to a large extent, for the survival of the world, as she played a significant role in many turning points in the history of the world in which the UK played a significant role.

She stated that she, like millions of other girls and young people, has been inspired by the life of Queen Elizabeth II, a role model whom they have never met but only seen in news, movies, and documentaries.

She then joined the Body, the nation, and the entire world in mourning the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

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COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all the members of the Body were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 198.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 198

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 198 was adopted by the Body.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 199

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING ALEXANDRA “ALEX” EALA FOR WINNING THE 2022 GIRLS’ JUNIOR GRAND SLAM SINGLES CROWN OF THE US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN NEW YORK CITY, USA,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 201 and 202.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Villanueva for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, Senator Villanueva delivered the following sponsorship speech:

After the win of Alex Eala yesterday, we were able to gather the support of all 24 senators. This shows how the People’s Senate support our Filipino athletes—from our dear Senate President, Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri; Senate President Pro Tempore, Sen. Loren Legarda; our Minority Leader, Sen. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III; and this representation—we are all supporting this resolution, together with all the members of the Senate.

As I mentioned, yesterday another legend was born. It is indeed my great honor and privilege to sponsor this resolution congratulating Alexandra “Alex” Maniego Eala for winning the 2022 Girls’ Junior Grand Slam Singles crown of the US Open Tennis Tournament. This is the very first for us in Philippine history to ever win a US Open tournament.

The website Fresherslive.com recently released its 2021 report of the top 10 sports in the Philippines. The list did not include tennis. Yet a young Filipina athlete in the person of Alex Eala is spiking her way into the world of tennis.

I have been following this young lady’s career for years now—primarily because my good friend, Senator Angara’s son Manolo, is also part of the Nadal Academy— and it is so fulfilling to witness the culmination of all her hard work, dedication, and training with the Grand Slam championship at the tender age of 17.

For context, this was the same age Serena Williams, the greatest, or the GOAT (greatest of all time) female tennis player of all time, won her first Grand Slam title in 1999 and also at the US Open. Alex’s idol Rafael Nadal won his first title in 2005 at the age of 19.



I remember when we were in TESDA, we subscribed to the 10,000-hour rule. *Ibig pong sabihin*, a worker can be considered an expert in any field if he or she has practiced in the correct way for at least 10,000 hours.

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

Teenager *pa lamang po*, but I am sure that Alex Eala has practiced more than 10,000 hours to reach a certain expertise in tennis and to be the US Open junior champion. *Kahanga-hanga po talaga ang ating kababayang si Alex Eala.*

But this is not Alex's first junior grand slam title, having won the 2020 and 2021 Junior Grand Slam Doubles title at the Australian and French Open, alongside partners Priska Madelyn Nugroho and Oksana Selekhmeteva, respectively.

All these achievements are a product of all that Alex has had to sacrifice to reach this point in her career.

Subalit nasa dugo rin po talaga dahil ang kaniyang ina na si Rizza Maniego was a bronze medalist in the 100-meter backstroke in the 1985 Southeast Asian Games. Si Alex Eala po ay pamangkin din ni Chairman Noli Eala who has recently assumed his chairmanship of the PSC and who was here earlier today together with our distinguished colleagues in the Committee on Sports headed by Sen. Christopher Lawrence T. Go.

I believe that her family's active role since day one has been her backbone in every smash she does inside the tennis court. *Napakahalaga po talaga ng papel ng pamilya, at higit pa rito, ang isang pamilya natin bilang lahing Pilipino, sa pagsibol ng isang atletang kampeon.*

What could be a proud moment other than knowing that this young blood delivered her winning speech in Filipino in front of thousands of sports enthusiasts? Reminding us of where she has started, tracing back her roots as a Filipino-blooded protégé.

Let me quote parts of her victory speech. *"Buong puso ko itong ipinaglaban hindi lang para sa sarili ko kundi para makatulong din ako sa kinabukasan ng Pilipinas. So, hindi lang ito panalo ko. Panalo nating lahat."* Alex's very young age speaks volumes about the power of our young athletes given the necessary support and assistance they need.

Have we ever realized how many Alex Ealas we can produce by reaching out to more aspiring young Filipino athletes who lack the means to support themselves? Alex awakens our awareness and we should keep that awareness alive.

Katulad po ng pagbuhos ni Alex Eala ng kaniyang buong lakas sa bawat hampas ng kaniyang raketa sa bola, atin ding ibuhos ang ating buong suporta sa bawat atletang Pilipino na ang tanging hangad ay maipakilala sa buong mundo ang husay at galing ng lahing Pilipino.

Maraming salamat po at pagpalain tayong lahat ng ating Panginoong Diyos.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR BINAY

Following is the cosponsorship speech of Senator Binay on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199:

Allow me to join the nation in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to Alex Eala for winning the 2022 US Open Junior Girls' Singles Tournament and bringing home the Philippines' first ever Singles Grand Slam in tennis.

It gives me great pride to see women like Alex make waves and be honored for their accomplishments. Prior to her winning, no Filipino made it past the semi-finals of a Grand Slam event.



Ngunit hindi po biro ang daang kaniyang tinahak para makamit ang tagumpay na kaniyang tinatamasa.

Bukod sa matinding training, tiniis din niya ang pagkawalay sa kaniyang pamilya para lamang makapaghanda sa kaniyang laban.

Sinisimbolo ni Alex ang lakas ng loob at determinasyon na ipinakikita nating mga kababaihan, lalo na sa harap ng mga pagsubok.

Tunay nga na anumang pangarap ay kaya nating abutin basta't mayroon tayong pagsisikap, tiyaga, at pananampalataya sa sarili at sa Maykapal.

Isa siyang inspirasyon hindi lamang sa mga kapuwa natin kababaihan, kundi pati na rin sa bawat Pilipinong nais patunayan ang kanilang mga sarili pagdating sa sports o maging sa anumang larangan na nais nilang tahakin.

Maraming salamat, Alex, sa karangalan at papuri na iyong inaani para sa bansa.

Isang mainit na pagbati sa iyong tagumpay. Mabuhay ka, at mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GO

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, Senator Go likewise delivered the following speech:

Today, I am glad to cosponsor the Senate resolution paying tribute to another athlete who brought tremendous pride to our country.

We honor a lady who made history in Philippine sports by becoming the country's first tennis player to win a Junior Singles Grand Slam event.

Alexandra "Alex" Eala, a 17-year-old tennis player, made sporting history by becoming the first Filipino to win a Junior Singles Grand Slam match after defeating her opponent to win the US Open Girls Singles title in New York City.

Alex won the title in style after advancing to the final round without dropping a single set after six hard-fought matches. The pride of the Philippines currently owns three Junior Grand Slam titles after winning the girls' doubles titles at the 2020 Australian Open and 2021 French Open.

During the Committee on Sports hearing earlier, I already expressed my commendation and praise for this historic feat. In addition, Alex also competed in the 31st Southeast Asian Games, where she won the bronze medal in the said competition.

Alex's victory is a victory for the entire country and serves as a motivation for many young Filipinos interested in participating in national sports, particularly tennis. Despite balancing training and school, Alex demonstrated that success is a result of hard work, perseverance, and passion.

Nabanggit po kanina na resulta ng grassroots si Alex. Nagsimula noong four years old pa lamang, hanggang ngayon. Nakatutuwa na kapag suportado ang ating atleta, malayo ang mararating.

I am hoping that her accomplishments would encourage and inspire many young Filipino athletes to excel in the sport they are in and give them confidence and faith in the government's commitment to improving our sporting programs and initiatives.

Our recent sporting achievements in previous years are just the beginning of the restoration of our country's sporting greatness, and I have no doubt that more Filipino athletes will soon rule the world stage.



May we continue to triumph in every competition in whatever field and wherever they are held in the world.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva stated that Senator Revilla had requested that his remarks on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

REMARKS OF SENATOR REVILLA

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is the remarks of Senator Revilla on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199:

Allow me to associate myself with the many accolades spoken by our colleagues, and deliver a short manifestation to recognize and honor this 'HER-story.'

The country is once again celebrating another remarkable win from one of our great athletes. Alexandra "Alex" Eala's historic feat is a testament that Filipino talent, skill, passion, and hard work will catapult us to the world stage. *Tunay na kahanga-hanga ang ipinamalas niyang giting at gilás sa kanyang larangan.*

Higit pang nakatataba ng puso na sa kabila ng kanyang mataginting na panalo, pinili ng ating batang atleta na iparinig sa mundo ang ganda ng wikang Filipino.

When she chose to address her win in her native tongue, it was the most fitting tribute to our countrymen all over the world who continue to strive hard to triumph in life.

Mabuhay ka, Alex! Mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ESTRADA

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, Senator Estrada delivered the following speech:

I am honored to cosponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, commending and congratulating Alexandra "Alex" Eala for winning the 2022 Girls' Junior Grand Slam Singles Crown of the US Open Tennis Tournament in New York City, United States of America.

Having won in an international competition in any field of professional endeavor is already a source of great pride and honor for our country. But being the first Filipino to also claim a Grand Slam title in a sports loved and played by more than one percent of the global population is truly a feat worthy of commendation.

Miss Eala made history when she became the highest-ranking Filipino in the Women's Tennis Association Tour at World's No. 280 this August of 2022. Currently, Eala is also the fourth youngest in the WTA's Top 300.

Ms. Alex Eala's latest success brings great pride, glory, and honor to the country and deserves our recognition. Her triumph is an inspiration to young Filipinos to also take up sports and pursue excellence thereon despite modern-day distractions and challenges facing our youth.

Miss Eala's demonstration of determination, discipline, sportsmanship, and patriotism on the international stage and throughout her career are positive values that fellow Filipinos should emulate and develop.



We hope that Alex Eala's momentous victory will further fuel the advancement and enrichment of our Philippine sports. Again, our ardent congratulations to our newest and youngest tennis heroine, Ms. Alexandra "Alex" Maniego Eala.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, Senator Cayetano (P) noted that all 24 senators have signed the resolution commending Alex Eala for winning the Grand Slam crown in the tennis tournament. She believed that the support that the Body could get for the country's athletes extends beyond signing a resolution, particularly in defending and seeking for more funding for Filipino athletes.

She stated that Alex Eala's feat is the result of her own talent, perseverance, and hard work, including waking up at dawn and leaving her family to compete, eventually sweeping all six matches in that competition. She surmised that she may have had many failures and defeats, but the country's first Filipina to win a Junior Grand Slam Singles has proven that one can shine when one rises above defeat.

She also stated that during the hearing earlier that day of the Committee on Sports chaired by Senator Go, it was mentioned that Alex accomplished her feat despite the fact that there was no tennis NSA to support her. She revealed that Philippine sports is structured in such a way that there are independently-run National Sports Associations (NSAs), but the country's tennis NSA, known as PhilTA, does not exist in the eyes of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). She lamented that not being a part of an NSA would mean not receiving any government funding that is coursed through an NSA. She clarified that she was not criticizing tennis fans, coaches, trainers, or sponsors, and that she was aware of some private groups that supported Alex. She also pointed out that government supports athletes by funding the PSC through the NSAs.

She recalled that one of the biggest issues in sports which consumed a lot of time the previous year was track and field pole vaulter EJ Obiena's inability to obtain funding from his NSA. She stated that part of the problem is recognizing that there are some NSAs that are not doing their jobs and need better leaders or a vision. Nonetheless, she stated that a young Filipina athlete could achieve world-class status even without an NSA.

She believed that the newly-appointed PSC Chairman, Noli Eala, an uncle of the country's teen champion, was proud of his niece's achievement even without the government's support through the NSAs.

At this point, she stated that she was unsure whether Senator Angara, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, would be interested in contributing to the discussion because she learned about the PhilTA's non-existence from him.

Acknowledging and thanking the individuals who are officially-affiliated with PhilTA, as well as those who are not, but who have done so much for tennis and athletes like Alex who do not have any NSAs to support them, she stated that there is no other activity where nationalism and patriotism can emerge naturally and spontaneously, such as the support that Filipinos give to athletes wherever they compete around the world.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR ANGARA

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, Senator Angara stated that he was moved by Alex Eala's accomplishments in tennis at such a tender age. He said that he has been a tennis fan for as long as he can remember because his parents were avid tennis players. He



stated that he has known Alex for at least seven years, recalling that the first tournament he saw her win was a junior tournament in 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand and she was accompanied by her older brother who plays NCAA tennis for Penn State University under the Philippine flag.

He stated that he would be sharing a few points as well as the manifestations and statements made earlier that day by senators who attended the Senate Committee on Sports and who pledged their support for all forms of Philippine sports, particularly the SBP's hosting of the World Cup. He stated that he would like to take advantage of the opportunity, particularly given the presence of athletes in the Chamber, including Senate President Zubiri, Senators Villanueva, Cayetano (P), Cayetano (A), Ejercito, among others.

He stated that Philippine sports is currently having a moment with Alex Eala's victory, Yuka Saso becoming the first Filipina golfer, the accomplishment of the Malditas—the Philippine Women's Football Team that recently won a tournament in Southeast Asia, and all the other athletes around the world who are achieving a lot.

He revealed that during the public hearing, Senator Go, chairman of the Senate Committee on Sports, rallied for support for the Filipino athletes and urging the government to do more to support them. He believed that the Chamber has been very supportive of Philippine sports, and that over the last decade, the Senate has continuously added to or improved the PSC and the budget for sports. He acknowledged the previous chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Sports, which included himself, Senator Villanueva, and Senators Cayetano (P) and (A), for their contributions, particularly during the country's hosting of the SEA Games a few years ago.

He also mentioned Mr. Michael Eala's personal sacrifices, such as making it a point to accompany his daughter Alex to every tournament, similar to what the father of U. S. tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams did for his daughters. He stated that it was fortunate that Mrs. Eala has a good job with a local company. He also commended Globe Telecom, Alex's sponsor; ICTSI for Yuka Saso; and MVP Group of Companies and Smart Communications, Inc. for SBP – Gilas Pilipinas, who have spent over a billion pesos supporting the Philippine team. He believed that the country could reach even greater heights as he imagined what could still be achieved if the government matched the private sector's commitment to Filipino athletes and Philippine sports.

On a related matter, he lamented the difficulty of athletes in obtaining a Philippine passport because they must go through the time-consuming process of securing visas to the countries where they are supposed to compete. He also lauded the Eala family for maintaining their Philippine citizenship no matter how difficult the challenges were, as experienced by some athletes like Filipino chess talent Wesley So who became a U.S. citizen.

He then urged the DFA, particularly the Philippine consular and passport offices around the globe, to provide prompt assistance to athletes in their passports and other travel documents and requirements. He stated that relieving them of such burden would give them more time to focus on their training, tournaments, and competitions.

He lamented that as a result of a lack of government support for athletes and sports programs, the best and the brightest leave. He mentioned Karl Santamaria, a former member of the national tennis team and former coach of Alex Eala, who emigrated to Australia. He urged the government to look into why the country's best and brightest coaches leave, surmising that it could be due to an absence or gap in the country's policies, fostering an ecosystem that leads to their departure.

He recalled discussing with Senators Pimentel, Cayetano (P), and Hontiveros the previous week about the reasons for the country's low pay and low job quality in relation to the country's

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education system. He expressed doubt whether the issue was one of education because U.P. is one of the top 200 schools in Southeast Asia, with a lower acceptance rate. He stated that getting into U.P. is more difficult than getting into Harvard University, but he clarified that he was not claiming that it is as good as Harvard. He then identified a missing link: strategic thinking and policy that comes in the realms of sports, arts, science, research and development, and other things that all contribute to nation building and help make a nation great, helping mold national pride and national identity of a great nation.

In closing, he said that the thought should be reflected, fostered, and encouraged into the Chamber's consciousness and decisions to embody the nation's greatness.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Senate President Zubiri agreed with Senator Angara's observations, particularly on the issue of value-added for various industries. He expressed his disappointment after reading an article about the education sector in which it was stated that the Philippines ranked 79th out of 79 countries tested for comprehension. He thanked the Chamber for approving Senator Gatchalian's Education Commission (EDCOM) during the Eighteenth Congress.

He stated said that he does not want the Philippines to lose Filipina champion Alex Eala to another nation than can provide her with the opportunity to grow and shine, similar to what happened to Filipina-Japanese dual citizen Yuka Saso, who chose Japanese citizenship over Filipino citizenship, although she is still considered a Filipina, particularly in future medal events.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) lamented that Filipino athletes, such as EJ Obiena who lives and trains in Italy, and those in other countries, have to go through the hassle of going back to the Philippines after a certain period just to renew their visa. While she acknowledges that the matter is outside of the scope of the passport issuing offices in the country, she surmised that the DFA could make representations on the matter with their counterparts, as suggested by the country's ambassador to Korea whom she met during the Global Health Summit in Korea.

Furthermore, she stated that when she spoke with the newly appointed Philippine Sports Commission Chair, Noli Eala, the latter expressed willingness to likewise make representations with sports commissions in other countries in order to assist the athletes in the country, as he recognized that obtaining a visa is a difficult and costly endeavor.

She then hoped that the country's athletes would receive organic support, especially when they are winning international competitions.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva also requested to be associated with the manifestations made by Senators Angara and Cayetano (P). He also lauded Senator Go for calling a committee hearing, stating that they had a very productive four-hour discussion early that morning. He then mentioned the poaching of Filipino athletes as one of the challenges facing the country's sports industry, citing as an example Filipino-Canadian basketball player Matthew Wright who recently signed with another ball club in Japan.

He lamented that poaching has become a trend among athletes, pointing out that other countries offer higher salaries, sometimes three times what they get as professional athletes in the Philippines. He underscored the importance of providing support to the country's athletes, citing EJ Obiena,

Alex Eala, and Carlos Yulo as athletes who receive support from other sources other than government, allowing them to excel in their respective sports. Apart from being a Rafael Academy scholar, he hoped that Alex Eala would also receive the same government support.

He stated that the budget of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) is still indirectly dependent on PAGCOR, PCSO, and the Bureau of Customs, among other agencies, as revealed during the hearing. He hoped that the PSC would no longer be reliant on other government agencies for budgetary support.

Furthermore, he expressed regret that when he and Senator Dela Rosa inquired whether PSC is getting what it deserved, they discovered that the agency was receiving less than half of the 5% of the gross income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation as required by law. He acknowledged that there are legal impediments preventing the PSC from receiving its budget, as PAGCOR has its own interpretation. He reiterated the importance of allocating budget for the PSC under GAA so that it is no longer reliant on other agencies for funding.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ESTRADA

Senator Estrada stated at this point that following the hearing of the Committee on Sports, he had the opportunity to speak with the commissioner of the Philippine Basketball Association. On the issue of poaching of basketball players in the country, he asked what measures or steps the government is taking, given that many players have been recruited by international basketball clubs, such as Japan, Thailand, and Korea. He also asked whether the government could afford the salaries offered by the international basketball clubs, noting that the minimum salary offered by the clubs is around P1.2 million per month, which is significantly higher than what basketball players in the country receive, which is only P500,000 for old-timers and P200,000 for newcomers.

Senator Villanueva responded that he raised the same question earlier in the Committee on Sports hearing and that the chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission could not give him a concrete answer other than requiring NSAs, like the Samahang Basketball ng Pilipinas, to come up with the guidelines on the deployment of athletes to other countries. He, for one, believed that the Philippine Games and Amusement Board should be given a copy of the guidelines or contract in order to protect Filipino athletes from being deployed to other countries. Senator Estrada expressed regret that not only professionals but also collegiate players are being recruited outside the country, such as SJ Belangel of the Ateneo de Manila University and Rence Abanda of UST, both of whom were members of the San Juan Knights, the team he used to manage in the MPBL.

Senate President Zubiri surmised that what occurred was a private transaction because it happened between private entities, with PBA serving as a private institution. For instance, he believed that in the United States, such transactions are governed by contracts that, if broken, result in penalties and very large fines in addition to the bond placed on athletes participating in particular seasons. He expressed doubt that the Body could limit poaching through legislation because they are private transactions between the players and the institutions hiring them.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino also stated that he even invited Ambassador-designate to Japan, Ms Albano, to attend the hearing in order to shed light on and clarify all of the issues raised, as well as to bring to the attention of the Japanese authorities to the proposal to create a classification for athletes to determine who among them could be drafted by the Japanese basketball league. For example, he suggested that a PBA player could not be recruited if he is only in his junior or sophomore year after being drafted, and that only a player on his fourth year, nearing retirement age, could be drafted by the Japanese basketball league for a year.

He placed on *Record* the commitment of Ambassador-Designate Albano to bring the matter to the Japanese basketball league authorities. He stated that while there is no objection on the professional basketball players like Dwight Ramos, SJ Belangel, and Roosevelt Adams being drafted by basketball leagues in Japan, he hoped that professional basketball players in the country be classified so that their deployment could be rated. He suggested that a system be put in place to also allow the drafting of professional players from Japan in the PBA as imports.

Senator Cayetano (P) hoped to hear a similar passionate discussion on the country's brain drain and talent drain, which creates gaps in both health and education. She stated that as an athlete herself, she understands the zeal of Senators Villanueva, Estrada, and Tolentino on the matter. She did, however, express her concern about brain drain in the Philippines, particularly among professionals, such as English teachers who leave the country. She expressed regret that while Filipino teachers are teaching students in other countries like China and Thailand, students in the Philippines are struggling to learn English because the country is losing competent English teachers.

She stated that Japan has a demand for the country's nurses and that she would not be surprised if it would also be interested in the country's teachers and other professionals. While she is pleased that Filipino skilled workers have opportunities abroad, she believes that a balance must be maintained in order to prevent brain drain and talent drain in the Philippines. She expressed confidence that Ambassador-Designate Albano would look into the matter because she is one of the very diligent and hardworking star lawyers who had work with the former's father when he was still in Malacañang.

Concerning the private transactions mentioned by Senate President Zubiri, Senator Villanueva stated that he understands Senator Tolentino's concern about allowing market forces to dictate the drafting of athletes regarded as the country's prized possessions by international clubs abroad.

Senate President Zubiri hoped Alex Eala would serve as an inspiration to all the country's athletes, thanking her for giving her acceptance speech in Filipino as the first ever US National Open champion from the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 199

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 201 and 202, was adopted by the Body.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 165

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 165, entitled

**RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE BAGSIK TEAM
OF THE MUAYTHAI ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR BAGGING
EIGHT GOLD, SIX SILVER, AND ONE BROZE MEDALS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUAYTHAI ASSOCIATIONS (IFMA)
WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
ON AUGUST 29, 2022**

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 200.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Go for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GO

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 165, Senator Go delivered the following sponsorship speech:

As chair of the Senate Committee on Sports and an advocate for long-term sports development in the country, it is my honor to sponsor the resolution commending and congratulating the Philippine National Muay Thai Youth Team, otherwise known as "Team Bagsik" for winning multiple medals at the 2022 International Federation of Muaythai Associations Youth World Championships held in Kuala Lumpur.

Nakapag-uwi ang ating mga atleta ng labinlimang medalya mula sa naturang torneyo—walong ginto, anim na pilak, at isang tanso.

Tunay pong maipagmamalaki ang naging tagumpay na ito ng ating mga kabataang atleta dahil sa tapang at galing na kanilang ipinamalas sa naturang sports event. Higit sa lahat, ang kanilang tagumpay ay tagumpay ng sambayanang Pilipino kaya nararapat lamang po natin silang papurihan at pasalamat.

Napatunayan po ng ating mga atleta na may lugar ang ating bansa sa naturang sport. Patunay din po ito na kapag may sapat na suporta mula sa pamahalaan at sa mga taumbayan, kayang magtagumpay ng mga atletang Pilipino sa anumang larangan na kanilang naisin.

Kanina, nagkaroon kami ng hearing sa Committee on Sports. We discussed not only the upcoming hosting of FIBA World Cup, but also the support we can give to other sports.

Sisiguraduhin namin na lahat ng sports mabibigyan ng pansin, tulad ng tennis at pole vault, kung saan nag-e-excel ngayon ang ating mga manlalaro at, syempre, Muay Thai na kasama natin ngayon ang mga manlalaro.

I would also like to take this opportunity to honor all our athletes who continue to push the envelope in their respective sports. You motivate all of us in government to work harder for Philippine sports, and for our nation as a whole.

Likewise, I want to thank all of you for motivating our countrymen and women; and giving us hope in the midst of these trying times. You persisted in demonstrating that tenacity, diligence, and resolve always pay off.

Additionally, I want to express my gratitude and congratulations to the Muay Thai Association of the Philippines, and to all agencies and offices of the government which have helped and continue to help our Muay Thai athletes. *Mahalaga po ang papel na inyong ginagampanan sa tagumpay na ito ng ating mga atleta, kaya naman malaki rin ang pasasalamat namin sa inyo.*

As chairperson of the Senate Sports Committee, I want to reiterate my support for all of our athletes. Together with the rest of the government, rest assured that we will fight for your rights, welfare, and competitiveness by continuing to support policies that enhance our sports programs; as well as by rewarding those who continue to bring honor and glory to the country.

Makaaasa po kayo na patuloy ang pagpasa ko ng mga panukalang tutulong upang mas lalo pang mapaganda ang sports program ng ating bansa, at magtatatag ng mga programang magbibigay ng suporta sa ating mga atleta upang patuloy silang makapag-uwi ng karangalan para sa ating bansa.

Muli, congratulations po at mabuhay ang Atletang Pilipino!



MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senator Lapid would be submitting his sponsorship speech on the measure for insertion into the *Record of the Senate*.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LAPID

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is the sponsorship speech of Senator Lapid on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 165, which was deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

Hayaan ninyo akong bigyan ng pagkilala at pagpupugay ang kakila-kilabot, kinakatakutan at kinikilalang muay thai association na nag-uwi ng walong (8) ginto, anim (6) na pilak, and isang (1) tansong medalya, sa kakatapos lang na International Federation of Muay Thai Associations (IFMA) World Youth Championships na ginanap sa Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia—and Team Bagsik ng Muay Thai Association of the Philippines.

Ang delegasyon na ating pinadala sa nabanggit na paligsahan ay binubuo ng mga kabataang produkto ng grassroots sports program, kung saan karamihan sa kanila ay unang beses lamang nakalahok sa naturang antas ng paligsahan. Lalo pang kabiliban ang kanilang nakamit sa world championship dahil sa tagumpay na kanilang naiwi sa kabila ng limitasyon sa training dala ng pandemya.

Ang mga nagkamit ng gintong medalya ay sina: Jasmine Dagame para sa 38 kilograms; Jan Brix Ramiscal, Keith Margaret Balinas, Alyssa Kylie Mallari, Edel Ali Ngina at Mara Luz Dagame para sa Waikru; at ang mga magkakatambal na sina Keith Margaret Balinas at Jan Brix Ramiscal; Clark Fatitt at Edel Ali Ngina para sa Mae Mai Muay Thai. Ang mga nagkamit naman ng medalyang silver ay sina Johnden Aldana, Jr. at Alyssa Kylie Mallari para sa Mae Mai MuayThai; Mara Luz Dagame para sa Girls' 30 kilograms; Jan Brix Ramiscal para sa Boys' 42 kilograms; at Clark Fattit para sa 40 kilograms. Samantalang si Keith Margaret Balinas ang kaisa-isang nag-uwi ng medalyang bronze para sa Boys' 38 kilograms.

Sa mga paghihirap, sakripisyo at dedikasyon ng mga kabataang nag-uwi ng natatanging tagumpay para sa ating bansa, nararapat lamang na bigyan ng Senado ng pagkilala at pagpupugay ang Team Bagsik ng Muaythai Association of the Philippines na nagkamit ng mga medalya—walong ginto, anim na pilak, at isang tanso—mula sa International Federation of Muay Thai Associations (IFMA) World Youth Championships na ginanap noong ika-29 ng Agosto 2022 sa Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all Members were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 165.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 165

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 165, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 200, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended.

It was 4:49 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:51 p.m., the session was resumed.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

(Continuation)

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

taking into consideration House Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

Senator Villanueva stated that the parliamentary status was the period of committee amendments.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

On the second to the last resolutory clause, after the word “expenditures,” as proposed by Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body approved to insert the phrase **AS THESE WILL BRING THE ECONOMY CLOSER TO ACHIEVING THE COUNTRY’S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OR SDGs.**

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (P) explained that the phrase, which is contained in the actual Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF), should also be stated in the resolution itself because it has committed during the interpellations to translate the framework into sustainable programs that would be consistent with the SDGs, noting also Senator Pimentel’s point that a resolution with 24 signatures on it is a proof of support.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

There being no other committee amendment, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

There being no individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, taking into consideration House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

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EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY SENATOR PIMENTEL

Senator Pimentel explained his negative vote on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, to wit:

I vote “No” to the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, or the CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2022-2028 MEDIUM-TERM FISCAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, for the following reasons:

- Section 72, Rule XXV of the *Rules of the Senate* provides that “Simple or concurrent resolutions shall not be subject to the procedure for Second and Third Readings prescribed in Section 71.” It is clear, therefore, that a concurrent resolution’s subject matter should be as simple as a simple resolution’s.
- The subject matter of this resolution is more than an expression of sentiment or a vision-mission statement of Congress, as claimed in the earlier part of the interpellation. The resolatory clauses are explicit. There are infinitive phrases like “to support,” “to recognize,” and “to prioritize,” and these are words that denote positive action from those voting in favor.
- Voting in favor of the resolution is a commitment from the voter to support the 21-page MTFF, which contains macroeconomic objectives, fiscal plans, and legislative measures pre-determined by the Executive branch.
- The resolution is a binding document on our Congress. Page 1 of the MTFF provides: “Once adopted, the MTFF will become an anchor for the annual spending and financing plan of the NG [National Government] and Congress when preparing the annual budget and undertaking related appropriation activities.” The word “anchor” connotes “basis,” “dependence,” and “fixing an object to a certain place,” among others. As such, an affirmative vote can amount to a wholesale surrender to the following legislative measures like:
 - (1) Annual Budget or the General Appropriations Act;
 - (2) Budget Modernization Bill;
 - (3) National Government Rightsizing Program;
 - (4) Imposition of VAT on digital service providers;
 - (5) Taxation of income generated by online content creators;
 - (6) Imposition of excise tax on single-use plastics;
 - (7) Government Pension Reform bills; and
 - (8) Other fiscal strengthening measures that are identified to complement the objectives of the MTFF.

And all these legislative measures that I have just mentioned lack sufficient details in the present form of the MTFF to support an intelligible and well-informed decision on the matter.

- Voting in favor of this concurrent resolution is the complete antithesis to my role as the Minority Leader. To commit myself to the contents of the resolution and the attached MTFF is to abdicate my parliamentary duty to fiscalize and check the validity of proposals and ideas on the Floor of the Senate on a case-to-case basis.
- One last point. The subject resolution is replete with formal and procedural inaccuracies.

Procedure follows form and form follows the contents. However, this rule was inadequately observed in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3. While other Senate resolutions of the same type deal with “Joint Committee of Congress to Hear the State of the Nation Address of the President” (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1), “Congress-Parliamentary Bangsamoro Forum” (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2), and “Legislative Calendar, First Regular Session, Nineteenth Congress” (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4), the subject resolution encompasses a broader and more contentious topic on the 2022-2028 MTFF of the national government. Given the nature of other concurrent resolutions adopted by the Senate this Nineteenth Congress, no other



conclusion can be had but that the subject resolution belongs not to this group called “concurrent resolution.”

It is my position that this measure should not have followed the procedure for concurrent resolutions and that legislative work should have started at the committee level and not in plenary. If the chosen legislative form is inaccurate, the legislative procedure followed is wrong and, therefore, the result arrived at is defective.

I have learned from my participation in international conferences that “form is as important as substance”; “procedure is as important as substance.”

The *Rules of the Senate*, I must stress, should be treated with due regard and utmost respect.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros likewise requested that the *Journal of the Senate* reflect her vote of abstention on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 5:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:54 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Zubiri presiding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUEST

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the Secretary of Justice, Jesus Crispin “Boying” Remulla.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed Secretary Remulla to the Senate.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 3, submitted by the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations; and Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform re: PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN MIGUEL “MIGZ” ZUBIRI, ENTITLED “FIASCO BEHIND SUGAR ORDER NO. 4,” delivered on August 15, 2022,

recommending its approval.

Sponsor: Senator Tolentino

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1251, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Public Works; Economic Affairs; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1252, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE PHILIPPINE FILM AND MOVIE INDUSTRY FROM THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE R.A. NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES," AS AMENDED, AND R.A. NO. 10863 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1253, entitled

AN ACT URGING THE PLANNING AND PROMOTION OF THE PHILIPPINE MANGO FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPORT, ESTABLISHING THE MANGO EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1254, entitled

AN ACT URGING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPORT PROMOTION OF THE DRAGON FRUIT, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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



Senate Bill No. 1255, entitled

AN ACT URGING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPORT PROMOTION OF THE MORINGA (MORINGA OLEIFERA), LOCALLY KNOWN AS "MALUNGGAY," AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1256, entitled

AN ACT URGING THE PLANNING, EVALUATION, AND PROMOTION OF PINEAPPLES FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPORT, ESTABLISHING THE PINEAPPLE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1257, 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 Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1258, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY, EXTENDING ITS CORPORATE TERM, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 757

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1259, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING PAOAY LAKE NATIONAL PARK LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAOAY, ILOCOS NORTE AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1260, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE BISLIG DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN BISLIG CITY, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR INTO A MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE BISLIG CITY MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM FIFTY (50) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1261, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE EASTERN CORDILLERA REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1262, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ILOCOS NORTE SPORTS INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH (INSPIRE) IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1263, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING PHILIPPINE HEART CENTERS IN CEBU FOR VISAYAS AND IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY FOR MINDANAO, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES



Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1264, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF AGE, INDIGENOUS, RACIAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR ACTIVITY, POLITICAL INCLINATION OR CONVICTION, SOCIAL CLASS, SEX, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEX CHARACTERISTICS, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, MARITAL OR RELATIONSHIP STATUS, DISABILITY, HIV STATUS, PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION, HEALTH STATUS OR MEDICAL HISTORY, LANGUAGE, PHYSICAL FEATURES, AND OTHER STATUS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs

Senate Bill No. 1265, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING PINSAL FALLS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN NICOLAS, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, A TOURISM DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Tourism; Public Works; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1266, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE CITY OF MAASIN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAASIN CITY TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1267, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IN CEBU CITY TO SPECIALIZE IN KIDNEY AND ALLIED DISEASES TO BE KNOWN AS THE VISAYAS KIDNEY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1268, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN ILIGAN CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILIGAN CITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1269, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MANKAYAN, KIBUNGAN, KABAYAN, ATOK, ITOGON, AND TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1270, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL WRITING SYSTEMS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Culture and the Arts

Senate Bill No. 1271, entitled

AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1272, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY AND PROMOTING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MUSLIM TRADITION OF WEARING HIJAB

Introduced by Senator Padilla



To the Committees on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 1273, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE PROPER BURIAL OF MUSLIM FILIPINOS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS, PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATE BURIAL GROUNDS IN PUBLIC CEMETERIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committees on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1274, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1275, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR WORK BENEFITS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION TO ALL DELIVERY PLATFORM RIDERS WORKING IN THE GIG ECONOMY

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1276, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS TO FURTHER PROTECT AND DEVELOP MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 81, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE 1986 REVISED CHARTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES," AS AMENDED"

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1277, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS



Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 1278, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS PERMIT AND LICENSING OFFICE (BPLO)
IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1279, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JUVENAL SANSO

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1280, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022, FURTHER AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT TO INSTITUTE
THE POLICIES OF OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT AND ESTABLISH A HIGHER
STANDARD OF PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF
MIGRANT WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN
DISTRESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, TO MANDATE PHILHEALTH
COVERAGE FOR DIAGNOSTIC, LABORATORY AND OTHER MEDICAL
EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Migrant Workers; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1281, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING ONLINE GAMBLING AND THE PLACING OF WAGERS
OR BETS THROUGH THE INTERNET OR ANY FORM OF ONLINE GAMBLING
ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Games and Amusement

Senate Bill No. 1282, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SUPPORT FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
OF BARANGAY MICRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AMENDING FOR THE



PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9178, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY MICRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ACT OF 2002, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 1283, 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, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992"

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 1284, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO CREDIT OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Economic Affairs

Senate Bill No. 1285, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SIMPLIFIED REGISTRATION, FILING OF RETURNS AND PAYMENT OF INCOME AND PERCENTAGE TAXES, AND PROVIDING FOR TAX RELIEF FOR MICRO-ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 74, 128 AND 236 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committee on Ways and Means

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 190, entitled

9/12

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL (PNAC) WITH THE END VIEW OF STRENGTHENING OUR AIDS MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 2023-2028

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 191, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN INTER-AGENCY APPROACH IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICIES AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION AND SPREAD OF FALSE INFORMATION OR "FAKE NEWS," AND DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, WITH THE END VIEW OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012" AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS PARTNER AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE CASH ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTION TO FILIPINO FARMERS UNDER R.A. NO. 11598 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FACILITATING THE SAME AND TARGETING THE CORRECT BENEFICIARIES

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 193, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AS TO THE INCREASE IN SELLING RETAIL PRICE AND/OR SUPPLY SHORTAGE OF VARIOUS MANUFACTURED GOODS

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 194, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING CASES OF KIDNAPPING, ABDUCTION, DISAPPEARANCES, AND THE RECENT SPATE OF CRIMES IN THE COUNTRY IN GENERAL, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR CRIMINAL LAWS AND MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 195, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED RISING ABDUCTION CASES IN METRO MANILA AND LUZON

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 196, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE BLU BOYS SOFTBALL TEAM FOR EARNING SECOND PLACE IN THE 11TH MEN'S SOFTBALL ASIA CUP HELD IN KOCHI, JAPAN AND FOR SECURING A SPOT IN THE 2022 MEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 197, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE TEAM PHILIPPINES FOR WINNING THE 2022 PREDATOR WORLD TEAMS 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN KLAGENFURT, AUSTRIA

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 3 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Committee Report No. 3 Re: PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ"

ZUBIRI, ENTITLED: "FIASCO BEHIND SUGAR ORDER NO. 4," delivered on August 15, 2022.

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 committee report was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

The Chair recognized Senator Tolentino for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino submitted for the consideration of the Body Committee Report No. 3 Re: Privilege speech of Senate President Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, entitled "Fiasco Behind Sugar Order No. 4," delivered on August 15, 2022, jointly prepared by the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon Committee); and the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, headed by Sen. Cynthia Villar. He said that after conducting several public hearings, he had the honor to report the findings thereof.

The full text of Senator Tolentino's sponsorship speech follows accompanied by a video presentation:

(Video presentation)

With a sense of urgency, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee commenced its investigation on August 23, 2022, and within 17 days, ending 8 September, 2022, your committee was able to complete the hearings, as well as complete the committee report.

We invited all of the Sugar Regulation Administration (SRA) board members, all the personalities involved, and we even issued a subpoena to no less than the Executive Secretary, Victor Rodriguez.

Gusto ko pong pasalamatan muna, I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of the committee in devoting their precious time to shed light to the facts surrounding this issue, including the members of the Minority. Napakasiyap po nila.

I thank not only the committee members, all our colleagues, the staff, the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee, those from the Executive branch, and most especially the participation of the sovereign people.

Sa mga kababayan nating sumubaybay sa tatlong hearing patungkol sa isyung ito, ang mga nagkomento sa mga social media pages, ang nagpahayag ng kanilang opinion at mga haka-haka, marami pong salamat. This is the height of public participation at sinabi ko sa inyong lahat na ito ay aming pagninilayan.

Again, modesty aside, for the first time in the history of this Blue Ribbon Committee, a comprehensive 75-page report was released after only three thorough, yet efficient, full-blown hearings within 17 days. This report which we will be providing to all our dear colleagues outlines the findings of the committee based on evidence duly presented and weighed according to factual standards.

Hiniling po sa atin noon ng Minorya, and they are correct, kapag tama ang ginawa ng Blue Ribbon Committee, we restore not just the integrity of the Blue Ribbon Committee, but the integrity of the Senate likewise. In its stand to protect the integrity of the Senate and its constitutional power to extract information during the conduct of investigations, in aid of legislation, the Blue Ribbon Committee, as I have mentioned before, even issued a subpoena against the Executive Secretary to compel his presence and to find out the truth as to the facts and circumstances leading to the issuance of Sugar Order No. 4. Ito po siguro iyong pinapakita sa screen.



(Video presentation)

In the conduct of our queries, we made sure that politicization of issues is dispensed with. The honorable members of the Blue Ribbon Committee can attest to this. Instead, we put our energies and resources on the issue at hand whether there was really a real need to import sugar. If there was none, who authorized the importation to the detriment of the Philippine Sugar Industry? *Alam ninyo po, sa isyung ito ay makikita ang kahalagahan ng epekto ng lahat ng polisiya na inilatag ng pamahalaan, na nilatag ng ating mga mambabatas, para sa maayos at mahusay na implementasyon ng mga nasa Ehekutibo.*

Sa simula pa lamang noong ni-reorganize ang Blue Ribbon Committee, our chairman has laid down the following principles that will guide the committee in its investigations: 1) A road map will be made for purposes of hearing unknown duration with a defined direction; unending hearings will not be allowed. Ayaw pong maniwala noong iba, but we did that with the help of all our colleagues, including the Minority. Investigation will not evolve into a political circus. It will not be a witch hunt or fishing expedition. Resource persons will be respected. Moral turpitude will be the standard of proof. And, finally, the committee will protect the people, the fountain of power.

Sa simula ng paglaganap ng asukal sa ating bansa, and this was around the 1800s. I have read in one of the late nights I was studying the sugar industry, that the British...just an hour ago, we were watching a ceremony within the British Parliament after the death of Queen Elizabeth. During the 1800s, a British vice consul in the name of Nicholas Loney was at the forefront of the birth of the sugar industry in the Philippines. It was said that he pushed for easy installment of crop loans given to sugar planters, first, in Iloilo City which, after seeing the prominence in the sugar farming, expanded the grant of crop loans to farmers in Negros island. History accounted for Loney's assistance in the acquisition by our local farmers of machineries and farming technologies during that time. Because of this, the Visayas' main product then was raw sugar destined for the United States, England, and Australia.

What I am leading to here is this—one person's prioritization of granting favorable loans to planters of a certain crop yielded the birth of an entire industry. The birth of the Filipinos' sweet tooth, the reason why we dip *suman* in sugar; why we love *panghimagas* and have our own version of sweet spaghetti.

For the same reason, an improper policy or order, most especially one issued without proper authority or extensive study, as support and justification can greatly impact hundreds of thousands of local farmers. *Ang sinabi ninyo nga po, 800,000 farmers ang apektado.* This is to the detriment of not just the sugar industry but the lives of our local farmers themselves, their wives, their children, and their future.

It is ironic that we have farmers without food. As I have mentioned a while ago, guided by the principles which we laid out during the August 17 organizational hearing, and after three extensive hearings, this committee recommends the following measures: first, on the need for more transparency and accountability; we likewise propose to expand the SRA Board by adding members to represent key sectors; finally, the committee recommends full funding of the CDA Law of 2005. *Ito rin po siguro ang gusto ni Sen. Cynthia Villar.*

On the side of accountability, this committee recommends the filing of the following charges: one, violation of Section 3(a) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Republic Act 3019; two, violation of Section 3(e) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, RA 3019; three, violation of Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended; four, violation of the provision of RA 10845, otherwise known as the "Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016"; fifth, administrative cases of serious dishonesty, gross neglect of duty, grave misconduct, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, and gross insubordination under Sections 50A 1-3 and B 9-10 of the 2017 Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service against the following: former SRA Administrator Hermenegildo Serafica, Atty. Ramon B. Beltran, Mr. Aurelio Gerardo Valderrama, Jr., former SRA board members, and against Undersecretary Leocadio Sebastian.



Let me end my speech by stating that the aim of the Blue Ribbon Committee is to search for the truth and nothing but the truth. An inquiry in aid of legislation of Congress is not a fishing expedition or a witch hunt with no end in sight. Rather, it is the responsible and judicious exercise of a constitutional power granted by the people to whom sovereignty resides.

COSPONSOR

Senator Villanueva stated that Senator Estrada is a cosponsor of Committee Report No. 3.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senator Estrada had requested that his cosponsorship speech on Committee Report No. 3 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR ESTRADA

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, the following is cosponsorship speech of Senator Estrada on Committee Report No. 3:

I am honored to cosponsor Committee Report No. 3 of the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) and Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform.

Allow me to express my sincerest gratitude to our esteemed Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee, the good gentleman Senator from Cavite, Sen. Francis N. Tolentino, for swiftly acting on the privilege speech of Senate President Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, entitled "Fiasco Behind Sugar Order No. 4," delivered on August 15, 2022.

Sugarcane has always been one of the country's major crops. According to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), as of February 20, 2022, there are 27 operating sugar centrals and 12 operating sugar refineries. The total milling capacity of the industry is more or less 201,528 metric tons (mt) canes per day while the average milling capacity is 7,464 mt canes per day. However, the sugar production in the Philippines has often hardly met local consumption.

On August 11, 2022, Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles announced that Resolution No. 4, allegedly coming from the Sugar Regulatory Board, was uploaded on the website of the SRA, authorizing the importation of 300,000 mt of sugar on top of what had already been imported last May 2022. However, Secretary Cruz-Angeles asserted the illegality of the resolution as Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., as chairman of the Sugar Regulatory Board, did not authorize any meeting, the purported resolution, nor did he authorize Usec. Leocadio Sebastian to sign on his behalf.

On August 15, 2022, the Senate President, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, delivered a privilege speech deploring the issuance of Sugar Order No. 4 and commended President Marcos for stopping the importation.

This humble representation supports the findings of the committee that Usec. Leocadio Sebastian is not legally authorized to sign for and on behalf of the President of the Philippines, then acting as Secretary of Agriculture, in the absence of a specific legal authority to do so; the SRA Board, composed of Usec. Sebastian, Administrator Hermenegildo Serafica, Atty. Ramon B. Beltran, and Mr. Aurelio Gerardo Valderrama, Jr. clearly did not have legal authority to sign and issue Sugar Order No. 4.

And, that there was definitely undue haste in the issuance of Sugar Order No. 4, as no statement or evidence was introduced that would have indicated an emergency or a level of urgency that would have justified to some extent the haste by which the SRA Board approved and signed Sugar Order No. 4.



Nawa ang Committee Report na ito ay maging instrumento sa pagsasaayos ng Sugar Regulatory Authority, at maging ng Kagawaran ng Agrikultura upang maging tunay na ahensiyang magsusulong sa interes at kapakanan ng lokal na industriya ng asukal at kabutihan ng mga magsasaka ng sektor na ito.

Binabati ko rin ang Chairman ng Blue Ribbon Committee sa mabilis na aksyon at paglalabas ng Committee Report na magiging simula rin ng pagsilip, deliberasyon, at posibleng pag-amyenda sa mga batas kaugnay ng regulasyon sa sektor ng asukal at iba pang produktong pang-agrikultura.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3

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

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR PADILLA

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Padilla delivered the following speech, entitled “*Ang Ekonomiya ng Medical Cannabis*”:

A’oodhu billahi min ash Shaytaani ‘rajeem
Bismillahi Rahmaani Raheem
Al-hamdu lillahi Rabbil Aalameen
Bismillahi Was Salaatu Was salaam ala Rasulillah
Ashhadu Alla illaha illallah wa ashhadu anna Muhammadur Rasulullah
As Salaam Aleikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

Ang Inang Bayan at ang taumbayan ay pagod na pagod na sa mga malulungkot at masasamang balita kaya’t katulad po ng ating mga kasama sa Bulwagang ito ay ginagawa natin ang lahat para makapagbigay ng pag-asa, kaligayahan, pati ng kasiyahan sa ating kababayan, lalo na ng pag-asa sa kinabukasan ng ating kabataan.

Ang usaping Sabah at tagumpay ng Sultanate of Sulu laban sa Malaysia ay hudyat para sa mga taga-Sulu, pangako ng pag-unlad sa mga Tausug, Samal Banguigui, Badjao, Yakan, hanggang sa mga Chavacano of Zamboanga. Buong Pilipinas ay maaaring makinabang sa \$14.9 billion na napanalunan sa arbitral court sa Paris, France.

Ang usapin sa pagpapalakas at pagbuhay sa Filipino dialect na siyang hudyat para sa pagkakaisa ng mga Pilipino ay labis nating nalasap ang tamis sa talumpati ng tagumpay na natamo ni Alexandra Maniego Eala. Kanyang pinili ang magsambit sa wikang Fillipino kaysa sa Ingles na wika mismo ng Estados Unidos de Amerika.

Kahit saan man o kahit sino man ang kaharap, taas noo ang isang Pilipina. Walang dapat pagyamanin kundi ang sariling atin at ang sinisintang Inang Bayang Pilipinas.

At ang usapin ng Joint Exploration sa West Philippine Sea na nangangako ng paglaya natin sa pagkakakulong sa mataas na presyo ng langis na taon-taon ay tumataas ang ating pangangailangan dito — ito ang tunay na magbibigay ginhawa sa ating mahihirap na kababayan sa hinaharap. Ang magkaroon tayo ng sarili nating supply ng langis ang siyang daan para bumaba ang presyo hindi lamang ng gasoline, kuryente, at pamasaha kundi lahat ng produktong nagmumula dito, lalo na ang basic na pangangailangan tulad ng pagkain.

Ngayong araw po, hayaan ninyong talakayin ko naman ang isang paksa na sa aking paniniwala ay napapanahong bigyan ng karampatang atensyon.

Sa Miyerkules po ay magsisimula na ang talakayan sa Senado kasama ang ating mga economic managers ukol sa kalagayan ng pananalapi ng bansa.



Sa pasimula pa lamang, maganda na ang agenda ng ating 2023 National Budget: paglikha ng mas maraming de-kalidad na trabaho at “green jobs,” maayos na pamumuhunan sa imprastruktura, digitalisasyon, at iba pang programang nakatutok sa 8-point socioeconomic agenda ng ating administrasyon.

Ang lahat ng programang ito ay nakadepende sa inihahaing pambansang badyet sa susunod na taon. Para maunawaan natin at lalo ng ating mga kababayan —na tulad ng marami sa atin ay lula sa dami ng numero —hayaan ninyo pong himayin natin ang lahat.

Sa susunod na taon, kailangan po natin ng 5.268 trilyong piso para matugunan ang lahat ng pangangailangan ng bansa. Gayunman, ang tinatayang kikitain lamang natin ay 3.632 trilyon. Saan natin kukunin ang kakulangan o deficit? Natural lamang na kakailanganin nating manghiram ng pondo upang punuan ito.

At para sa susunod na taon, ang ating kabuuang uutangin ay nasa 2.207 trilyon. Samakatuwid: uutangin po natin ang halos 42% ng ating budget.

Kung kumporme tayo na mangutang para mapunan ang ating mga plano, hindi po ba nararapat lamang na maging masigasig rin tayo na maghanap ng mapagkukunan natin ng kita? At kung hahanap tayo ng pandagdag pondo, huwag naman po sana, at naniniwala po ako na hindi papayag ang Senado, na muli na naman tayong magdagdag ng buwis para pasanin ng ating mga kababayan na ngayon ay naghihirap.

Ang sa atin lamang po, hindi naman tayo dapat mangamba. ‘Ika nga, “Don’t panic, it’s organic.”

Minsan na ring lumutang sa kamalayan ng mga miyembro ng Bulwagang ito ang panukala patungkol sa legalisasyon ng paggamit ng cannabis para sa layuning medikal. Bahagyang naging masinsin din ang diskusyon patungkol sa pangangailangan upang payagang magamit ang marijuana para sa compassionate purposes.

Isa sa mga punto noon ay hindi na daw nangangailangan ng bagong batas sapagkat nailatag na ito sa Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 o RA 9165. Sa ilalim po kasi ng batas, hindi pinipigilan ang may mga lehitimong medikal na pangangailangan sa tamang paggamit ng mga medikasyon kabilang na ang mga ipinagbabawal na gamot. Isa na po rito ang cannabis-based medication para sa epilepsy.

Itinuturing din po ang Department of Health Administrative Order No. 4 Series of 1992 bilang basehan ng bisa ng pagkilala sa pangangailangan sa mga produktong gamot na hindi nakarehistro o nasa proseso pa lamang ng pagpaparehistro upang gamutin ang mga pasyenteng may terminal o malubhang karamdaman.

Ang kanilang argumento: Bakit pa kailangan ng batas para sa compassionate use ng medical cannabis kung may tingi-tinging regulasyon para ma-access ito?

Kung hindi po natin narinig ang pulso ng panukalang-batas sa mga nagdaang Kongreso, baka maaari nating buksan ang ating mga puso sa mga magulang at mga pasyente na hindi kayang punan ang \$25,000 hanggang \$30,000 na halaga ng preskripsyon ng gamot mula sa medical cannabis kada taon. Matagal na po nilang inaasam na magkaroon ng access sa mas abot-kayang medical cannabis.

Baka maaari po nating bigyan ng atensyon ang 29,802 publikasyon ukol sa medical marijuana simula pa noong 1829 hanggang sa kasalukuyan. Sa pagtataya ng mga pag-aaral sa U.S. mula 2016 hanggang 2019, ang cannabis ay nakitaan ng “moderate to high quality of evidence of efficacy, effectiveness, and safety” sa mga medikal na kondisyon kung saan pinapayagan ang paggamit nito.



Baka po maaaring buksan natin ang ating isip sa pagbabago. Noong Disyembre 2020 ay nagdesisyon na ang United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs na alisin na ang cannabis mula sa Schedule IV ng kanilang listahan ng klasipikasyon ng droga. Nangangahulugan po ito na inaalís na ang cannabis sa listahan ng mga itinuturing na mapanganib at lubhang nakakaadik na gamot tulad ng heroin at fentanyl. Bagamat itinuturing pa rin na isang controlled substance, inaasahang maitutulak nito ang patuloy na pag-aaral patungkol sa medical at therapeutic na benepisyó ng marijuana.

Pakinggan rin po natin ang datos: Ang halamang ito ay nililínang na sa Asya sa loob ng mahigit anim na libong (6,000) taon, at ginagamit bilang medisina sa mahigit na tatlong libong (3,000) taon.

Legal rin ang access nito sa ating bansa noon. Sa isang liham nga ni Gat Jose Rizal sa kanyang kaibigang Aleman noong 1890, sinabi niya, "I myself, though, in 1879, used hashish, did it for experimental purposes, and I obtained the substance from the drugstore."

Sa kasalukuyan, legal na ang medikal na paggamit ng ilang uri ng cannabis sa pitompung (70) bansa sa buong mundo. Tinatayang 4.4 milyong aktibong pasyente ang nag-access ng mga legal na produkto ng cannabis. Hindi po kabilang ang mga Pilipino dito.

Bibigyang-diin lamang po natin na ang ating isinusulong ay medical cannabis lamang — ito po ang produktong cannabis na nasa anyong capsule at oil at mayroong pharmaceutical formulation kasama ang detalyado at tamang impormasyon tungkol sa konsentrasyon ng tetrahydrocannabinol o THC at cannabidiol o CBD. Hindi po ito iyong alam nating 2 joints, o jutes, o hashish, Mary Jane at iba pang katawagan sa marijuana na para sa recreation o good time lamang.

Kaya naman po pinupursigi natin ang pagpapasa ng batas na partikular sa legal na access ng medical cannabis dahil ito po ang direksyong nararapat nating tahakin kung sisilipin natin ang mga benepisyong hatid nito gamit ang lente ng kalusugan at ekonomiya.

Ang Asya pa naman ang may pinakamalaking merkado para dito dahil sa 4.5 bilyong mamamayan sa rehiyon. Angat rin tayo sa lahat base sa mga pag-aaral dahil kung ikukumpara sa mga halamang cannabis na lumalago sa ibang bansa, may mataas na cannabidiol content ang cannabis sa Pilipinas — ang pangunahing sangkap sa karamihan ng mga produktong pangmedikal.

Ang akin pong punto: bukod sa lumalawak na gamit ng medical cannabis, malaki rin po ang ambag nito sa ekonomiya.

Patunay po ang tinatabong kita mula sa buwis at laki ng merkado ng mga bansang nagbukas ng industriya para sa mas malayang access ng medical cannabis.

Noong 2021, ang pandaigdigang bentahan ng medical cannabis ay tinatayang nasa 37.4 bilyong dolyar. Sa Asya po — kung saan naitala sa kasaysayan ang pinakamahigpit na patakaran sa paggamit ng cannabis — ay nagsimula nang magbukas ang mga pinto para sa cannabis industry; 158.9 milyong dolyar o tumataginting na 8.7 billion pesos po — ito po ang halaga ng ginastos ng mga consumers ng medical cannabis sa Israel noong 2020 lamang.

Sa Thailand, ang ating kapitbahay, kalapit-bansa, apat na taon na po simula ng maging legal ang paggamit ng medical marijuana. Sa botong 166-0, naipasa ng kanilang National Legislative Assembly ang Medical Marijuana legalization. Ang merkado para sa medical cannabis ng Thailand ay tinatayang aabot sa 79 milyong dolyar nitong 2021 lamang.

Mataas rin ang pangangailangan ng produktong CBD sa Estados Unidos — ito po 'yung walang tama, 'yung walang psychoactive effect at hindi nakaka-addict tulad ng kadalasang maling akala. Pumapalo po ito sa 390 million dollars kada taon. Inaasahang tataas pa ito hanggang 1.3 billion dollars ngayong 2022, o 71.5 billion pesos — katumbas na po nito ang halos 10% ng koleksyon ng Bureau of Customs nitong 2022 at higit na mas malaki pa sa market ng



imported na alak sa Pilipinas na sinasabing papalo sa 50 bilyong piso sa 2025.

Sa mga estado sa Estados Unidos kung saan legal ang medical cannabis, tumatabo ang mga pamahalaang pederal ng kita mula sa buwis at licensing fees. Bilang halimbawa:

Sa Oklahoma: 18 milyong dolyar mula pa lamang sa kita galing sa patient and commercial license fees simula noong Agosto ng 2018; sa Arizona: 64 milyong dolyar mula sa buwis noong 2021; sa Hawaii: 4.7 milyon dolyar ng tax revenues; at sa Maine: 3.9 milyong dolyares noong 2021. Sa isang publikasyon pa nga po, sinasabing mas mataas pa ang bentahan ng medical cannabis kumpara sa patatas at blueberries sa Maine, USA.

Hindi pa po natin sinasama sa kwentahan ang laki ng kita mula sa mga pharmaceutical companies na maaaring mamuhunan sa medical cannabis research and development sa bansa.

Sa Israel nga po, ang net revenues ng Panaxia, isang cannabis pharmaceutical, ay nasa 83.6 million dollars na nitong 2021 – 37% ang nilundag ng kita mula sa 60.7 million dollars lamang noong 2020.

Sabihin na po nating magkadikit ang benepisyo ng pagsasa-legal ng medical cannabis: una, magkakaroon ng mas accessible at murang pagkukunan ng medical cannabis ang mga pasyente na hindi nagmumukhang drug addict ang mga pasyente na pati ang magulang ng batang ito ay hirap na hirap humanap kung saan sila kukuha na may kasamang pagkatakot na baka sila ay mahuli – nakakaawa po; at pangalawa, maaaring kumita ang gobyerno mula sa buwis para gamitin sa makabuluhang serbisyo publiko.

Sa ibang mga bansa, ang buwis mula sa medical marijuana ay ginagamit para sa mga pampublikong paaralan. Tulad sa Oklahoma, 38.5 milyong dolyar mula sa naipong medical marijuana tax ang ginamit para magpatayo ng school buildings para sa mahihirap na distrito. Sa ibang estado naman tulad ng Arizona, bukod sa pondong mapupunta sa edukasyon, hinahati rin ang buwis mula sa medical marijuana para sa pondo ng mga lalawigan at siyudad ng estado.

Napakarami pong posibilidad para makatulong sa ating pamumuhan — lalong lalo na para sa ating bansa na nangangailangan ng pagkukunan ng pondo.

Masakit po ang reyalidad na panay ang hugot natin sa kaban ng bayan. Bilang halimbawa, nalulugi tayo mula sa maraming government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) na taon-taon ay umaasa sa suporta ng gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng subsidiya, equity at net lending, na halos wala namang naibabalik na dibidendo para makadagdag sa pondo ng bayan.

Sa susunod na taon po, maglalabas na naman tayo ng 195.8 bilyong piso para sa mga korporasyon na ito na wala namang pangako ng balik-kita para sa ating mga kababayan.

Noong 2021, ang subsidy ng gobyerno sa 80 na GOCCs ay umabot ng P212 billion. Gayon man ang natanggap lamang natin na balik sa pamamagitan ng dibidendo ay P38 billion lamang, 18% lamang ng inilabas na subsidiya o pondo ng national government. Halos P33 billion din ang lugi o net losses ng mga GOCCs. Ang ilan sa mga highly subsidized na GOCCs na kakaunti o minsan ay wala pa ngang ambag na dibidendo ay ang National Food Authority, Philippine Coconut Authority, National Electrification Authority, NAPOCOR, Philippine Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., Philippine Tax Academy, Southern PH Development Authority, Tourism Promotions Board. Batid po natin na ang mga korporasyon ay may mahalagang mandato para sa serbisyo publiko at hindi nila pangunahing tungkulin ang kumita o tumubo. Nguni't umaasa tayo na magpupursigi ang mga GOCCs na magkaroon ng disiplina sa pinansyal na pamamahala, maging transparent at tumugon sa kanilang pananagutan sa kaban ng bayan. Kailangan pong matigil ang milking cow phenomenon kung saan aasa at aasa na lamang ang mga GOCCs sa national government para sa taunang paggastos.

Panahon na po para ikonsidera natin ang iba pang pamamaraan para mag-ambag naman ng pagkukunan ng kita.



Sa punto pong ito, iminumungkahi po ng inyong lingkod na isangguni sa Komite ng Ways and Means ang aking talumpati upang masuri ang economic viability, feasibility at benefits ng medical cannabis sa ating bansa.

Habang tayo po ay nagpapalano ng gastusin ng gobyerno gamit ang kaban ng bayan, huwag naman po sana nating kalimutan ang ating tungkulin na tumbasan —at higitan pa —ang pinaghirapang kontribusyon ng ating mga kababayan. Kailangan po nating palaguin ang ating ekonomiya at sa puntong ito, malaki po ang maiaambag ng industriya ng medical cannabis na tuloy-tuloy po ang pag-usbong sa iba't ibang dako ng mundo. Panahon na po para tayo naman ang magpunla ng sariling atin. Tandaan po natin ang kasabihan: kapag may itinanim, may aanihin.

Nagbigay po ako ng resulta ng aking drug test sa lahat para makita ninyo.

REMARK OF THE CHAIR

Senate President Zubiri confirmed that his office had received Senator Padilla's drug test that yielded a negative result.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva stated that some Members had expressed their intention to interpellate on the speech. He said that the Body would suspend consideration of the speech to give them a chance to review the same.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 6:46 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

ATTY. RENATO N. BANTUG JR.

Secretary of the Senate

Approved on September 13, 2022

