



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 20
Tuesday, September 13, 2022

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Prepared by the
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE
Senate of the Philippines

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CALL TO ORDER

At 4:01 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Francis “Tol” N. Tolentino led the prayer, to wit:

Lord, we offer You this day and ask You to bless it.

The highest glory and honor we give You for the gifts of life, strength, and wisdom, filling our hearts and minds every day, enabling us to serve Your divine will, serve our countrymen, and honor this blessed nation.

We thank You, dear God, for Your unfailing love for humanity and Your incomparable compassion and generosity.

We humbly acknowledge, Lord, our sins and employ Your mercy and forgiveness as a loving father who accepts and embraces His repenting child.

We lift to You, O God, the Philippine Senate, its senators, staff, media, and all those who work here, and pray for Your divine hand to always be upon us, guiding our every thought and enlightening our every action.

Enable, Lord God, Your grace to come upon us and take hold of us. Bestow us with wisdom and righteousness so that we may be able to serve the Filipino people according to Your will.

Bless the corners of this Hall, we pray, that it may be filled with Your Spirit. Let it be Your will that we may be witnesses and instruments of Your divine plan as we all work hand in hand for peace, unity, and progress in our country.

In our united prayer for the ultimate good of our land, we implore your light and guidance in everything that we shall say and do as we fulfill the mission You have blessed our lives with.

May we be able to truly live and work as legislators for God and for the people.



May we be channels through which Your divine plan for humanity will find completion.

May humility thrive in us so that our eyes and minds may be open to accept others' perspectives and ideas.

May our deliberations yield results that will be most pleasing to You and most beneficial for the Filipino people whom You have entrusted for us to care and serve.

Enable us to live and lead with honor and dedication.

May we all be channels of Your light, gifts of hope, joy, wisdom, and peace.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

Senator Villar (C) was absent.

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. 19 (September 12, 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 of Senator Villanueva

- Mayor Nathalie Ann Debuque and Vice Mayor Teresa Debuque, Municipality of Anilao, Iloilo;
- PBGen Cesar Pasiwen, Police Regional Director, Region III;
- Police Provincial Director of Bulacan, Nelly Arnedo;

Guests of Senator Dela Rosa

- The League of Vice Governors of the Philippines, headed by their national president, Vice Governor Katherine Agapay of the Province of Laguna;
- Chairman of the Board, Vice Gov. Reynaldo “Boy” Quimpo of the Province of Aklan;
- Executive Vice President, Vice Gov. Cecilia Araneta Marcos of the Province of Ilocos Norte;
- Vice President for Mindanao, Vice Gov. Elmer Tugaoen De Peralta of the Province of Sarangani;
- Secretary General, Vice Gov. Mei Ling “Mimi” Quezon of the Province of Siquijor;
- Auditor, Vice Gov. Yusop T. Alano of the Province of Basilan;
- Vice Chairman, Vice Gov. Edsel Greco Alexander B. Lagmana Jr. of the Province of Albay;
- Vice President for Ways and Means, Vice Gov. Jeffrey Ferrer of the Province of Negros Occidental;
- PRO, Vice Gov. Alan Ecleo of the Province of Dinagat Islands; and

Guest of Senator Cayetano (A)

- Former Congresswoman Mirasol Castillo Aragon-Sampelo of the Province of Laguna.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 106

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2022,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 108, 151, 154, 188, 208, and 210.

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 Poe for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe presented Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, honoring and commending the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2002.

Following is the full text of Senator Poe’s sponsorship speech:

This year, I had the privilege to serve as the Chair of the Final Board of Judges in the Metrobank Foundation’s Search for Outstanding Filipinos. Meeting these modern-day heroes, trailblazers, courageous, patriotic, and excellent public servants is truly an honor.



A Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Award is conferred upon teachers, soldiers, and police officers who are recognized as models of excellence in their profession and are active agents of positive change.

For those of us who have been working in government, these Outstanding Filipinos inspire us to be the best version of ourselves. These individuals have gone beyond the call of duty, motivated by the burning desire to improve the quality of life in their communities and to ignite the hope that our nation needs as we recover from the pandemic. *Mayroon palang mga ganitong mahuhusay at kahanga-hangang mga Pilipino, na nagsusumikap hindi lang para sa kanilang sarili kung hindi para sa bayan.*

I would like to extend my kudos to Metrobank Foundation for their professional and organized management of the awards. To the Ty family and to Mr. Aniceto Sobrepeña, they took pains to search far and wide to come up with a remarkable pool of finalists. Though it was difficult to limit the awardees, I believe the Board of Judges chose fairly, bearing in mind this award's battle cry of "Beyond Excellence."

Thus, I stand here proudly to sponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106 which honors and commends the 2022 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos composed of four teachers, three soldiers, and three policemen. Consequently, it is also the 60 years' founding anniversary of the Metrobank.

Please allow me to introduce the awardees to this august Chamber.

Let us start with Junmerth C. Jorta, Teacher 1 at Keupiyanan Te Balugo. This is, I think, the kababayan of our Senate President.

With twelve long years of teaching experience, Mr. Junmerth C. Jorta has been the primary driver for the establishment of Keupiyanan Te Balugo, a public school of the Matigsalug community in San Fernando, Bukidnon, and a last mile school with multi-grade classes. Teacher Junmerth traverses long roads and braves trails to provide education to indigenous learners, as well as spearhead community programs to combat hunger and illiteracy.

Dr. Christine Joy Dr. Aguila, Special Science Teacher 5 at the Philippine Science High School - Quezon City

Dr. Christine Joy DR. Aguila is a teacher-advocate of the Filipino language, with numerous contributions to the academe in the areas of assessment and teaching excellence throughout her 14 years of teaching experience. In 2020, she finished her doctorate degree as a scholar of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). She has been a recipient of several recognitions for her consistent stellar performance since she became an educator.

Dr. Mark Nolan P. Confesor, Professor 6 at the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology

After 18 years in service, Dr. Mark Nolan P. Confesor remains driven to inspire his students and mentees to be the next generation of Filipino physicists. He initiated the establishment of the Soft Matter and Biological Physics Laboratory (SMBPL), the first of its kind in the country, in the hope of doing cutting-edge research. Soft matter is the study of materials that include liquids, polymers, biological materials and other materials that are easily deformed. Soft materials are important in a wide range of technological applications that affect our everyday lives, such as packaging materials, detergents, cosmetics, food additives, and liquid crystals in LCD display devices. *Kahit na may mga offer na magtrabaho sa ibang bansa si Doctor Confesor, pinili niyang manatili sa ating bansa para magkaroon tayo ng ganitong uri ng laboratory.* In 2016, Doctor Confesor was elected Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology.

Dr. Leonila F. Dans M.D., M.Sc., Professor 12 at the University of the Philippines, Manila



Dr. Leonila F. Dans is the first pediatric rheumatologist and one of the first Clinical Epidemiologists in the Philippines. Being in service for 39 years, several pediatricians have followed in her footsteps, caring for children with rheumatic conditions. *Hindi ninyo maisip na ang mga bata may rayuma, pero iyon po ang napakasakit para sa mga bata. Mabuti at mayroong eksperto na nakatutok sa ganitong uri ng sakit.* She led the implementation of Southeast Asia's first Master of Science program in Clinical Epidemiology. To this day, she extends her expertise to strengthen primary care in rural areas.

And now, let us meet our valiant soldiers.

Technical Sergeant Joel L. Tuganan PA, First Sergeant, Delta Company, 33rd Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army

Technical Sergeant Joel L. Tuganan's accomplishments speak volumes about his expertise in combat operations as a defender of sovereignty and community welfare in Maguindanao. With his rich experience and knowledge in battle having been in the field for 18 years, he has trained several comrades to elevate their competence in combat operations. As a soldier who has been serving in the frontlines and has seen both comrade and foe lying in pools of blood, he staunchly believes that in a war, nobody wins. Thus, his triumphs also include nurturing resilient communities and community-building. He is one of the first responders' medic team in the frontline.

We also have Colonel Maria Victoria P. Juan, Army Chief Nurse of the Philippine Army

Col. Maria Victoria P. Juan says she has three major challenges that affect her work. One is as a woman leader in a predominantly male-dominated organization. Second is as a health-focused leader in a predominantly combat focused organization; and last is as a nurse leader in a doctor-dominant health organization. Despite this, she has been the driving force of the Philippine Army's Health Service since her entry 31 years ago. Her innovative streak led to the start of the Army Aeromedical Evacuation Capability and Enhancement of Casualty Care Management System. She is also assigned as technical staff of the Commanding General of the Philippine Army on nursing-related matters.

Colonel Stephen L. Cabanlet, Asst. Chief of Unified Command Staff for Operations, Western Command, Camp Gen. Artemio Ricarte in Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Rendering 29 years of service, Colonel Stephen L. Cabanlet remains fueled by the mission to bring harmony and development to conflict-ridden areas. His out-of-the-box tactics have led to successful operations, inspiring his troops to adopt unconventional approaches to achieve peace and development, and winning the trust of communities in Sulu. In 2011, he introduced Football for Peace, a sports advocacy program that he started in Sulu and has since been adopted in different areas.

Finally, let us meet our courageous police awardees.

Police Executive Master Sergeant Rogelio A. Rodriguez Jr., Investigator of the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Unit, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group

Police Executive Master Sergeant Rogelio A. Rodriguez Jr.'s contributions to the police force's campaign against criminality underscore his expertise as an intelligence operative having been in the field for 23 years. In several missions, his unit apprehended high-profile outlaws. He was also instrumental in the arrest of an international terrorist and the prevention of a lethal attack. He is the kind of a police officer that we need right now, *lalo na sa mga agricultural smuggling na nangyayari. Marami na po siyang natanggihan na milyon-milyong salapi para masuhulan ang kanilang unit, pero hindi na po ito nagtagumpay sa kaniyang liderato.*

Police Captain Rosalino E. Panlaqui, Chief of Police, Jalajala Municipal Police Station

For P/Cpt. Rosalino E. Panlaqui, fulfilling his duty as an agent of the law for around 16 years now, means embracing all aspects and challenges of maintaining peace and order. As chief of

police, he is known for building a strong relationship between the police and community, which is founded on gaining the trust of the people through holistic engagements. With his leadership, the Jalajala Police Station has adopted and institutionalized programs that empower citizens to lead better lives and uplift their conditions.

Colonel Lambert A. Suerte, Battalion Commander, Regional Mobile Force Battalion-National Capital Region Police Office

Police Colonel Lambert A. Suerte's resolve and expertise as a commander had been tested in several armed encounters with enemy forces. Foremost among these is leading his men to victory and safety during the Marawi City Siege in 2017. He was wounded but did not back away from the fight. Throughout his 26 years in service, his efforts were vital in the liberation of stakeholders' groups from security threats.

In view of the foregoing, this Representation urges this august Body to adopt Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, honoring and commending the Metrobank Outstanding Filipinos of 2022 for their loyalty and dedication to the Philippine Constitution, for their faithful performance of their sworn duties and responsibilities beyond reproach, and for being model citizens in their respective communities.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In cosponsoring Senate Resolution No. 106, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech:

It is my honor and privilege to cosponsor this Senate resolution. This representation filed Senate Resolution No. 208 recognizing and congratulating the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2022, a consolidation of various Senate resolutions including the bill that this representation filed.

Kung sa hinaharap tatanungin po ako ng aking mga apo kung paano ko isasalarawan ang nakaraang dalawang taon ng pandemyang dulot ng coronavirus, siguro po ganito iyong magiging sagot ko—isa ito sa pinakamadilim na punto ng kasaysayan. Marami sa ating mga kababayan ang nawalan ng trabaho, nawalan ng kakayahang makakain nang sapat araw-araw, at nawalan ng mahal sa buhay.

Ngunit sa kabila ng nakapanlulumong sitwasyon, kung kailan napakadali sanang unahin ang sarili sapagkat lahat tayo ay may kani-kaniyang pasan na problema, marami sa mga Pilipino ang tumugon sa tawag ng tungkulin at nag-alay ng kanilang serbisyo para sa kapuwa at sa bayan ng buong husay at tapang.

Ngayong hapon, kinikilala po natin at pinaparangalan natin ang 10 sa ating mga kababayan na kumakatawan sa tema ng Metrobank Foundation ngayong taon, "Beyond Excellence." Just like the 685 Outstanding Public Servants recognized by the Metrobank Foundation since 1985, they embody selflessness, dedication, and integrity. These 10 extraordinary Filipinos rendered services above and beyond the call of duty and made a difference in the lives of their fellow Filipinos. As Jimmy Johnson said: "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."

We honor the following changemakers:

For the Outstanding Award for Teachers

1. Mr. Junmerth Jorta— "Bukidnon's Indigenous Educator for the Indigenous Peoples," Teacher I and Officer-in-Charge of Keupiyanan Te Balugo in San Fernando Bukidnon;
2. Dr. Christine Joy D.R. Aguila—"Quezon City's Champion Educator of Filipino Language Instruction," Special Science Teacher 5 at the Philippine Science High School - Main Campus in Quezon City;

3. Dr. Mark Nolan Confesor— “Mindanao’s Physicist Educator Extraordinaire,” Professor 6 at the Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology; and
4. Dr. Leonila Dans, “Manila’s Pioneering Educator on Pediatric Rheumatology,” Professor 12 at the University of the Philippines - Manila.

For the Outstanding Award for Soldiers

1. T/Sgt. Joel L. Tuganan— “Central Mindanao’s Combat Ace and Marksman,” First Sergeant of the Delta Company, 33rd Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Radjah Buayan, Maguindanao;
2. Col. Maria Victoria Juan— “Philippine Army’s Health Service Innovator,” Army Chief Nurse of the Philippine Army Headquarters, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; and
3. Col. Stephen L. Cabanlet— “Philippine Marine Corps’ Visionary Warrior for Peace,” Assistant Chief of Unified Command Staff for Operations, U3 Western Command at Camp General Artemio Ricarte, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

For the Outstanding Award for Police Officers

1. Police Executive Master Sergeant Rogelio A. Rodriguez Jr.— “Criminal Investigation and Detection Group’s Crime Busting Intelligence Operative,” Investigator at the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Unit, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Quezon City;
2. Police Captain Rosalino E. Panlaqui— “Jalajala Rizal’s Chief Protector and Community Relations Advocate,” Chief of Police, the Jalajala Municipal Police Station, Jalajala, Rizal; and
3. Police Colonel Lambert Suerte— “PNP Special Action Force’s Stalwart of Law and Public Safety,” Battalion Commander, Regional Mobile Force Battalion, National Capital Region Police Office in Taguig City.

We commend these outstanding men and women for their unwavering commitment to the highest standards of public service and integrity. *Sa gitna po ng pandemya at iba pang mga sakuna, hindi sila kailanman nagpatinag. Ginampanan nila ang kanilang tungkulin bilang mga guro, pulis, at sundalo nang buong husay at dedikasyon at may pagsasaalang-alang sa kapakanan ng kapuwa Pilipino at ng buong bansa. Nagsisilbi silang inspirasyon sa milyon-milyon nating mga kababayan. Patunay sila na ang bawat Pilipino ay may kakayanang makapag-ambag sa pagpapabuti ng buhay ng iba at pag-unlad ng ating bansa.*

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank the Metrobank Foundation, Incorporated headed by its President, our dear friend, Mr. Aniceto Sobrepeña, for remaining committed to promoting a culture of excellence in public service. I can attest to the integrity and nobility of this prestigious career-service award for Filipino exemplars because this Representation had the privilege of being chosen as the chairperson of the Final Board of Judges in 2016 for the Search for Outstanding Teachers.

We also congratulate Metrobank on its Diamond Anniversary. For the past 60 years, Metrobank has been the government’s partner in growing our economy and in nation building.

COSPONSOR

Senator Villanueva stated that Senator Angara is a cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senator Angara had requested that his cosponsorship speech on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is the cosponsorship speech of Senator Angara on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106:

It heartens me to once again join this august Chamber in recognizing this year's awardees of the Metrobank Foundation's search for Outstanding Filipinos.

Some may recall that these career-service awards began first as an annual search for the nation's top teachers. And it was established by the Metrobank Foundation in 1985, with the help of my late father, Senate President Edgardo J. Angara, who at the time was still serving as the President of the University of the Philippines, and Paz Ramos who was the then Dean of the U.P. College of Education.

The motivation was for the awards to serve as a way for giving due recognition to outstanding individuals for the selfless service they render to the public. It is only fitting then that the awards have since been expanded and consolidated to also recognize exemplary police officers and soldiers, who, like teachers, provide a vital service to society, often through great personal sacrifice and effort.

And so, we join our colleagues in congratulating and commending the following outstanding Filipinos:

Mr. Junmerth C. Jorta, Teacher I and Officer-in-Charge, Keupiyanan Te Balugo, San Fernando, Bukidnon;

Christine Joy Dr. Aguila, PhD, Special Science Teacher 5, Philippine Science High School, Quezon City;

Mark Nolan P. Confesor, PhD, Professor 6, MSU-IIT, Iligan City;

Leonila F. Dans, M.D., M.Sc., Professor 12, U.P. Manila, City of Manila.

Technical Sergeant Joel L. Tuganan PA, 1st Sergeant of the Delta Company, 33rd IB, 6th ID, Philippine Army, Radjah Buayan, Maguindanao;

Col. Maria Victoria P. Juan NC, Army Chief Nurse, Office of the Army Chief Nurse, Philippine Army Headquarters, Taguig City;

Col. Stephen L. Cabanlet PN (M), Assistant Chief, Unified Command Staff for Operations, U3, Western Command, Camp Gen. Artemio Ricarte, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan;

Police Executive M/Sgt. Rogelio A. Rodriguez Jr., Investigator, Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Unit, CIDG, Quezon City;

Police Cpt. Rosalino E. Panlaqui, Chief of Police, Jalajala, Rizal; and

Police Col. Lambert A. Suerte, Battalion Commander, Regional Mobile Force Battalion, NCRPO Taguig City.

By shining a light on individuals who have excelled and embodied values such as patriotism, courage, integrity, and social responsibility, the hope is that they, in turn, inspire other Filipinos to pursue excellence and perform over and above what is expected of them.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:



A new day of optimism and hope has dawned with the announcement of the outstanding Filipinos of 2022 by the Metrobank Foundation.

When Filipinos take pride in their work, forge paths for change, and persevere in the face of adversity, our spirits rise.

Our Ten Outstanding Filipinos of 2022 proved this to be true. Without a doubt, they are exemplary examples of today's educators, law enforcers, and the women and men in uniform.

To the awardees, Junmerth C. Jorta, Dr. Christine Joy Aguila, Dr. Leonila F. Dans, Dr. Mark Nolan P. Confesor, Ph. D, Police Executive M/Sgt. Rogelio A. Rodriguez, Jr., P/Cpt. Rosalino E. Panlaqui, Pol. Col. Lambert A. Suerte, T/Sgt. Joel L. Tuganan, Col. Maria Victoria P. Juan, and Col. Stephen L. Cabanlet, I commend and thank each and every one of you for the exceptional work that you have done, for your significant contributions to the cause of honest public service and responsible leadership. The Filipino people are fortunate to have you.

I would also like to add my praise and commendation for the Metrobank Foundation's unwavering dedication to its stated mission of encouraging a culture of professionalism, excellence, and heroism. Keep being the force that motivates our fellow Filipinos to serve our country with utmost dedication.

In light of the foregoing, this Representation requests that the Senate adopt the resolution honoring and commending the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2022, and I wish to associate myself with the thoughts and views of the principal sponsor of the measure, Sen. Grace Poe.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR BINAY

In cosponsoring Senate Resolution No. 106, Senator Binay also delivered the following speech:

It is my privilege and honor to sponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 108, honoring and commending the recipients of the 2022 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos.

Last year, I was fortunate to be part of the search, and I know how difficult it is to choose from a list of deserving candidates. *Kaya naman bukod sa mga awardees natin ngayong taon, lubos din nating binabati ang Metrobank Foundation, headed by Mr. Chito Sobrepeña, the Rotary Club of Makati Metro, the Rotary Club of New Manila East, and everyone who dedicated their time and effort to ensure the success of this year's search.*

Through the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos, we recognize how important the fields of education, law enforcement, and military service are in our nation's growth.

One of our teacher awardees, Mr. Junmerth C. Jorta, is a full-time elementary teacher of the Matigsalug Tribe in San Fernando, Bukidnon. He is the first among the many volunteer educators who decided to stay and help establish a last mile school called "Keupiyanan Te Balugo." *Bukod dito, pinangunahan din niya ang ilang mga sustainable programs para labanan ang landslides and flash floods sa kanilang komunidad.*

Nariyan din si Bb. Christine Joy DR. Aguila na isang guro sa Philippine Science High School - Main Campus. Kilala bilang isa sa mga natatanging guro pagdating sa Filipino language instruction. Siya rin ay kinilala sa ikalimang Cleofe M. Bacungan Natatanging Guro Awards noong nakaraang taon.

Para sa mga guro sa tertiary education, kinilala ng Metrobank Foundation si Mark Nolan P. Confesor na propesor ng Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology, Iligan City, dahil sa kaniyang kontribusyon sa larangan ng Physics.

He initiated the establishment of the Soft Matter and biological physics laboratory, the first of its kind in the country. *Bukod dito, siya rin ay naging pinakabatang dean ng College of Science and Mathematics sa Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology noong 2016.*



Kinilala naman si Dr. Leonila F. Dans ng University of the Philippines Manila na tinaguriang Manila's Pioneering Educator on Pediatric Rheumatology. Si Doctor Dans po ang unang pediatric rheumatologist ng Pilipinas at isa sa mga kauna-unahang clinical epidemiologist sa ating bansa.

Meanwhile, representing our police force are:

Police Executive M/Sgt. Rogelio A. Rodriguez, Jr. who is one of the best intelligence operatives of the CIDG. His work has led to the apprehension of high-profile criminals and the prevention of several planned terrorist attacks.

P/Cpt. Rosalino E. Panlaqui, on the other hand, is being recognized for his advocacy of building a strong relationship between the police and the community. He is the chief of police of Jalajala, Rizal, and is known for his programs in community development and bringing police transformation especially in the grassroots level.

Pol. Col. Lambert A. Suerte, meanwhile, is being recognized for his expertise in public safety. He is known as a PNP Special Action Force stalwart and he is a veteran of many armed encounters. Most notably, he led 108 of his men to victory and safety during the Marawi City Siege in 2017.

Representing our soldiers, we have:

T/Sgt. Joel L. Tuganan from the Delta Company, 33rd Infantry Battalion, Sixth Infantry Division, Philippine Army, an expert in combat and in marksmanship. A Scout Ranger, he bravely serves in Maguindanao as a training instructor and combat medic. He was also named Enlisted Personnel of the Year during the Philippine Army's 121st Founding Anniversary celebration in 2018 for his various accomplishments in the field.

Meanwhile, Army Chief Nurse Col. Maria Victoria P. Juan is being recognized for her key role in the enhancement of the Army's casualty care management system. Colonel Mimi is also an advocate of continuing education and training of nursing service personnel and conceptualized the Nurse Manager Certification Program and Nurse Executive Certification Program which prepare nurses to assume leadership and management growth.

Last, but not the least, Col. Stephen L. Cabanlet from the Philippine Navy is being recognized for his efforts in fostering peace and development in conflict-ridden areas. One of his initiatives is the sports advocacy program Football for Peace which he started in Sulu and is now being adopted in different areas in the country.

Mga kaibigan, bukod sa kanilang angking galing ay ipinakita ng ating mga outstanding Filipino na binubuo ng mga guro, pulis, at sundalo ang kanilang pagmamahal sa bayan at ang kagustuhan na ilaan ang kanilang mga saril para sa ikauunlad ng kanilang kapuwa.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to lend their support in adopting this resolution. *Nawa ay dumami pa ang mga katulad nilang naglilingkod para sa bayan at para sa kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan.*

COSPONSOR

Senator Villanueva stated that Senator Gatchalian is a cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Senator Gatchalian expressed his gratitude to Metrobank Foundation for honoring and celebrating the awardees who have inspired the nation. He then congratulated the awardees themselves and thanked them for serving as an inspiration, especially for the country's public servants.



He pointed out that being a public servant is not an easy profession, more so in the kind of work that the awardees do. He thanked them for their service, for sacrificing their time and lives for the sake of the country.

He then thanked Mr. Chito Sobrepeña for always giving senators the chance to meet the awardees in person each time the awards are given.

At this point, he requested that his cosponsorship speech on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Pursuant to his manifestation, following is Senator Gatchalian's cosponsorship speech on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106:

Throughout the long history of this honorable Chamber, we not only passed consequential measures that shaped the lives of our *kababayans*. In countless occasions, tributes to the greatness of the Filipino spirit were delivered in this Hall for all the nation to hear and remember.

Today, in this august Chamber where many patriots and heroes made their marks in our country's history, we once again remember acts of heroism, which may not always be in the grandest scale, but are always committed in the spirit of uplifting the Filipino people.

Today, it is my distinct honor and privilege to express this Chamber's commendation of the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino awardees for 2022. It is hailed as the most prestigious career-service award for Filipino achievers in the academe, military, and police sectors and looks into a person's entire professional career—all their accomplishments rendered, whether big or small, done in the line of duty and beyond, from the beginning of their career all the way to the present time.

For this year, the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Awards have been conferred to four teachers, three soldiers, and three police officers — ten Filipinos who show us what it means to be everyday heroes. Whether they are fighting to win in the battlefield, keep peace and order within our communities, or guide our learners toward a better future, this year's Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Awardees showed unwavering commitment to secure peace for our generation and the next.

At this point, let me introduce the awardees of the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos.

First is Junmerth Jorta, the primary driver of the establishment of Keupiyanan Te Balugo, which is a last mile public school with multi-grade classes of the Matigsalug community in San Fernando, Bukidnon. Teacher Junmerth traverses long and dangerous trails to provide education to indigenous learners and to spearhead community programs against hunger and illiteracy.

Next, we have Dr. Christine Joy Aguila who is a Special Science Teacher 5 of the Philippine Science High School. A recipient of several recognitions for her consistent stellar performance as an educator, Dr. Aguila is a teacher-advocate of the Filipino language with numerous contributions in the areas of assessment and teaching excellence.

We also have Dr. Leonila Dans, the first pediatric rheumatologist, one of the first Clinical Epidemiologists in the Philippines, and the lead in implementing Southeast Asia's first Master of Science program in Clinical Epidemiology. She also inspired several pediatricians to follow in her footsteps and care for children with rheumatic conditions. To this day, she extends her expertise to strengthen primary care in rural areas.



Next among our teachers is Dr. Mark Nolan Confesor, a Professor 6 specializing in Physics in the Mindanao State University—Iligan Institute of Technology. In the hope of doing cutting-edge research, he initiated the establishment of the Soft Matter and Biological Physics Laboratory, which is the first of its kind in the country. He has also been urging and inspiring his mentees to be the next generation of Filipino physicists.

We now go to the soldiers who received this year's award starting with T/Sgt. Joel Tuganan, First Sergeant of the Delta Company, 33rd Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army. He is a defender of sovereignty and community welfare in Maguindanao, whose accomplishments speak volumes about his expertise in combat operations. He has also trained several comrades to elevate their competence. And while he faced dangers in the battlefield, he continued to nurture resilient communities.

Next is Col. Maria Victoria Juan, the primary catalyst in the Philippine Army's Health Service as the Philippine Army's Chief Nurse. Colonel Juan has been in the service for 31 years, whose innovative streak led to the inception of the Army Aeromedical Evacuation Capability and Enhancement of Casualty Care Management System. She is also assigned as the technical staff of the Commanding General of the Philippine Army on nursing-related matters.

The third soldier we are recognizing today is Col. Stephen Cabanlet, who currently serves as the Assistant Chief of the Unified Command Staff for Operations, U3 of the Western Command. His field of specialization is marine infantry and he has been in the service for 29 years. Through his out-of-the-box tactics, he led successful operations, inspired his troops to adopt unconventional practices in achieving peace and development, and won the trust of communities in Sulu. In 2011, he introduced the sports advocacy program Football for Peace in Sulu. The program has since been adopted in different areas.

We now go to the police officers starting with Police Executive M/Sgt. Rogelio Rodriguez Jr., an investigator of the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Unit of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. He has 23 years of service under his belt, specializing in Investigation and Intelligence. In several missions, his unit apprehended high-profile outlaws. He was also instrumental in the arrest of an international terrorist and the prevention of a lethal attack.

Next is P/Cpt. Rosalino Panlaqui, who is the Chief of Police of Jalajala Municipal Station. He has 16 years of service under his belt and specializes in Community Relations. Under his leadership, the Jalajala Police Station gained people's trust through holistic engagements, built a strong relationship between the police and the community, and institutionalized programs that empower citizens.

Lastly, we have Pol. Col. Lambert Suerte, the Battalion Commander of the Regional Mobile Police Force Battalion of the National Capital Region Police Office whose resolve and expertise as a commander have been tested in several armed encounters with enemy forces. Foremost among these is leading his men to victory and safety during the Marawi City Siege in 2017.

Aside from staying committed to their duty, the men and women we are honoring today have also shaped young minds. This fuels our hope that what they did will give the next and succeeding generations something to build on as we all strive to build a more peaceful and more prosperous country for all. *Kaya naman nararapat lamang na kilalanin at parangalan natin sila bilang mga bagong bayani.*

To the awardees of the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos, let me extend my warmest congratulations to all of you. And at this point, I call on my colleagues to support the adoption of this resolution.

COSPONSOR

Senator Villanueva stated that Senator Dela Rosa is a cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senator Dela Rosa had requested that his cosponsorship speech on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is cosponsorship speech of Senator Dela Rosa on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106:

Today, I rise to cosponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 108, 151, and 154, "Honoring and Commending the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2022."

Who may be considered an Outstanding Filipino? Allow me to read from the Metrobank Foundation's description. The Outstanding Filipino is a model of excellence in their profession, someone who thrives with dignity and confidence. Outstanding, therefore, because although a clear and easy path has been laid out, they have rejected that which is easy, choosing to stand out from the rest.

They are exemplary men and women who toppled expectations, daily human tribulations, and negative admonitions. Those who took the meaning of "*Para sa Bayan*" to a whole new level of service. All this, despite a global pandemic, limited access to better opportunities, perhaps unfair treatment from others, and many other silent battles.

This is the outstanding Filipino. And for 2022, they are the following:

1. Junmerth C. Jorta
2. Christine Joy D.R. Aguila Ph.D.
3. Leonila F. Dans, M.D., M.SC.
4. Mark Nolan P. Confesor, Ph.D.
5. Joel L. Tuaganan PA
6. Col. Maria Victoria P. Juan NC
7. Col. Stephen L. Cabanlet PN (M)
8. Police Executive M/Sgt. Rogelio A. Rodriguez Jr.
9. P/Cpt. Rosalino E. Panlaqui
10. Pol. Col. Lambert A. Suerte

Some of us might be led to wonder: "What's their secret? What did they do differently?" But I discovered that maybe, just maybe, the secret is simple, and it might not even be a secret at all. The more we give of ourselves to a cause greater than us, the more we become equipped to face all that lies ahead. As we all do our best to be like these outstanding men and women, *naniniwala po ako na ang buhay ay mas magiging masaya at makahulugan kapag ito'y ating iaalay sa ngalan ng katotohanan at katarungan.*

Kaya para sa mga itinalagang Outstanding Filipinos of 2022 ng Metrobank Foundation, maraming salamat. Maraming salamat sa ipinakita ninyong pagpapakatao at serbisyo para sa mga Pilipino. Bata man o matanda, wala kayong pinipili, dahil ang puso ninyo ay nasa tama. Pusong Pilipino.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) joined the Members of the Chamber in cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106. She revealed that she was once a judge for the awarding body during her first term as a senator. She described the task as very difficult as they had to choose the Top 10 from a pool of many inspiring men and women in their respective fields.



She stated that despite having to deal with their personal stories and challenges, the awardees were able to overcome them and should be commended for their sacrifices in serving the country above and beyond the call of duty.

Citing some awardees whose stories were familiar to her, she mentioned Dr. Leonila “Inday” Dans who is the wife of Dr. Tony Dans, a professor at the UP-PGH. She narrated how, during the height of the pandemic, the couple would take time to brief her on the phone at midnight because that was the only time they would be finished with their work. She stated that according to Mr. Chito Sobrepeña, President of Metrobank Foundation, they are honored to have both husband and wife as awardees – Dr. Tony Dans in 2004 when she was a judge.

With regard to the Army Chief Nurse, Col. Victoria Juan, she recalled that the previous day’s discussion on the Floor was about brain drain and how other health care professionals had left the country to seek greener pastures abroad. She stated that while many healthcare workers in the Philippines are still to be commended for their work, the Foundation has seen the inspirational work of Colonel Juan not just during the pandemic but even before that.

Finally, she congratulated Col. Stephen Cabanlet for his Football for Peace Program, stating that she was an original supporter of the Philippine Women’s Football Team because both of her daughters were football players in college. She stated that she has brought football programs to various parts of the country, and when she heard of the program, she wanted to be part of it because sports have a different effect on people. She recalled that during her speech the previous day, she mentioned that sports is the easiest way to promote nationalism and patriotism. She also revealed that when her daughters were still playing football for U.P., she brought the U.P. women’s team to play against the PMAers in Baguio on two occasions as a means of fostering peace. She hoped that the ladies’ team and the PMAers would remember the event where friendship, understanding, and unity were fostered through football.

She then congratulated Metrobank Foundation and its president, Mr. Sobrepeña, who has become a good friend to her. She expressed her admiration for his resilience in bringing inspiring people to the fore and sharing their stories with the Filipino people. She also commended the Ty family for making the awards possible.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution 106, Senator Revilla delivered the following speech:

I join our colleagues in honoring our 2022 Metrobank Outstanding Filipino awardees. They have been defined by their character, competence, and compassion, exemplifying the true meaning of “Beyond Excellence” for their dedication and professionalism in the pursuit of excellent public service.

Our teachers, police, and military are among the largest work force in the bureaucracy. Their invaluable contributions to society have helped shape our nation. *Ang kanilang mga alay sa bayan ang pundasyon ng ating ngayon at bukas.* They are our teachers who selflessly strive toward molding the youth of this country, forging on despite the challenges, especially amid pandemic. They are our police and military officers who always take the extra mile to enforce our laws, guided with genuine concern for the common good.

Our commendations to them will not be enough with the great hope that they have shared to us. They deserve more for walking their talk in fulfilling their solemn oaths to God and to our nation.

May you remain steadfast in inspiring our fellow Filipinos toward the best of public service.

Mabuhay po kayo, at saludo kaming lahat sa inyo.



COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GO

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, Senator Go likewise delivered the following speech:

It is my honor to cosponsor the Senate resolution congratulating and commending the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2022.

This award is a fitting recognition of your professionalism, competence, and integrity. The award is an appreciation of our society for your service to the country and beyond excellence.

The four outstanding teachers we are honoring today have contributed to the improvement of the quality of education in our country. They have played a significant role in molding the minds of our youth, and shaping the future of our country. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Junmerth Jorta, Ms. Christine Joy Aguila, Dr. Mark Nolan Confesor, and Ms. Leonila Dans.

To the outstanding teachers, thank you for taking on the critical role of guiding, molding, and inspiring our nation's future leaders. May you continue to impart knowledge among our youth and continue to be pillars of education.

Full support po *ako sa ating mga guro – sa mga teachers.*

I am also glad to recognize three outstanding soldiers and three outstanding policemen for their contributions in maintaining peace and order, and security in our country: T/Sgt. Joel Tuganan, Col. Maria Victoria Juan, Col. Stephen Cabanlet, PEMS Rogelio Rodriguez, Jr., P/Cpt. Rosalino Panlaqui; and P/Col. Lambert Suerte.

To our outstanding soldiers and police officers, thank you for protecting the lives and safety of our people, even at the risk of your own. Your bravery and commitment to your duty are beyond compare. May you continue to defend and promote peace throughout the country.

Gaya ng dati, noon pa man panahon ng Pangulong Duterte, hanggang ngayon po, sa mga pulis at sundalo full support po kami sa inyo, lalong-lalo na po in the line of duty.

Once again, I congratulate and thank the Ten Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos for their excellence and dedication to their respective fields of service.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

Senate President Zubiri stated that the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2022 is meaningful to him because one of the awardees is from his home province of Bukidnon. He expressed his admiration for Mr. Jorta and the other awardees.

He described San Fernando, Bukidnon as one of the most remote municipalities in the province, where 60% to 70% indigenous residents are in desperate need of assistance, particularly in the field of education.

He recalled that when he was the representative of the Third District of Bukidnon, getting to the Matigsalug tribes in Barangays Digongan, Panganan, and Kiulom required crossing 26 rivers from the same river system. He likened the crossings to the small intestines of a chicken, adding that the area was once a hotspot for insurgency. He asserted that education is the key to solving the insurgency problem.

He thanked Mr. Sobrepeña, Alfred Ty, and Arthur Ty of the Metrobank Foundation for all the support that they give to the men and women who are dedicated to educate and protect the Filipino people. He also thanked the awardees for their service, saying they deserved every bit of the award.



COAUTHORS

Senator Villanueva manifested that all senators present are coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 106

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 108, 151,154, 188, 208, and 210, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 4:55 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 4, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; Local Government; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1306, with Senators Escudero, Estrada, Gatchalian, and Marcos as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT POSTPONING THE DECEMBER 2022 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11462, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 288, 453, and 684.

Sponsor: Senator Marcos

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 5, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Public Services; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Science and Technology; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies, on Senate Bill No. 1310 with Senators Zubiri, Poe, Gatchalian, Villanueva, Dela Rosa, Ejercito, Estrada, Villar (C), and Binay as authors thereof, entitled:

AN ACT ERADICATING MOBILE PHONE OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION-AIDED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, REGULATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE REGISTRATION AND USE OF ALL SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 82, 99, 153, 366, 429, 802, and 1238, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 69, 133 and 182 and the privilege speech of Senator Estrada, entitled "Scram Spam and Scam Text Messages," dated 05 September 2022.

Sponsor: Senator Poe

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 5 on Senate Bill No. 1310 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 5 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1310

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1310 (Committee Report No. 5), entitled

AN ACT ERADICATING MOBILE PHONE OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION-AIDED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, REGULATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE REGISTRATION AND USE OF ALL SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) FOR ELCTRONIC DEVICES.

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

The Chair recognized Senator Poe for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR POE

At the outset, Senator Poe thanked Senate President Zubiri and her colleagues, who were still at the Plenary at such a late hour, for allowing her to deliver her sponsorship speech on such an important bill.

She then presented for plenary consideration of the Body Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5, entitled "An Act Eradicating Mobile Phone or Electronic Communication-Aided Criminal Activities, Regulating for This Purpose the Registration and Use of All Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) for Electronic Devices," otherwise known as the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Registration Act.

Following is the full text of Senator Poe's sponsorship speech:

It is my honor to sponsor, once again, a measure that aims to address the proliferation of text scams and other SIM-aided fraud in the country.

Last Congress, I spoke with urgency on how unregistered SIMs are being used to facilitate a wide range of criminal activities—from wide-reaching malicious schemes like credit card scams, phishing, and text scams, to acts of terrorism such as the detonation of bombs and explosives

We are not alone in wanting this kind of policy. In fact, we are late in the game. Globally, the trend skews heavily in favor of SIM registration. A total of 157 countries in the world have



adopted laws that require the mandatory registration of SIMs—including nations with the highest regard for data privacy rights such as Japan, South Korea, Australia and most countries in the European Union.

Sadly, the situation has only gotten worse. In fact, *ang nag-improve lamang yata ay ang creativity ng mga manloloko. Kung dati, template message lamang ang laman ng mga text scams, ngayon, kasama na pati buong pangalan mo.*

To paint a picture of how widespread these scams are, Smart was able to block over 23 million phishing messages in a span of three days alone and has blocked almost 78,000 SIMs from January to May 2022. Globe, on the other hand, has blocked a staggering 784 million scam and spam messages and has deactivated 14,058 scam-linked mobile numbers.

Nakakalula talaga ang mga numerong ito. And we do not even need to look far to find a concrete example of all these scams. Buksan mo lamang ang iyong cellphone at mabibilang mo na kung ilang scam at spam messages ang nare-receive mo kada araw.

Last week, our fellow senators also shared their encounters with these felons. In his privilege speech, Senator Estrada shared a scheme he encountered wherein several individuals posing as local officials got a hold of his number and tried to solicit funds for their bogus projects. They even asked for a video greeting from the good Senator to lend legitimacy to these projects. *Mga mang-i-i-scam na nga lang sa iyo, gagamitin pa para mang-scam ng iba.*

Our very own Senate President was not spared from these schemes and extortion attempts. Two individuals posed as local officials and tried to extort as much as P50,000 from his office. *Kung ang lawmakers at officials nakakakuha ng ganitong messages at na-e-expose sa mga ganitong panloloko, paano pa kaya ang mga ordinaryong mamamayan?*

This is why I rise once again to submit to the Plenary the SIM Registration Bill, which mandates the mandatory registration of all Subscriber Identity Modules so that the ill-intention scammers and criminals can no longer hide under the shadows of anonymity.

Notably, we drop the word “card” in “SIM card” to make way for newer types of SIM that are not contained in card form such as eSIMs. We are future-proofing a regulation that deals with technology to ensure that this law will adapt to the creative ways of fraudsters.

Registration is also made a pre-requisite to the activation of SIM. The buyer is required to submit a duly-accomplished electronic registration form and to present or upload a valid government ID or other similar forms of documents before their SIM can be activated. So, *kahit saan mo pa nabili ang SIM, kailangan mo pa rin i-register ang SIM para ma-activate at magamit ito.*

Telcos are tasked to keep the submitted information safe and secure in a centralized database. To ensure the protection of our data and to keep the Telcos in check, the DICT is mandated to perform an annual audit of the telcos’ compliance with the proper information security standard.

Furthermore, the bill shall continue to uphold and give highest regard to the privacy of consumers. Accordingly, heavy emphasis is placed on the absolute confidentiality of the submitted information and disclosure is only allowed upon a court order, or a subpoena, or with the consent of the subscriber, or in compliance with the Data Privacy Act. Any breach of confidentiality will be heavily punished.

Finally, the bill retains the provision which states that “(A)ny doubt in the interpretation of any of its provisions and its implementing rules and regulations shall be construed in a manner that accords the highest respect for privacy, and liberally interpreted in a manner mindful of the rights and interests of SIM subscribers.”

As I have mentioned before, it is not the panacea to all the ills and evil proliferating in our telecommunication system. The false job offers, cash loans, sale of solar lights, winning raffles, and other malicious and scam messages may not disappear overnight.

But this bill is a concrete step toward making our telecommunications and digital system a safer environment for all, as had been the hope and belief of the 18th Congress when it previously unanimously passed the measure.

It is, thus, my honor to endorse to this Chamber for deliberation Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senate President Zubiri had requested that his cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, the following is the cosponsorship speech of Senate President Zubiri on Senate Bill No. 1310:

I am glad to, once again, cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1310 or the SIM Card Registration Act that we principally authored. This is a bill that I have long been advocating for, and I have every hope that we can all work on a better, timelier version of it now, *para tuluyan na itong maging batas*.

Long overdue *na po itong SIM Card Registration. Laganap na ang mga text and online scams dahil sa napakadaling pagpapalit ng SIM card. Halos araw-araw na tayong nakatatanggap ng mga scam messages, at minsan full name pa natin ang nakalagay.*

Ako mismo, na-target na. As I have disclosed to the public, last month I started receiving texts from an individual pretending to be a government official, requesting funds for an event that turned out to be bogus. *Buti na lang po at nailapit ko agad sa kapulisan.*

But there are so many more groups and individuals who take advantage of the anonymity and the easy accessibility of SIM cards. *Ang mahirap, wala tayong mahabol na salarin dahil panibagong SIM palagi ang gamit nila. Bagong scam, bagong SIM. Ganoon kadali.*

SIM cards are almost essential to our daily lives now. And the pandemic has only increased our reliance on our phones. We use it not just to keep in touch with people, but also to send money, buy food, get rides, and pay our bills.

We really need to set up stronger protective mechanisms for our people, so they can continue using their phones without fear of being targeted by scammers. Otherwise, we are leaving them vulnerable to malicious users.

I trust that with the efforts of our good sponsor, Sen. Grace Poe, we can craft a watertight SIM Card Registration Bill that will address these concerns once and for all.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 1310, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech:

It is my honor to cosponsor this measure, Senate Bill No. 1310, under Committee Report No. 5, entitled "Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Registration Act."

We commend and recognize the passion and untiring efforts of our chairperson of the Committee on Public Service, Sen. Grace Poe. I attended the hearings in the previous Congress and the hearing held last week as we are very passionate in passing this particular measure.

In this day and age, it is clear that even cellphones and SIM cards are now likewise being used for all sorts of cruel, unscrupulous, or illegal activities, including scamming or defrauding

individuals. These new generation of cybercriminals have become so ingenious that they now know our names—and in my case, even my sister’s name—and appear to be from legitimate sources.

This Representation is particularly upset by recruitment text scams or smishing because they feed on the desperation of unemployed Filipinos who are tricked to part with their personal information and money in order to land a non-existent job. At a 5.2% unemployment rate for July this year, these people need real opportunities for employment, not scams.

Ang sabi nga po natin noong nakaraang pagdinig, hindi na nga natin magawan ng paraan na gumawa at lumikha ng trabaho, hindi pa natin maprotektahan ang ating mga kababayan na mabiktima nitong mga kriminal na ito. Unfortunately, these acts are made possible thanks to the anonymity in SIM card ownership—an anonymity that has been exploited by criminals.

As of March 2022, there are a total 162.7 million subscribers of Globe, Smart, and DITO Telecommunications. These 162.7 million subscribers are the potential pool of victims; and we could just imagine the disaster it will bring if we do not do anything to stop these perpetrators.

The Philippines is not alone in its effort to address this particular issue. As of 2021, 157 countries have enforced mandatory SIM card registration, including democratic countries like Norway, Japan, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, South Korea, and Brazil. Perhaps it is high time we follow suit.

We need to undertake strategic and proactive measures that will uphold the data privacy rights and other rights of our citizens.

We can learn a lot from the best practices implemented by other countries. For instance, our neighbor Singapore has established its Anti-Scam Center (ASC). In an article by *The Straits Times*, it was reported that more than 27,300 bank accounts have been frozen and more than \$200 million recovered since the establishment of the Center in June 2019. While they aim to recover funds lost to scams, the Center’s operations will now include dismantling scam operations even before people make a report.

In closing, I would just like to put on record that, at the proper time, this Representation may introduce some suggested amendments—as this was already relayed to our chairperson—to further safeguard and protect our citizens, aimed not only to penalize scammers but also to protect our citizen’s rights to speech, expression, and privacy.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Senator Ejercito requested that his cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1310 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Pursuant to Senator Ejercito’s manifestation, following is his cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1310:

First of all, I would like to commend the good chairperson of the Committee on Public Services for putting this measure on top of the Committee’s priority. Her staunch commitment to solve the alarming breach in our privacy and security and crack the proliferation of crimes which are committed with the aid of electronic communication deserves no less than the unparalleled support of this august Body.

That is why I am truly honored to cosponsor this measure before us—Senate Bill No. 1310, “An Act Eradicating Mobile Phone or Electronic Communication-Aided Criminal Activities, Regulating for this Purpose the Registration and Use of All Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) for Electronic Devices, or the SIM Registration Act,” under Committee Report No. 5.



The surge of text scams or smishing is an affront to the integrity of our private communication and privacy. What is more alarming is that this developed during a time when we are at our most vulnerable. The opportunists seemed to have taken advantage of this, especially when the government's attention was focused on attending to COVID-19 response. It was purposely done during a time when our people were jobless, hungry, and about to lose hope. It is such an evil and unforgivable act. Instead of helping our fellow countrymen to recover economically, these scammers prey on them and take away what little money they have.

In a report, Globe Telecommunications disclosed that a total of 1.15 billion smishing messages, around 7,000 mobile numbers linked to scammers, and 2,000 social media accounts and phishing sites were blocked to protect its users in 2021. In February and March this year, Globe reported that it blocked a total of 142,575 smishing messages and added that its proactive filter system successfully detected in its network these unwanted messages linked to fraud. For their part, PLDT and Smart Communications reported that almost 78,000 SIMs related to smishing were blocked from January to May 2022—more than double in the same period last year.

Sa mga oras na ito, milyon-milyon pa rin sa ating mga kababayan ang nakatatanggap ng mga text messages na nag-aalok ng trabaho, nagsasabing ang recipient ay nanalo sa lotto, ng bahay, at kung ano-ano pang mga kathang-isip na mga premyo. Marahil, dito mismo ngayon sa Session Hall ay may nakatatanggap pa rin ng mga ganitong mensahe, na ngayon ay personalized pa at mayroon nang pangalan ng makatatanggap.

Nobody is safe and exempted from these illegal activities. If our Senate President and even our President were not spared from this evil deed, what more our most vulnerable people in the society?

As the world shifts to digital age, scammers also find ways to also shift their operations and adapt to the fast-changing digital transformation. This is also the case in the Philippines. Scams seem to be evolving as fast as the technology. One of the questions that we propounded during the hearing of the Committee on Public Service for this measure was, “does our cyber defense in the government also evolve as fast as these digital transformations and scams?”

In conversations like these, the government should be in the forefront. We should be able to say to our constituents that we are on top of the situation. However, until now, there is no clear action and solution from the concerned agencies. We do not discount, however, the effort of our law enforcers to capacitate their ranks and employ the latest technology that are available to them. Actually, the challenge now is in our laws that effectively limit our law enforcers to do their job, and somehow contribute to our vulnerability.

The passage of the SIM Registration Bill will not just solve these smishing activities but is seen to prevent the evolution of scams and electronic communication-aided criminal activities. Through the mandatory registration of the Subscriber Identity Module or SIM, we expect to deter these crimes and prevent the further deterioration of our privacy and security.

The legislative measure that we are cosponsoring is our immediate but long-term solution to the modern problems we face today. As we join the call for the passage of this measure, we also trust that this august Chamber will approve a version that will responsibly protect our constituents.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

Senator Dela Rosa requested that his cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1310 be deemed read and inserted into the *Journal* and *Record of the Senate*:

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

Pursuant to his manifestation, following is the cosponsorship speech of Senator Dela Rosa on Senate Bill No. 1310:

It is my honor to author and cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5, which is principally sponsored by our hardworking, dedicated, and beautiful chairperson of the Committee on Public Services, our gentledady from Pangasinan and Iloilo, Sen. Grace Poe.



Malinaw po ang gustong makamit ng panukalang inihahain natin sa araw na ito. Nais natin na tanggalan ng kapasidad na makapanloko at makapanakit ang mga masasamang loob gamit ang ating mga cellular phones.

Napakaganda ng ating mga cellular phones, ito ang nagkokonekta sa ating lahat, lalo sa ating mga mahal sa buhay na malayo sa ating piling. Sino ang mag-aakala na ang maliit na bagay na ito na kasyang-kasya sa ating palad ay makapagbibigay sa atin ng ligaya? Ngunit ang kaparehong cellphone rin na ito, kapag mapasakamay naman ng mga kriminal, ay magdudulot ng kasawian at pighati.

The first paragraph of Section 4 of the proposed SIM Registration Act captures the principal objectives of the bill: “In order to deter the proliferation of Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) or electronic communication-aided crimes, such as, but not limited to: terrorism, text scams, unsolicited, indecent or obscene messages, bank fraud, and massive disinformation, all Public Telecommunications Entities (PTEs) shall require the registration of SIM as pre-requisite to the activation thereof.”

The aforementioned objective of the proposed bill to prevent terrorism activities is anchored on the data from the Philippine National Police. From January 2019 to February 2021, there have been 14 improvised explosives devices (IED) bombing incidents that used cellphone as switching or triggering mechanism according to the PNP’s Philippine Bomb Data Center. With the 14 bombing incidents, 39 Filipinos have lost their lives while 206 Filipinos have been injured. To others, these may sound like random numbers. But I want to tell you that these are not mere statistics. They are people—a parent to a child; a son or a daughter; a brother or a sister.

Marami pong nasasawi at binabawian ng buhay dahil sa mga masasamang loob na ginagamit ang mga cellphone upang makapaghasik ng terorismo. Ngunit higit na marami marahil ang nawawalan naman ng kabuhayan dahil sa mga text scams gamit ang mga hindi rehistradong SIM cards. Dalawang magkaibang sirkumstansya pero parehong nakamamatay.

Despite the efforts of the government and telecommunications companies, text scam continues to surge. In June this year, PLDT reportedly blocked over 23 million text messages that showed signs of scam threat while also blocking 78,000 SIM cards. For its part, Globe Telecom reportedly blocked almost a billion malicious text messages last year. *Sa gitna ng kaliwa’t kanan na pag-block ng ating mga telecom companies, hanggang sa ngayon, wala tayong makasuhan sa mga nagtangkang mang-scam sa ating mga kababayan. Hanggang ngayon, hindi natin matukoy ang mga mukha sa likod ng mga text scam na ito.*

Habang pinapaigting ng ating gobyerno ang kanilang aksyon para masugpo ang mga panloko, tila mas nagiging “sophisticated” ang kanilang mga modus. Kaya naman kahit mismong ang ating mga financial institutions ay hirap kung paano sila maghahabol. In the submitted position paper last Congress of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, it stated that the proposed SIM Card Registration Act will “provide a relevant resource for law enforcement agencies in the Philippines in the verification of the digital identity of crime perpetrators that cloak on the anonymity of prepaid or unregistered SIM cards. Several financial fraud schemes related to prepaid SIM cards continue to emerge, as simple as receiving a text message requesting funds to sophisticated social engineering attacks that lead to identity theft or account takeover, which continue to challenge financial institutions in protecting the interest of their customers and the public.”

I fully support and agree with the position of our Central Bank. *Nagiging matapang ang mga masasamang loob na terorista at scammer dahil alam nilang mahihirapan ang ating mga law enforcement agencies para matukoy ang kanilang identity.*

The proposed SIM Card Registration Bill will not equate to the complete eradication of crimes. However, this will serve as a tool for our law enforcement agencies to solve crimes and at the same time serve as a deterrent.

Lagyan natin ng mukha at pangalan ang mga mamamatay tao at mga manloloko. No more unknown callers. No more scams. Hindi na sila makapagtatago sa likod ng kanilang mga cellphones. Gamitin natin ang teknolohiya upang matukoy ang mga kriminal.

Let us help our law enforcement agents fulfill their duties in maintaining peace and order in our community. Let us make our people safe in the physical and cyber world. Once again, let us pass the SIM Card Registration Act.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senator Revilla requested that his cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1310 deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA

Pursuant to Senator Villanueva's manifestation, following is the cosponsorship speech of Senator Revilla on Senate Bill No. 1310:

Firstly, may I thank and congratulate your Committee on Public Services for its swift action on this proposed measure. This is very timely especially that the proliferation of text scams is a growing concern. *Marami sa atin ang walang humpay na nakatatanggap ng mga texts na ito halos araw-araw, na nagsasabi na tayo daw ay nanalo ng premyo, nabigyan ng bagong trabaho, o 'di kaya ay nakompromiso daw ang mga account natin sa bangko.*

Maliban sa mas malawak na pagkalat ng mga text scams ngayon, ang mas nakababahala ay tila nag-improve na rin yata ang pamamaraan ng panloloko ng mga scammers ngayon. Hindi ko lubos maisip kung paano na ang personal na impormasyon natin—kagaya ng pangalan, birthday, o email—ay nakukuha at nagagamit sa pagpapakalat ng mga text scams. Marami nga naman talagang maloloko kung ang mensaheng matatanggap ng mga biktima ay 'yung nakapangalan mismo sa kanila.

Marami na ang nabiktima. Kung hindi tayo kikilos, mas marami pa ang siguradong mabibiktima. Marami na ang naloko at nanakawan ng pera. At marami pa ang malilinlang kapag hindi natin agad inaksyunan ang problemang ito.

This measure on the Floor today is a very welcome legislative action to this urgent and very troubling problem.

Dapat nating proteksyonan ang mga kapwa nating Pilipino na masipag na nagtatrabaho para may kitain. Hindi dapat natin sila hahayaagn maloko ng mga halang ang bituka na walang ibang magawa kundi manlinlang ng kapwa.

We cannot allow the evil forces behind this scam to continue to prey on the vulnerabilities of our people. And we should not blame them for falling for this elaborate scam. *Hindi natin sila masisisi kung natutukso sila lalo na at mahirap kalaban ang kalam ng sismura. Bagkus ay tulungan natin sila at proteksyonan.*

If the able sponsor of this measure would allow, may this representation be made coauthor of this proposed measure as I also filed Senate Bill No. 1297 that also tackled this issue.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

Before suspending consideration of Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5, Senate President Zubiri stated that there is a one-day rule regarding the conduct of a committee report's period of sponsorship to its period of interpellations or debate. He said that the Body



already complied with it by sponsoring the proposed measure on the same day, continuing with more cosponsorships the next day, and proceeding with the debate thereafter, which is also in the next session day. He believed that the mentioned process for the said important measure was agreeable to all Members.

Senator Pimentel, however, maintained that the Body should stick to the *Rules*. Senate President Zubiri clarified that it is not in the *Rules*, but an internal agreement. Senator Pimentel stated that it is still a rule.

Senate President Zubiri stated that the period of sponsorship should therefore be closed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva stated that before closing the period of sponsorship in order to commence with the period of interpellations and debates the next session day, upon request of Senators Gatchalian, Go, Legarda, and Estrada, their consponsorship speeches on Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5 are deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECHES OF SENATORS

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following are the cosponsorship speeches of Senators Gatchalian, Go, Legarda and Estrada on Senate Bill No. 1310:

By Senator Gatchalian

Way back nine years ago while I was still a member of the House of Representatives, I conceptualized the bill on SIM card registration. I primarily envisioned to address criminal acts of syndicates and many forms of terrorism, bullying, and harassment, among many others. It was widely supported after it was first tackled at the committee level and was approved on third reading. However, it failed to be passed into law before the end of the 16th Congress.

Now that we are already in the 19th Congress, the anonymity brought by unregistered SIM cards continues to be a magnet to purveyors of illicit and unlawful activities. In the past years, text message scams have become rampant for everyone with a mobile phone.

With the pandemic accelerating the use of online or digital platforms and online or digital payment services, cyber criminals have become more creative in using technologies to trick anyone – those looking for work and financial opportunities or those on dating websites – into opening malicious links claiming to come from reputable or legitimate organizations to transfer or move illegally-acquired money on behalf of another. They may be unaware of a larger criminal scheme of money laundering or identity theft. In worse case, the most disturbing examples are those in which mobile phones are used to detonate bombs that kill innocent individuals in our midst.

Kasabay ng paglaganap ng mga krimeng ito ang pagtuklas natin sa mga makabagong terminolohiya. Sa ngayon, bukod sa “phishing” at “smishing,” nagsulputan na rin ang mga salitang tulad ng “quishing” at “vishing.” Iba’t iba man ang tawag, ngunit iisa lamang ang layunin para sa ating mga kababayan— ang panlilinang at pananamantala.

To investigate the proliferation of spam and phishing messages, an interagency group was created in November 2021 but latest data reveal that the issue continues to be a concern for many users.

In June this year, PLDT Inc. claimed to have blocked more than 23 million text messages in four days for attempting to get consumers’ personal data. Another major telecommunications company, Globe Telecom, said it blocked over 138 million spam and scam text messages over a six-month period from January to June this year.

Recently, some mobile users had also expressed dismay as they have received spam and smishing messages with their full names. The inclusion of the receiver's name indicates a breach of consumers' right to privacy, and this breach stirs fear that their personal details may have already been compromised.

In the midst of these aforementioned issues, we need to take initiatives to eradicate mobile phones, internet or electronic communication-aided crimes.

As a prime mover of the SIM Card Registration Bill, there is no backing out in this bid to have all subscriber identity module or SIM cards being used in the country mandated to be registered.

After the measure was vetoed during the 18th Congress, I would like to emphasize that I support the separation of social media registration from this measure. I also support the registration of electronic or digital SIMs that are now commonly used in electronic communication devices as well as the dropping of references to a "card" since a SIM may be in digital or electronic form. Further, I acknowledge and support the new feature of this measure wherein electronic SIM registration will now be a prerequisite to its activation, instead of requiring registration at the point of sale. Consequently, all SIMs to be sold shall be in deactivated state and shall only be activated after the end user completes SIM registration. This, in effect, streamlines the registration procedure by removing the burden of registration on the part of third-party resellers as well as eliminating a scenario where there can be a breach of the privacy of the end-users of the SIM.

On the privacy concerns in personal information registration, the Data Privacy Act of 2012 is already in effect and systems have already been in place. We need to ensure that our regulators properly implement, and all stakeholders actively observe and comply with, the law. Note that this measure accords the highest regard to privacy and protected information, as specified in Sections 6, 9, and 10. It requires Public Telecommunications Entities, or PTEs, to comply with the minimum information security standards set by the Department of Information and Communications Technology. I am also pushing that PTEs follow and comply with standards on data storage security to be set by the National Privacy Commission.

In response to those who are asking if the proposed measure will cause discrimination or exclusion of the poor and undocumented from vital public services, this measure explicitly makes electronic SIM registration to be free of charge to end users. This measure also complements the Philippine National ID System which will enable these individuals to present some form of identification.

Through this legislation, we intend to ensure accountability for the use of SIM and to provide law enforcement agencies with resources that will aid them in timely resolving and preventing crimes. This measure also seeks to boost consumer and business confidence in online and digital transactions and reduce the fear of encountering scammers or fraudsters who have been abusing the anonymity provided by unregistered SIMs.

The way we approach this problem will determine whether we can prevent future threats and crimes related to the use of SIM, or we will continue ending up being victims ourselves.

*Ilang taon na rin po nating isinusulong ang ating mithiin na maipatupad ang panukalang batas na ito. Nawa ay maging kaisa po tayo sa pagpasa ng makabuluhang hakbang na ito laban sa mga mapagsamantalang kawatan. Dahil kung hindi ngayon, hanggang kailan pa natin maaasam ang ating kolektibong layunin na pagtibayin ang ating polisiya sa pagsugpo ng mga napapanahong krimen kaugnay sa paggamit ng SIM?
Panahon na upang mabigyang-pansin ang pagsasabatas nito.*

By Senator Go

It is my honor to cosponsor Senate Bill 1310 which aims to eradicate mobile phone criminal activities by regulating the registration and use of SIM cards.



Isa po sa pangunahing adbokasiya ng nakalipas na administrasyon ang pag maintain ng peace and order sa ating bansa. However, over the past weeks, we have been bombarded with complaints from several individuals who received scam messages from unknown senders. ‘Yung messages po na ito ay kadalasang naglalaman ng simpleng clickbaits, raffle winnings, kung minsan po ay job offers, threats, and some even contain private information about the recipients.

Ilang beses na akong nabibiktima, o nagagamit ang pangalan ko sa mga text scams.

Ang nakakaalarma po talaga dito, gaya ng nabanggit ng ating mga kasamahan noong nakaraan, ay ang ilan po sa mga scam messages na ito ay naglalaman ng pangalan ng mga recipients. Kung minsan po ay buo pa ang pangalan na nakalagay sa mga text messages na ito. Nakapagtataka po kung saan at paano nakuha ang mga impormasyon na ito. Nakababahala rin po kung gaano kadalas makatanggap ng scam at spam messages ang mga recipients.

I believe that through the passage of this measure, we will be able to protect the privacy and information of our fellow Filipinos. I will always be in support of the protection of the interest and welfare of our *kababayans*.

Kaisa po ninyo ang Representasyon na ito sa pagpapanatili ng kaayusan at kapayapaan sa ating bansa. Kasang-ayon po ang panukalang ito sa hangarin ng ating gobyerno na mapanatili ang peace and order sa ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng data privacy protection. Maiiwasan din ang criminal activities at terorismo na gumagamit ng mobile phone.

This will be able to help the current administration protect the welfare and privacy of the Filipinos and make them feel safe as they use their devices.

Nais ko pong magpasalamat sa Committee on Public Services, at sa ating Chair, Sen. Grace Poe, for her relentless efforts to make sure that all Filipinos and future generations get to live in a safe and humane environment. I would also like to express my intention to be a coauthor of this measure.

By Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda

I commend Sen. Grace Poe for conducting a hearing on the SIM Registration Bill. The hearing helped the Senate determine the legislation needed to respond to cybersecurity issues and concerns.

It is high time we put an end to these SIM-aided frauds for they are getting more sophisticated and personalized. Our data and cybersecurity are already at great risk. According to a “Cybersecurity in the Philippines” report published by Secure Connections in 2022, an initiative of The Asia Foundation, personal identifying information can be used to hijack personal accounts or hold individuals for ransom. Without a doubt, this personalized text scam issue has quickly become a very dangerous and alarming matter that needs urgent answers and solutions.

Our names and personal information are already included in fraudulent text messages. Other cybersecurity experts report the oversharing of personal data and the sale of private information on the dark web as possible causes of these leakages.

Regardless of how the information was obtained, one thing is certain—now, more than ever, cybersecurity governance must be prioritized.

While I commend the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and telecom companies for their efforts in battling these fraudulent schemes, immediate legislative intervention is now necessary.

Thus, the need for a law to implement SIM registration. This is to help the government and concerned industries build a secure identity system and help reduce the proliferation of crimes.



The SIM registration, however, must be enforced in accordance with the provisions of the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and shall be reviewed through the oversight function of Congress.

We need to protect consumers from being victimized by cybercrime syndicates. Our most vulnerable sectors are being taken advantage of by organized crime syndicates that use social media and other online platforms to carry out their scams. As leaders whom the people have chosen, we must protect them from these malicious intentions.

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

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

By Senator Estrada

I am honored to cosponsor Senate Bill No. 1310 under Committee Report No. 5 of the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship.

Lubos po ang aking kagalakan na naging mabilisan ang ating aksyon sa isyu ng naglipanang text scam na marami ang patuloy na naloloko at napeperwisyo. Pagkatapos na pagkatapos ng nakaraang public hearing natin sa Committee on Public Services noong Huwebes ay nakatanggap na naman ako ng mapanlokong text. Ang mensahe—"Jinggoy Estrada, dear, gamitin ako, pag di ka kumita, 're-refund ko ng doble..." kasunod ang scam link. Most likely, at this very moment ay marami ang patuloy na nakatatanggap na naman ng mga spam at scam text messages. Wala na pong natutuwa sa mga pangungulit at panlolokong ito. At matagal na rin po tayong binabagabag ng walang patumanggang tangkang panlolokong ito.

By estimates, let us compute it this way—we are 110 million Filipinos today. *Sabihin na po natin na kalahati rito ang napadadalhan ng job text scam; promo-, raffle-, investment-, selling text scam, or casino-bingo-betting text scams, at iba pa.*

Let us assume that half of our population *ay may tig-i-isang* mobile number. I receive at least three text spam messages per day. Let us also assume that 55 million Filipinos that have one mobile number also receive an average of three spam text messages per day. That is 165 million spam-scams text messages a day that have already evaded the blocking capabilities of both Globe and Smart Telecommunications.

Computing this on a monthly basis, that gives us almost 4.95 billion spam text messages. Multiply by 12 months, that is a whopping 59.4 billion chances of being scammed through these pestering text messages! And it only takes one inadvertent click out of these 59.4 billion text attacks in a year—for your mobile security to be compromised, or for you to be scammed!

This surpasses a mere breach of privacy and safeguards from intrusions! This is already a threat to our mobile and cyberspace integrity and safety that has been going on for two decades already!

Ang mga taong nasa likod ng mga numerong ito ay may aktibo at seryosong intensyon na makakuha ng pera sa tao sa pamamagitan ng panloloko sa text. Sila ay malayang nakabibili ng prepaid sim cards at nakakapag-spam text at nakapanloloko sa araw-araw. At araw-araw rin ay may kawawang naloloko, o hindi man direktang naloko – ay nakuhanan naman ng impormasyon na gagamitin upang sila ay mabiktima. Panahon na po na matigil na ang ganitong gawain at pagbibigay-opportunidad sa mga masasamang loob na ito.

That is why I highly commend the “amazing” efforts of my *kinakapatid*, the good Sen. Grace Poe, in ardently pushing for the passage of the SIM Card Registration Act. I laud her tenacity and perseverance in making the Philippines a text spam-scams-free society.

And I am fully on board with her on this urgent and important mission, just as with the rest of the authors and coauthors of the SIM Card Registration Act in both Houses of Congress.

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As early as 2001, there has already been a call from our law enforcement agencies to institutionalize a mechanism to have the owners and/or users of these prepaid SIM cards registered.

Regardless of whether there has been a data breach from our information controllers or information brokers, or there have been compromises on the security of our information from the mobile apps, surveys, contact-tracing forms, messaging apps, money service providers, or digital payment platforms the we have subscribed to, or whether there has been unauthorized data scraping, or whether said information has been illegally obtained through the dark web—if we have a law mandating the registration of all SIM cards in the Philippines, with the requirement that they present legitimate government-issued identification cards, we have a way to identify who these perpetrators are, build a case against them, and bring them before the courts of law. *Sabihin na natin na mailusot nila ang fake IDs na ginamit nila sa pag-register ng kanilang SIM card, at least ay naroon naman ang kanilang mukha sa kanilang fake IDs. Ito ay mako-cross-check na ng ating law enforcement agencies sa kanilang rogues' galleries at facial recognition capability.*

Hindi mapipigilan ang mga kawatan na makaisip ng mga panibagong modus kahit pa paulit-ulit ang mga panawagan at public service advisory ng mga telcos at mga ahensya ng gobyerno laban sa kanilang mapanlinlang na mga gawain.

These cybercriminals will always find ways and innovate, just so they could steal from online dwellers and mobile users.

It is high time that we give SIM card registration legislation a chance to be enacted into law to save lives and prevent these swindlers from continuously victimizing unsuspecting individuals by sucking in their hard-earned money to deceptive offers from text scammers.

Ang mapigilan ang text scam na ito ay napakalaking tulong na po sa ating lahat. Kasunod na po rito ang buting dulot ng pagsawata ng pangha-harass, blackmail, bank fraud, iba pang uri ng panloloko, iba pang insidente ng krimen, at banta ng terorismo. This measure will not only help in crime investigation and crime solution efficiency of our law enforcement agencies. This is also a valuable crime prevention strategy. This will also pave the way for improved cyber defense capabilities.

With that, I end my remarks with this –

*Wala ngang manloloko,
kung walang magpapaloko;
pero walang manloloko sa text
na hindi mabibisto
kung ang SIM ay rehistrado.*

Let this Nineteenth Congress push again for the enactment of this SIM Card Registration Act, and let it be done under our watch.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1310

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Senators Marcos and Padilla were elected members of the Committee on Tourism.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 7:41 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Approved on September 14, 2022

Atty. **RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.**
Secretary of the Senate

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renato N. Bantug Jr.', is written over the typed name and title.